

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday

First of all, let me get something straight: This is a JOURNAL, not a diary. I know what it says on the cover, but when Mom went out to buy this thing I SPECIFICALLY told her to get one that didn't say "diary" on it.

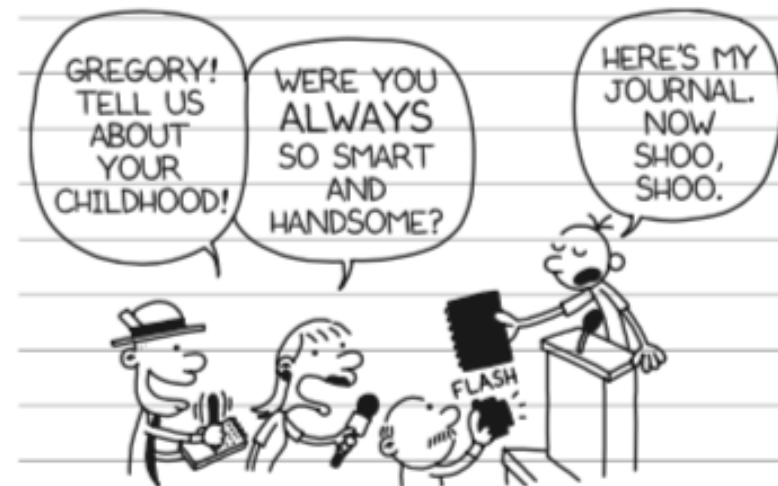
Great. All I need is for some jerk to catch me carrying this book around and get the wrong idea.



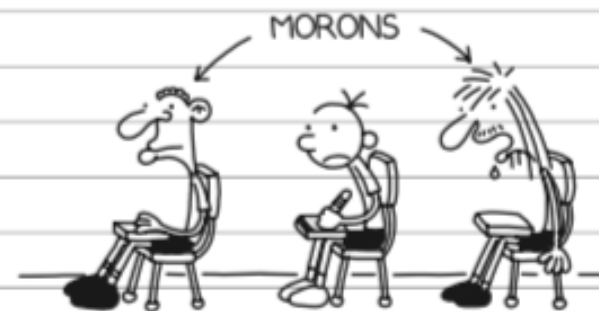
The other thing I want to clear up right away is that this was MOM's idea, not mine.

But if she thinks I'm going to write down my "feelings" in here or whatever, she's crazy. So just don't expect me to be all "Dear Diary" this and "Dear Diary" that.

The only reason I agreed to do this at all is because I figure later on when I'm rich and famous, I'll have better things to do than answer people's stupid questions all day long. So this book is gonna come in handy.



Like I said, I'll be famous one day, but for now I'm stuck in middle school with a bunch of morons.



Let me just say for the record that I think middle school is the dumbest idea ever invented. You got kids like me who haven't hit their growth spurt yet mixed in with these gorillas who need to shave twice a day.



And then they wonder why bullying is such a big problem in middle school.

If it was up to me, grade levels would be based on height, not age. But then again, I guess that would mean kids like Chirag Gupta would still be in the first grade.



Today is the first day of school, and right now we're just waiting around for the teacher to hurry up and finish the seating chart. So I figured I might as well write in this book to pass the time.

By the way, let me give you some good advice. On the first day of school, you got to be real careful where you sit. You walk into the classroom and just plunk your stuff down on any old desk and the next thing you know the teacher is saying—

I HOPE YOU ALL LIKE WHERE YOU'RE SITTING, BECAUSE THESE ARE YOUR PERMANENT SEATS.



So in this class, I got stuck with Chris Hosey in front of me and Lionel James in back of me.

Comprehension questions:

1. Why has Greg agreed to write in the journal?

2. Why did Greg not want his Mum to get him a diary?

3. How can you tell Greg doesn't really like the people he goes to school with?

4. Why is middle school 'the dumbest idea ever invented'?

5. Why is Greg's solution to grade levels not a particularly good one?

6. What was the good advice Greg says you need to remember on the first day of school?

Comprehension answers:

1. Why has Greg agreed to write in the journal?

When he's rich and famous, he'll be able to sell his journal so that people know about his life when he was young. He won't have to answer their stupid questions.

2. Why did Greg not want his Mum to get him a diary?

Because he didn't want someone to find him carrying it round and get the wrong idea.

3. How can you tell Greg doesn't really like the people he goes to school with?

He calls them morons (with an illustration) and he talks about them in a way that shows he doesn't particularly like them.

4. Why is middle school 'the dumbest idea ever invented'?

There are kids who haven't reached their growth spurts yet with kids who need to shave twice a day – the ages/stages don't match up very well and that's why bullying is such a problem.

5. Why is Greg's solution to grade levels not a particularly good one?

He realises that by trying to split people according to their size wouldn't work either, as the smallest person (Chirag Gupta) would still be in first grade and that wouldn't be good for him.

6. What was the good advice Greg says you need to remember on the first day of school?

Be careful where you sit on the first day and don't plonk your bag down anywhere otherwise the teacher might say they are your permanent seats.