

# WELCOME TO WonderLand

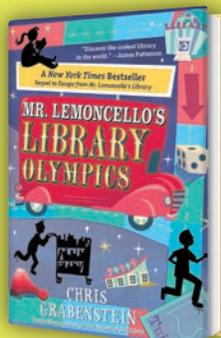
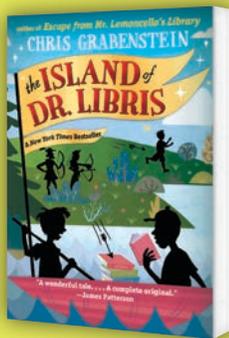
The world's **WACKIEST** motel!

Suggestions for hosting your very own *Welcome to Wonderland* event in your store or library!

## INCLUDES:

- Suggested timeline and script
- Themed suggestions for food, drink, music, and décor
- Activities . . . and more!

ALSO BY CHRIS GRABENSTEIN:



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# Activity Ideas

Turn your store or library into a Wonderland with these event ideas!

A once-great, now falling apart (and always cheesy) beachfront motel in Florida is where middle-grader P.T. Wilkie lives with his mom and grandpa. They're about to lose their beloved motel to the bank. Unless P.T., his grandpa, and young hotel-guest-tween-business-genius and new friend, Gloria, can cook up some imaginative ways to save it. . .

**This event kit offers promotional materials and easy-to-execute event and activity ideas that really sizzle to capture young readers' attention and imagination!**





# ACTIVITIES

## Get the beach ball bouncing with these interactive activities!

### STORYTIME

For attendees who haven't read the book, a read-aloud of parts of the book is the perfect way to get everyone involved with the story and invested in the event. We recommend chapters 21–23, chapters 28–30, and chapters 32–33. Pick a great reader/storyteller from your staff and set up an area where the kids can sit on the floor and listen for a little while.

### PHOTO BOOTH

There's nothing more fun than a souvenir photo from a special event. Here are some *Welcome to Wonderland: Home Sweet Motel* ideas to create a great promotional moment and to give kids a memorable takeaway.

**BACKDROP:** You don't need to set up an actual booth. A simple piece of fabric, a curtain, a shower curtain, or even a hand-drawn poster with some book-related images can be hung from the wall to pose in front of.

**PROPS:** Props make photo booths even more fun. Gather a bunch of cheesy, book-themed items and put them on a table or in a big box next to your photo area. Hats (straw hats, floppy beach hats, etc.), oversized sunglasses, beach balls, floaties, goggles, a bucket and shovel, a pirate's spyglass, an eye patch—you get the idea. Place a sign that says "Grab a prop and smile pretty!" Encourage kids to pick out props, get creative, and pose away!

**SIGN:** To add a keepsake element, use a whiteboard or chalkboard to write the name of the event and the date for kids to hold up in their photos. Or let the kids write their own message on the board about the book, *Welcome to Wonderland*, or about their favorite summer vacation destination.

**POLAROIDS MAKE A GREAT INSTANT TAKEAWAY FAVOR!** Photos taken with a Polaroid camera make it easy to pass pictures to guests as a party favor and a reminder of your event.

### TREASURE HUNT

Create a treasure hunt in your space like P.T. and Gloria do in chapter 30–32 of *Welcome to Wonderland*. Place book-themed items like the ones mentioned above around your event space and in semi-concealed places. Map out in what order your guests should discover each treasure-hunt item, and write clues or riddles for each. Place those clues at the previous hiding place. At the last spot where your guests find the treasure, have a little chest (or box) of book-themed prizes like chocolate gold coins or individual-sized bags of Pirate's Booty snacks as a reward.

### CROAKY KARAOKE

In chapter 23, an impromptu karaoke sing-along around the pool gets everyone at the hotel joining the fun. Do the same at your event! Print out lyrics to a handful of songs, find the music online, and lead your group in a rousing sing-along. It may take a song or two for everyone to get warmed up, but once that happens, the musical merriment begins. Pick songs with frog, beach, and summer themes like "School's Out for Summer," "Summer Lovin'," and "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer."





# Invent the Wonderland's Next New Attraction



## What's the Wonderland's next roadside attraction? It's up to you!

In order to keep masses of people checking in and the "NO" lit up on the "NO Vacancy" sign, P.T. and Gloria are accepting pitches from kids from across the country like you for the next new Wonderland "Big Idea" roadside attraction. Are you ready to brainstorm, spitball, and blue sky a plan? Are you ready to submit an idea for the next big attraction? Remember, the WACKIER it is, the BETTER.

Read pages 109–112 aloud for inspiration. Then hand out copies of P.T. and Gloria's "Authorized Wonderland Attraction Submission Proposal Entry Form," available on the next page. Ready to get started and save the Wonderland?

### Authorized Wonderland Attraction Submission: Written/Descriptive Proposal

#### STEP ONE:

In up to fifty words, describe what your attraction looks like. Include the following information:

- What does this attraction do? Is it a ride?
- Does it make sounds or have lights or other features?
- What are its colors? What size is it?
- How much will you charge for your attraction?

### Authorized Wonderland Attraction Submission: Illustrated Proposal

#### STEP TWO:

- Now that you have outlined and described your attraction, using regular or colored pencils and/or pens, please draw your attraction on the form.
- Name your attraction.



# Authorized Wonderland Attraction Submission Form

Attraction Description:

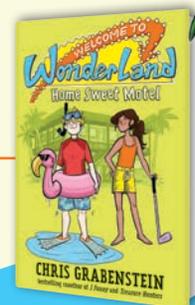
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Drawing of Attraction:

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Name of Your Attraction: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





# Tall Tales

## Storytelling Activity



### OUTRAGEOUSLY RIDICULOUS ONE-MINUTE TALL TALES

P. T. Wilkie has the gift of gab. He's a born storyteller! How about your event attendees? Can they weave a tall tale, too? Yes, they can!

#### Tall Tale Story Starters

These story starters are loosely based on events that take place in *Welcome to Wonderland* and are perfect to get the tall tales rolling at your event. Before your activity starts, write each of the following story starters on a small piece of paper, fold them up, and put them in a basket. When you're ready to begin, have each attendee reach into the basket, pull out a story starter, and read the prompt aloud. Then, finish the story!

- It's nighttime and there are pirate gangsters after a valuable treasure hidden in your school. But you're on the hunt, too! Those gangsters may be bumbling, but, darn it, they are pretty smart! But you're smart, too. AND you have an advantage: YOU know your way around the school. They don't. The only problem is it's nighttime and all the school's lights are off. How do you foil the pirate gangsters and find the hidden treasure?
- Yikes! There's a lion in the kids' section of your library. He's after some unauthorized leftover lunch. Everybody else has run for the hills (and locked the doors behind them). But not you. The problem: Uh-oh, the lion is standing between you and the only door that has been left unlocked. And he's not happy. In fact, he's approaching you. How do you entice this fierce (not to mention huge!) beast to move to the only available library exit so you can lead it back to the field at the bottom of the hill?
- Your home (aka "home sweet motel") is about to be foreclosed on by unscrupulous bankers. You and your family will have to move. But not if YOU can help it. Darn, if only you had a million dollars . . . ! Too bad you're just a kid. But wait, maybe there IS a way. YES, there is! What do you do to get the money?
- You've found a hidden treasure in a supersecret place—at the zoo of all places. Yahoo! But, drats, the absentminded night manager has left the tiger's cage door open, and now guess who's joined you? Yep, the craftiest tiger in the zoo. He's loose and he's lookin' at you! His eyes are glowing yellow, his growl is in his throat, and he's about ready to pounce. Only you can calm him down and get out with the treasure. Tell us . . . what do you do?

**"Every story has a plan, Gloria. You have to sort of know where you're going before you start, or you'll never make it to the end."**

**—P.T. Wilkie**



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# Listen & Learn



## INCORPORATING THE AUDIOBOOK

Research indicates there are many educational benefits to audiobooks:

- Audiobooks build and enhance vital literacy skills such as fluency, vocabulary, language acquisition, pronunciation, and comprehension—skills that often boost reading scores.
- Audiobooks help learners develop critical thinking and active listening skills, and listening together allows children to become collectively engaged in a shared story in a manner that promotes a sense of intimacy and human connection.

## SKETCHNOTING—VISUAL NOTETAKING

Sketchnoting is creating a personal visual story as one listens to a speaker/audiobook or reads a text. As you play *Welcome to Wonderland #1 Home Sweet Motel* have young listeners illustrate symbols, sayings, or favorite scenes that stick out in their minds. Periodically pause the audio to share drawings/notes. Students can also compare their drawings with those created by illustrator Brooke Allen and/or each other's drawings.

For more audiobook related activities, visit [www.booksontape.com/SoundLearningActivityGuide](http://www.booksontape.com/SoundLearningActivityGuide).

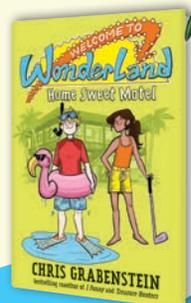
# Greetings from the Sunny, Funny Wonderland Motel!



Encourage your guests to write their own postcards from the Wonderland motel to tell their friends or family members about their favorite part of the summer—maybe it's even your event! Mail the postcards directly from your store or library, or send them home with each guest to mail later!



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# Treasure Map Drawing Activity

## SAVE THE WONDERLAND MOTEL

Ever since Mr. Ortega interviewed P.T. about the Wonderland's Treasure Hunt and it was featured live on TV up and down the state of Florida, there has been a run on treasure maps. P.T. and Gloria realize they're going to need a lot more maps! Can you help?

### HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

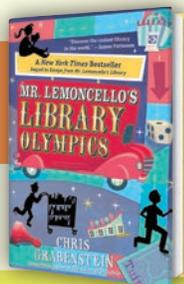
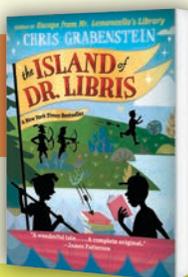
- Read chapter 30 of *Welcome to Wonderland* as a reminder of all the spots that need to be included on the map.
- Read each sentence carefully for details that will help you make an accurate and awesome map.
- Use the space on this page to create your Wonderland Treasure Map.



Treasure Cartographer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Art © 2016 by Brooke Allen



Also by **CHRIS GRABENSTEIN:**



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