Find what makes YOU RAD!
About the Book
From the bestselling illustrator of Uni the Unicorn comes a mythical—and totally rad—character to laugh with and love.

Vlad is always getting in trouble at Miss Fussbucket’s School for Aspiring Spooks. Unlike the other little vampires, witches, mummies, and ghosts, Vlad isn’t interested in learning spookyness. That’s because...Vlad loves to skateboard! How can he possibly think about being a good spook when all he wants to do is practice his latest gravity trick? Maybe Vlad can find a way to do both!

Brigette Barrager’s debut as an author-illustrator is full of energy, fun, and sweet tricks! Passionate kids will identify with Vlad, and appreciate the way he combines his love of skateboarding with his schoolwork. A perfect Halloween read-aloud for the classroom!

Pre-Reading Activity
Introduce your students to Vlad’s world—the world of skateboarding! Using books from the library, online resources, and videos, teach your class about the history of skateboarding, how skateboards work, and skateboarding terms such as Half pipe, fakie, grind, and ollie. Then dive into the X Games and learn about the various skateboarding competitions and famous skateboarders. And for some extra fun, give students a chance to try out a skateboard themselves!

Classroom Activities

I’m Not Perfect

In the book, Vlad explains that skateboarding is not about being perfect and that messing up is part of the fun and helps him learn. What other activities are like that? Ask students to think about something they do that is hard and takes a lot of practice. Have them write down the steps they take toward accomplishing that task, making sure that failing and trying again are part of the process. They can then use their list to create a how-to booklet.

• The cover should have the title of the activity, an illustration, and their name.
• Each page should describe and illustrate one step of the learning process.
• The last page should be an illustration of the accomplished task.

When complete, students can present their booklets to the class and swap booklets so that they can try new things!

Scary Classes

Miss Fussbucket’s School for Aspiring Spooks is a place to learn how to be scary. But what exactly are the children learning there? As a group, brainstorm some subjects that could be taught at the school. This could include the history of spooky things, how to二代 in the dark, or how to scare techniques. Then ask your students to imagine that they are spook students at the school. Give them a blank class schedule, like the one you use in your classroom, and have them fill it in with the scary classes they might take. They should also make a list of school supplies they might need for these classes and imagine what kind of homework would be assigned. For that day, change the name of your class subjects to sound spooky-cooler!

Two Things at Once

Vlad knew that he had to learn to be spooky, but he wanted to skateboard, too, and he eventually figured out a way to do both at the same time. What two things can you do at the same time? Ask students to think about two completely unrelated things that they can do at the same time, such as drawing a picture and singing, doing jumping jacks and reciting the alphabet, or even juggling and skipping. Give them a chance to show these skills to the class, and assign each student a nickname for their accomplishment!

About the Author-Illustrator

BRIETTE BARRAGER is an artist, designer, illustrator, and writer of children’s books. She spent some time at Pixar and Walt Disney Animation Studios before taking the plunge into freelance illustration, where she’s lived happily ever after. She resides in Los Angeles with her handsome husband, cute doggy, and terrible cat. Visit Brigette at brigette.com.