

Gooney Bird Greene and Her True Life Adventures

by Kent R. Brown

Based on the Book by Lois Lowry

An Educational Resource Prepared for Richmond Civic Theatre

By the Education and Outreach Committee

THE PLAY

Gooney Bird Greene and Her True Life Adventures

March 19-20, 2016, 2 pm

School Day Performance March 18

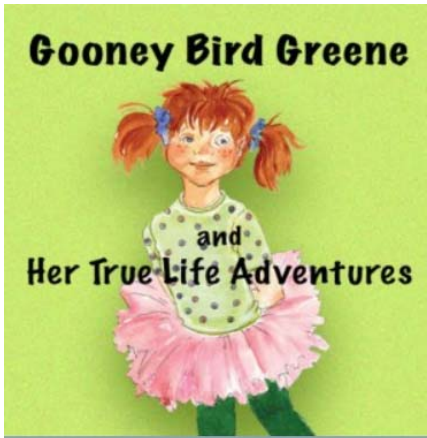
By Kent R. Brown

Based on the book Gooney Bird Greene by Lois Lowry

Produced in cooperation with Dramatic Publishing

Directed by Ruthanne Munger

From Lois Lowry's popular book series, Gooney Bird Greene is new to Watertower Elementary. She is colorful, confident and tells incredible and, of course, absolutely true stories. Come and see how the new kid in class sparks renewed interest and energy for everyone!



CAST OF CHARACTERS

The Classroom

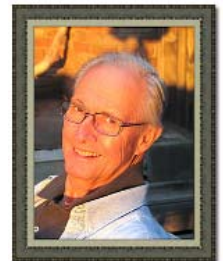
Gooney Bird Greene	Beanie
Mrs. Pidgeon	Nicholas
Chelsea	(Nicky)
Tricia	Barry
Keiko	Ben
Felicia Ann	Malcolm

The Stories

Mr. Greene	TV Reporter
Mrs. Greene	Mr. Prince
Catman	Conductor
Moving Van Driver	Cow
Police Officer	Mrs. Schinhofen
Camera Operator	

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Dr. **Kent R. Brown** is Professor Emeritus at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and former Playwright-In-Residence and Adjunct Professor of English at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Dr. Brown is the recipient of a Drama-Logue award, a McLaren Comedy Playwriting Festival award, Mill Mountain New Play Competition and Year End Series New Play Festival awards, a Julie Harris/Beverly Hills Theatre Guild award and a Denver Center Theatre US West TheatreFest Award. From 1985 to 1996 he was co-founder and director of the Mt. Sequoyah New Play Retreat in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he helped develop fifty new works written by playwrights from across the country. His plays are published by Dramatic Publishing Company. From Wikipedia



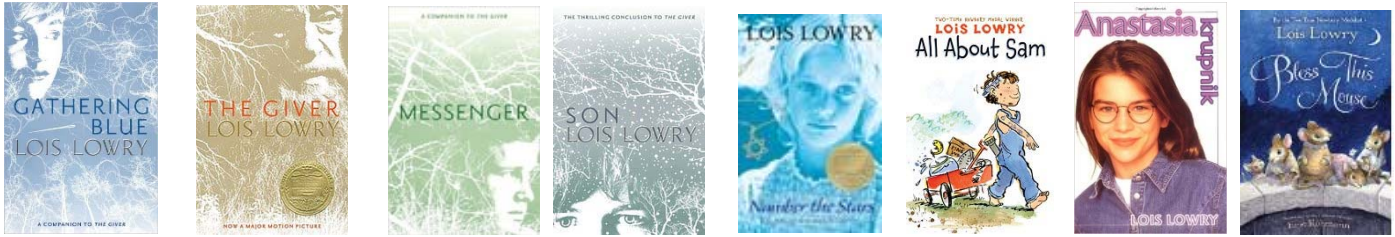
THE AUTHOR

Born on March 20, 1937 in Honolulu, author **Lois Lowry** attended elementary school in Pennsylvania, junior high school in Tokyo and high school in New York. She went to Brown University and the University of Southern Maine, and, in addition, holds honorary doctorates from six universities. Currently she lives in Maine. From www.scholastic.com

Learn more about Lois Lowry on her website at <http://www.loislowry.com/>

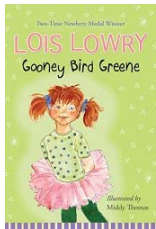
And here's a link to a video interview: <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/lowry>

Some other books by Lois Lowry:



THE NOVEL

Reading Level 3.7 AR: (pts.) Lexile: 590 Guided Reading: N



Two-time Newbery Medalist Lois Lowry introduces the reader to a new girl in town--Gooney Bird Greene. There's never been anyone quite like her at Watertower Elementary School. What other new kid comes to school wearing pajamas and cowboy boots one day, and a polka-dot t-shirt and tutu on another? Best of all, Gooney Bird keeps her teacher and classmates on the edge of their seats with her "absolutely true" stories during storytime.

Study Guides

http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/kids/resources/GooneyBirdGreene_discussionguide.pdf

<http://gwinnett.k12.ga.us/MinorES/pdf/rr11/gooney.pdf>

http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/1988/382392/GOONEY_BIRD_GREENE.pdf

<http://www.merrybee.info/ba/gooney.html>

<http://k8talksbooks.blogspot.com/2007/12/gooney-bird-greene-by-lois-lowry.html>

http://edhelper.com/books/Gooney_Bird_Greene.htm

Available through Teachers Pay Teachers

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Writing-Workshop-With-Gooney-Bird-Greene-291102>

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Gooney-Bird-Greene-Literature-Activities-215893>

Indiana Academic Standards Related to the Study of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

RL.2: STANDARD 2: KEY IDEAS AND TEXTUAL SUPPORT					
Build comprehension and appreciation of literature by identifying, describing, and making inferences about literary elements and themes					
KINDERGARTEN	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
K.RL.2.1: With support, ask and answer questions about main topics and key details in a text heard or read.	1.RL.2.1: Ask and answer questions about main idea and key details in a text.	2.RL.2.1: Ask and answer questions (e.g., <i>who was the story about; why did an event happen; where did the story happen</i>) to demonstrate understanding of main idea and key details in a text.	3.RL.2.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.	4.RL.2.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what a text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.	5.RL.2.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what a text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
K.RL.2.2: With support, retell familiar stories, poems, and nursery rhymes, including key details.	1.RL.2.2: Retell stories, fables, and fairy tales in sequence, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.	2.RL.2.2: Recount the beginning, middle, and ending of stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.	3.RL.2.2: Retell folktales, fables, and tall tales from diverse cultures; identify the themes in these works.	4.RL.2.2: Paraphrase or retell the main events in a story, myth, legend, or novel; identify the theme and provide evidence for the interpretation.	5.RL.2.2: Determine a theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text, including how characters respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
K.RL.2.3: Identify important elements of the text (e.g., <i>characters, settings, or events</i>).	1.RL.2.3: Using key details, identify and describe the elements of plot, character, and setting.	2.RL.2.3: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and how characters affect the plot.	3.RL.2.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., <i>their traits, motivations, or feelings</i>) and explain how their actions contribute to the plot.	4.RL.2.3: Describe a character, setting, or event in a story or play, drawing on specific details in the text, and how that impacts the plot.	5.RL.2.3: Describe two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or play, drawing on specific details in the text, and how they impact the plot.
K.RL.2.4: Make predictions about what will happen in a story.	1.RL.2.4: Make and confirm predictions about what will happen next in a story.	2.RL.2.4: Make predictions about the content of text using prior knowledge of text features, explaining whether they were confirmed or not confirmed and why.	3.RL.2.4: <i>Students are expected to build upon and continue applying concepts learned previously.</i>	4.RL.2.4: <i>Students are expected to build upon and continue applying concepts learned previously.</i>	5.RL.2.4: <i>Students are expected to build upon and continue applying concepts learned previously.</i>

RL.3: STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS AND ORGANIZATION					
Build comprehension and appreciation of literature, using knowledge of literary structure and point of view					
KINDERGARTEN	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
K.RL.3.1: Recognize familiar narrative text genres (e.g., <i>fairy tales, nursery rhymes, storybooks</i>).	1.RL.3.1: Identify the basic characteristics of familiar narrative text genres (e.g., <i>fairy tales, nursery rhymes, storybooks</i>).	2.RL.3.1: Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.	3.RL.3.1: Use terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza to refer to the parts of stories, plays, and poems; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.	4.RL.3.1: Explain major differences between poems, plays, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems and drama.	5.RL.3.1: Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, play, or poem.
K.RL.3.2: With support, define the role of the author and illustrator of a story in telling the story.	1.RL.3.2: Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.	2.RL.3.2: Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters and identify dialogue as words spoken by characters, usually enclosed in quotation marks.	3.RL.3.2: Distinguish personal point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.	4.RL.3.2: Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.	5.RL.3.2: Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are portrayed.

http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/enla/k-5_ela_draft-7-7-14-et.pdf

Compare and Contrast – Which was better?

Name: _____

Now that you've read Gooney Bird Greene and Her True Life Adventures by Lois Lowry and seen the play adaptation by Kent R. Brown, let's compare the two. Fill in the following chart comparing and contrasting them.

	Compare – How were they the same?	Contrast – How were they different?
Characters		
Setting		
Plot		

Would you say that the play was more the same or different than the book? Explain your answer, citing examples from the book and play.

Now, review the book and play.

<p>★★★★★ 5 Stars: Extraordinary ★★★★☆ 4 Stars: Excellent ★★★☆☆ 3 Stars: Very Good ★★☆☆☆ 2 Stars: Good ★☆☆☆☆ 1 Star: Fair ☆☆☆☆☆ 0 Stars: Poor</p>	<p>The Book</p> 	<p>The Play</p> 
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Which did you rate higher? Why?

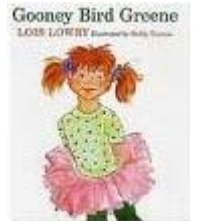
Storytelling with Gooney Bird Greene

written by: Marlene Gundlach • edited by: Sarah Malburg •

"Gooney Bird Greene" by Lois Lowry is a colorful tale about an eccentric young second grader who loves to tell stories. Her inventive use of word choice has her friends on the edge of her seats as she shares her daily stories. Students can learn a great deal about storytelling from this great book.

Summary of the Book

Gooney Bird Greene makes a grand entrance into her new second grade classroom and takes charge right away. Her classmates are immediately enamored with her eccentric appearance and her many wild stories. Mrs. Pidgeon allows Gooney to share some of her stories and adventures. She has a knack of taking a simple story and by her choice of words, can make that simple story sound like an elaborate adventure.



The activities below will give your class practice in storytelling, with a focus on word choice. By choosing the right words, their everyday events will also become fantastic adventures.

What's in a Name

Gooney Bird's first story is about how she got her unusual name. She shares that her parents names were Gordon and Barbara, and they wanted to name their child using their initials. After she was born, her parents felt she looked like bird they once saw, wriggling her neck looking for food.

Instruct your students that they will make up a story about how they got their name. They should come up with a background story about when they were born and why their parents choose their name. Students can share their stories with their classmates, just as Gooney Bird shares her stories with her classmates.

Storytelling Tips

As you read Gooney Bird's stories, point out to students examples of how Gooney Bird uses word choice to make her stories sound extraordinary. One example is when she tells the story of "How Gooney Bird Came from China on a Flying Carpet." She shared that her family moved from China to Watertown, where she lives now. By story's end, we learn that China is actually China, Maine and she fell out of the family station wagon rolled up in a carpet.

Another story titled "Why Gooney Bird Was Late for School Because she was Directing a Symphony Orchestra" has Gooney leading an Orchestra down main street. In reality, she got on a bus and gave the Orchestra directions to where they were performing.

In all of Gooney Bird's stories, the title is the first step in setting up her story. She chooses her words carefully and hooks her readers. As you read the book with your class, point out how she accomplished her task each time. Ask your students to come up with their own stories, working to take an everyday event and make it sound like a grand adventure. Again, just like Gooney Bird, invite students to share their stories with the class. They should also share how they carefully chose their words to change their story from simple to eccentric.

<http://www.brighthubeducation.com/lesson-plans-grades-3-5/52862-gooney-bird-greene-storytelling-in-the-classroom/>