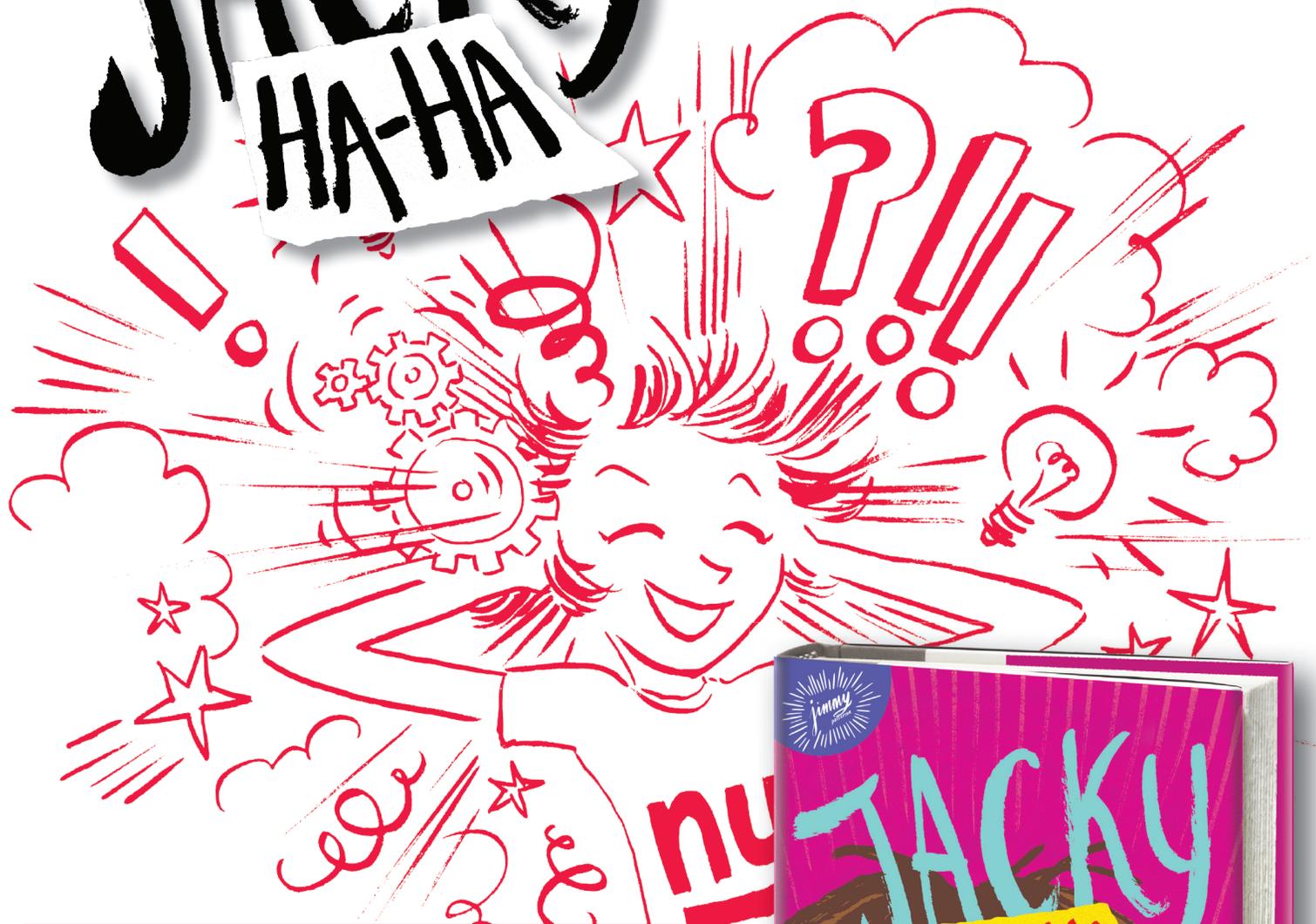


JACKY

HA-HA

BY JAMES PATTERSON
AND CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

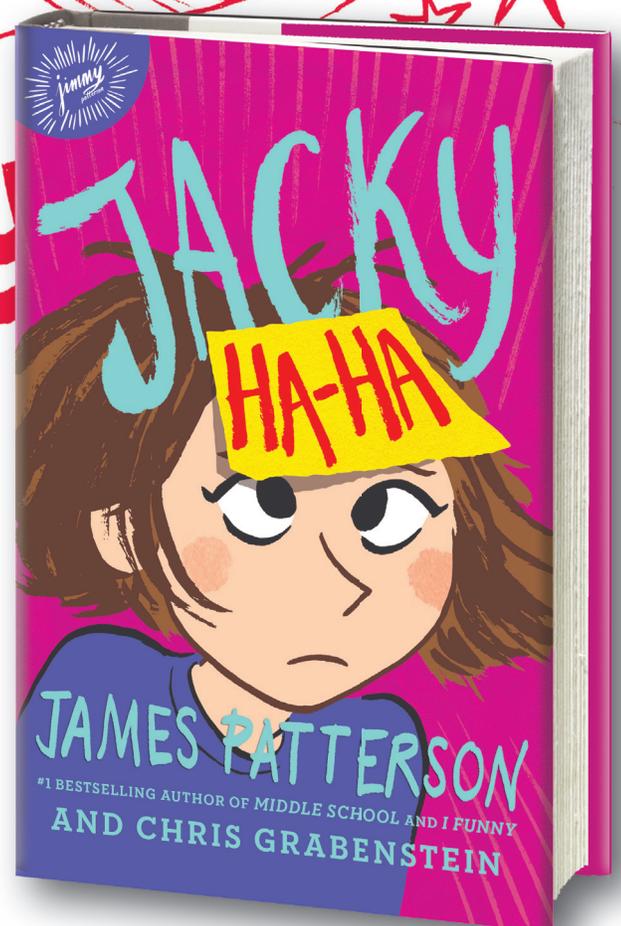


CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- English / Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Writing
- Theater / Drama

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- Family Relationships
- Intergenerational Relationships
- Friendships
- Coming of Age



ABOUT THE BOOK

Jacky never lets an opportunity to tell a joke pass—even when not telling the joke would be the far better choice. But making people laugh brings joy to Jacky’s life and helps distract her from her worries. Jacky’s mother puts her life on the line every day fighting a war in Kuwait, a country halfway around the world, and Jacky misses her mom and worries about her safety. Her father spends way too much time working late, and Jacky doesn’t understand why she sees him with a beautiful woman all the time. Adding to her worries is her grandmother’s sudden illness and her own constant repercussions for joking around in class. Her counselor encourages Jacky to try out for the school play and to present a speech for an oratory contest so Jacky can channel her need to entertain without getting into trouble. But Jacky is not sure anything can help her!



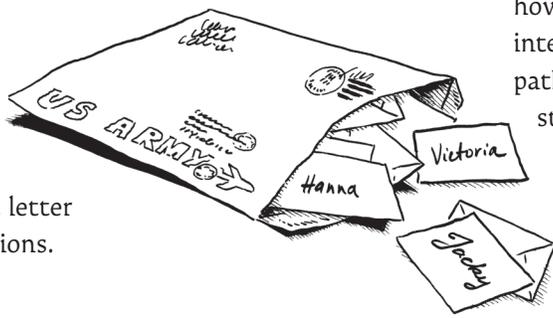
CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

English / Language Arts

All of Jacky’s sisters have unique personalities and make significant contributions to the family. Ask students to select one of the sisters and write a character analysis of her, based on what the character says about herself, her reactions to situations that arise, and what other characters say about her. Then have students work with a partner who wrote about a different sister. Ask students to write a poem for two voices using words and phrases from their character analysis. Have the partners practice and perform their poems for the class.

Writing

Jacky is rescued by her counselor and a teacher who cares about her and sees her potential. Ask students to write a letter to an adult who helped them improve their lives. The letter should contain a summary of what the person did to help and an explanation of how that help altered the student’s life and the choices they made. If possible, ask the students to either mail the letter or deliver it by hand. Alternatively, some students may ask to write a letter to an adult who made their lives more difficult and caused them pain. Allow students the choice to write an authentic letter regarding their situations.



Social Studies

After Jacky receives detention again, she reflects on her life and the problems she faces. Ask students to reread Chapter 11 and to make a list of what Jacky perceives to be the problems in her life. Looking at the list, ask students if Jacky’s problems are common among their peers. Then, in small groups, ask students to create a program where students can receive help from people in their school or community with total confidentiality. Students can present their plans to the class and then to the school administration, asking for a way to help implement their plans.

Theater / Drama

Jacky discovers she loves the theater, acting, and the people involved in theater production. Ask students to research a famous comedian or actor and to write about how the person became interested in that career path and what steps he or she took to become famous. Have students create an illustration to accompany their papers. Then have students share their illustrations and papers with the class or in small groups.





THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

Family Relationships

In spite of the fact that Jacky's mother is not home and her father works all the time, the family relationships stay intact, and the sisters are quite close. Then why does Jacky feel so alone? How do the sisters communicate with one another in a way that no one outside the family would understand? Describe the relationship between Jacky's parents. How does their relationship affect the family dynamics? Why do Jacky and her father argue so much?

Friendships

Until Jacky joins the cast of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, she does not have any friends. Why doesn't Jacky have friends? How do the cast members show their friendship to Jacky? How does having friends and being a part of the cast affect Jacky's life? How do Jacky's friends show their support for her when she gets in trouble with her father?

Intergenerational Relationships

Jacky's relationship with her grandmother is special to them both. What does Jacky's grandmother say to her that makes Jacky feel cherished? How does Jacky show her grandmother love and respect? What thought comforts Jackie after her grandmother dies?

Coming of Age

Jacky changes and matures from the beginning of the book to the end. Why does Jacky climb the Ferris wheel in Chapter 7? What vow does she make? What prompts Jacky to climb the Ferris wheel in Chapter 45? What do the people on the ground think Jacky is going to do? How could Jacky's parents have helped her instead of being angry at her? What does Jacky learn as a result of the difficulties she experiences?

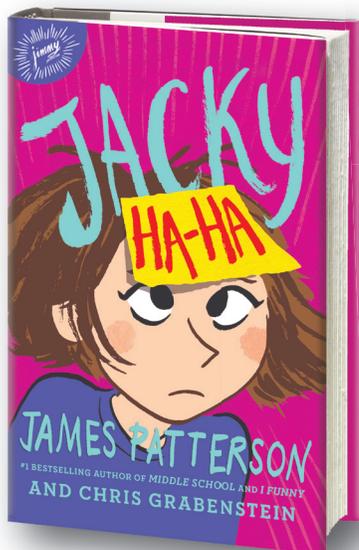


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Jacky become a class clown? Why can't she stop making jokes, even though she tries?
2. Why is Jackie so impressed by Ms. O'Mara? Why does Ms. O'Mara want to help Jacky?
3. Why is Jacky afraid of being in the play and giving a speech? How does Jacky overcome her fear?
4. How does Ms. O'Mara convey a lesson without "teaching a lesson"? What lesson does she teach Beth?
5. What does Jacky do to help her big sister Sydney? How does Sydney respond to Jacky's help?
6. How does Jacky receive her nickname? How does her nickname continue to shape her life?
7. When Jacky's mother explains to her why her father has been spending time with Jenny Cornwall, what is Jacky's reaction? How does this information change her relationship with her father?
8. Why is Jackie's speech more meaningful because her mother is present to hear it?

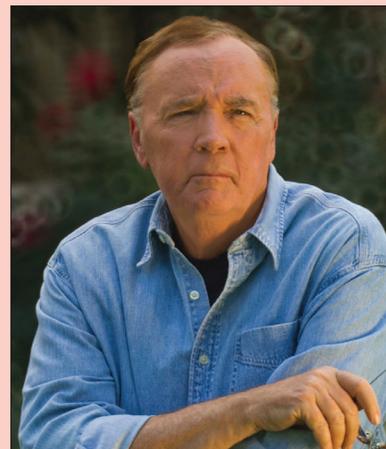


JACKY
HA-HA



JACKY HA HA By James Patterson
978-0-316-26249-1

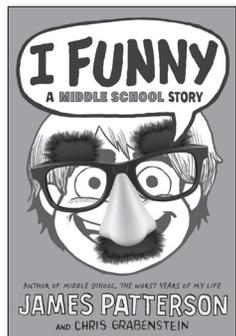
about the author



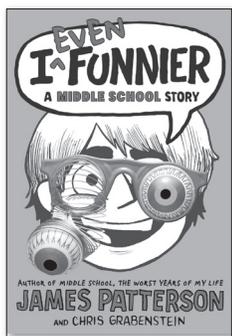
JAMES PATTERSON received the Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community at the 2015 National Book Awards. His other awards include two Emmys, the Edgar Award, and the Children's Choice Award for Author of the Year. He holds the Guinness World Record for the most #1 *New York Times* bestsellers, and his books have sold more than 325 million copies worldwide. A tireless champion of the power of books and reading, Patterson has created a new children's book imprint, JIMMY Patterson, whose mission is simple: We want every kid who finishes a JIMMY Book to say, "PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER BOOK." He has donated more than one million books to students and soldiers and funds over four hundred Teacher Education Scholarships at twenty-four colleges and universities. He has also donated millions to independent bookstores and school libraries. Patterson will be investing his proceeds from the sales of JIMMY Patterson Books in pro-reading initiatives.

CHRIS GRABENSTEIN is a *New York Times* bestselling author who has also collaborated with James Patterson on the Middle School and I Funny series.

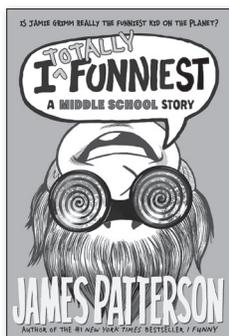
Also by James Patterson



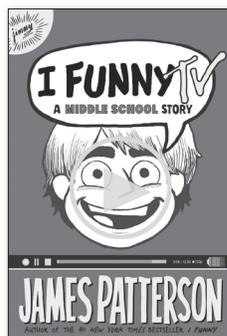
978-0-316-2069-2 TP



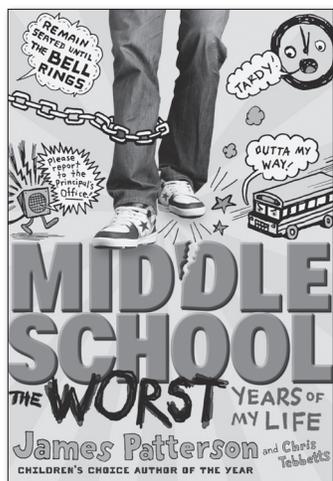
978-0-316-20697-6 POB



978-0-316-40593-5 POB



978-0-316-30109-1 POB



978-0-316-10169-1 TP

Soon to Be
a Major
Motion Picture



JIMMYPatterson.com

Educator's Guide prepared by Susan Geyte.