



Science Fair Day Activities

1. In *Science Fair Day*, the students in the first four Mrs. Shepherd books are included. As the Mrs. Shepherd series has continued, characters from earlier books often have visual jokes or references to them in current books. For example, in *Pajama Day*, Josephina is not the main character, but she wears wrench slippers (a visual joke)—which are perfect for a fiddler. In *Science Fair Day*, Drew is not the main character but he does a brain model for a project and since he “forgot” to do it, the papier-mâché is still wet (a joke pertaining to his forgetfulness). Look at the second through sixth Mrs. Shepherd books for references to characters in earlier books (Hint: put the books in order of their copyright dates—there will *not* be references for a character in a **later** book since they hadn’t been developed as a character and given a flaw yet).
2. Notice characters in the Mrs. Shepherd books (except for *School Picture Day*) have names that refer to their character flaw. For example, Ima Kindanozee’s name is supposed to sound like “I am kind of nosey”—which she is! Can students figure out the names in the other books in relation to their flaws (i.e. Why does Maybella Jean Wishywashy’s name refer to someone who can’t make decisions? Why is Juan Dore-Nomad a good name for someone who wanders off?), and so on.
3. Challenge students to create fun names for characters related to different character flaws. A thesaurus can be helpful. What’s a good name for someone who’s clumsy? (Last name Tripper? Or maybe Klutzaroo?) Or someone who exaggerates? Or is fussy? Or is stubborn? Or is bossy? Etc.
4. Create a class newspaper about what happens in your class during a month. Have students plan, write articles, take photos, edit, assemble, and share copies of the class paper.