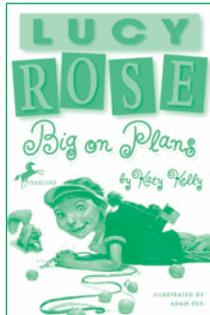


BOOKNOTES

educators guide



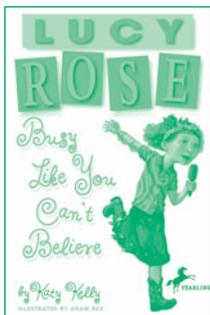
Yearling
PB: 978-0-440-42026-2



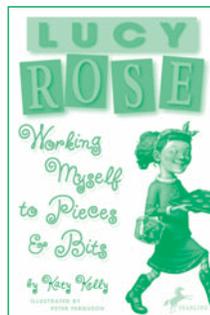
Yearling
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LUCY ROSE MELONHEAD

Family & Relationships
Friendship • Growing Up
Emotions & Feelings • Humor • School

GRADES 3-5

ABOUT LUCY ROSE

Lucy Rose is very unique, except she'd be the first to tell you that is not the right thing to say because you either are unique or not but you can't be very unique—though if someone would qualify Lucy Rose would be it. First, there's Lucy Rose's fashion sense. She likes color—pink, orange, yellow, green it all looks good on her, especially on the same day. Plus, she likes words. Lucy Rose collects palindromes and words that knock her colorful socks off. But Lucy Rose is worried about some things too, like the fact that her parents are separated and how she lives in Washington, D.C., 500 miles away from her dad and old friends. Plus it's not easy being the new girl or trying to make new friends, but Lucy Rose is a girl that will face the challenge with her red boots on!

ABOUT MELONHEAD

Lucy Rose, one of Adam Melon's good friends, gave him his preferred nickname: Melonhead. And while Melonhead's mom is not thrilled about it, he certainly is! Melonhead loves shortcuts, snakes, and inventing, though all three get him into some interesting situations, and maybe a wee bit of trouble, too. And Melonhead is having some trouble trying to decide what type of contraption might win him a trip to the Challenge America finals for an original invention reusing everyday materials—if it doesn't get him grounded first! Join Melonhead as he attempts to make great discoveries including keeping his mom from finding the snake he's hidden in his room. Friends of Lucy Rose will love hearing about Melonhead's inventions and mishaps.

ASK KATY KELLY

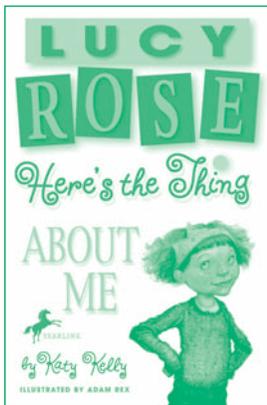
Do your students have questions for the author about her writing and characters? Have them e-mail her at

AskKatyKelly@gmail.com today!

Lucy Rose: Here's the Thing About Me

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Let students know that Lucy Rose has just moved and lead a class discussion. Have you ever had to move? What do you think are the most difficult things about moving away? Is there any way to make it easier on new kids in your neighborhood and school?



ABOUT THE BOOK

In the opening book in the series we meet Lucy Rose: She's spunky, a smart cookie, and maybe just a little bit of a handful! She's just moved to Washington, D.C. but only with her mom since her parents have decided to separate. She's not thrilled about that idea, at all. But Lucy Rose is making the best of it with her one-of-a-kind spark.

COMPREHENSION

Encourage students to complete these activities as they read:

- List five things that you think are most important to know about Lucy Rose.
- Create a character map with these parts: family, friends, description, what she says, what she does. At the end of each chapter add more to the chart and then discuss it with a partner.
- Write a letter to a friend (or to your teacher) about the story. Would you like to be friends with Lucy Rose?

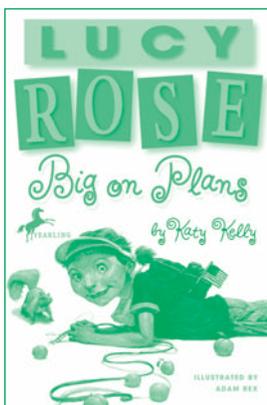
POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- Have students brainstorm a list of things Lucy Rose learns during her first year in Washington, D.C. Make a list of things they've learned this year at school, too.
- Lucy Rose writes e-mails and letters to her dad and grandmother. Instruct the class to write an e-mail or letter to someone in their family about Lucy Rose or some other topic that is important to them.

Lucy Rose: Big on Plans

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask the class: What activities do you most like to do in the summer? Do you ever get bored in the summer?



ABOUT THE BOOK

It is summer and Lucy Rose is trying to fill her days by making a lanyard keychain and solving her grandfather's problem with squirrels. But there's an even bigger problem that goes by the name of Ashley, the new girl who is so snarky! Plus, Lucy Rose is trying to stop her parents from deciding on a divorce. That is a whole lot of problems for one girl in one summer but Lucy Rose will give it her all!

COMPREHENSION

Encourage students to complete these activities as they read:

- Fill out the chart on the next page about the characters from *Lucy Rose: Big on Plans*.
- As you read, make a list of the words that are new to you. Then try to use them as you are speaking that day or even in a sentence that you write. Make a chart where you rate the words in these categories: never heard it, sounds familiar, could give a definition, could use in a sentence.
- Lucy Rose, Melonhead, and Jonique are trying to solve Madam and Pop's ultimate squirrel problem in the apricot tree. As you read, place a sticky note over the cause and effects of this adventure. Remember that everything that has an action has a reaction. Discuss the results as a class.

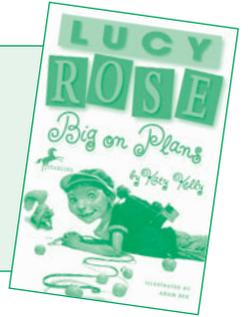
POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- Create a Venn diagram that compares Ashley to Lucy Rose. What (if anything) do they have in common? How are they different?
- Have students keep a journal inspired by Lucy Rose's journal. They should record at least one entry for each day. Remind them to not only describe what they did (though that's a nice start!) but what they think, feel, remember, and wonder, too!

Name _____

Lucy Rose's Inner Circle

DIRECTIONS: While reading *Lucy Rose: Big on Plans*, fill out the following chart about the characters.



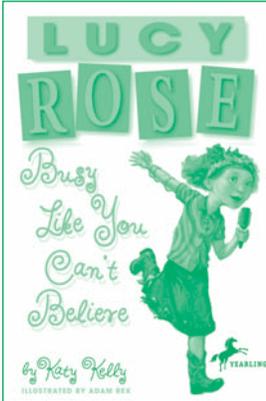
Character:	Most important thing to know about this character:	How I learned the most important thing and what page:
Lucy Rose		
Mom		
Dad		
Madam		
Pop		
Jonique		
Melonhead		
Ashley		

EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet to use with your students.

Lucy Rose: Busy Like You Can't Believe

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask the class: Do you know what eavesdropping is?
Do you think it is a good idea or not?



ABOUT THE BOOK

It's the beginning of fourth grade for Lucy Rose and that comes with lots of new adventures, including trying to get along with Ashley and trying out for the play *Annie*. And while she's certain she'll get the lead in the play (she has red hair, after all, not to mention wads of talent), she's not sure she can get along with that Ashley! One thing Lucy Rose is sure of is that she wants to know what is going on and she has figured out a most excellent way of knowing: eavesdropping.

COMPREHENSION

Encourage students to complete these activities as they read:

- Good readers make predictions about what will happen next in a story. At the end of each chapter write a prediction about what you think might happen next. Remember that it is not important that you're right but it's important to try to figure it out!
- Create a bookmark by folding a piece of paper in half lengthwise. On it list all the things Lucy Rose learns while she's eavesdropping on her mom and friends. At the end of the novel, go back through and decide what Lucy Rose learned in the end about all those pieces of information!
- After testing out Jonique's trick for the nine times table, write the steps out as a how-to for others struggling with the table. Include pictures like the ones in the back of the book.

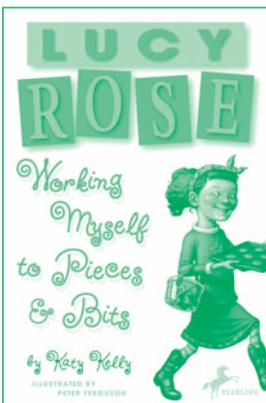
POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- In groups, have students write a short reader's theater script from their favorite scene in the book and then act it out.
- Have the class create posters about the book like the one Lucy Rose made about the play. They should use the poster to attract new readers.

Lucy Rose: Working Myself To Pieces & Bits

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask the class: Have you ever tried to raise money?
How can kids earn money? How do you think Lucy Rose might attempt it?



ABOUT THE BOOK

Jonique's family is getting ready to open a bakery, only it is a lot more work and money than they ever expected. What will they do? Leave it to Lucy Rose to come up with a plan to save the day! While Lucy Rose does everything she can to raise money for the cause, Ashley does everything she can to make Lucy Rose miserable. How will Lucy Rose handle Ashley and the pressure to succeed?

COMPREHENSION

Encourage students to complete these activities as they read:

- As you read find quotes that you think are important to understanding the story or the characters. On the left-hand side add the quote and on the right add your response.
- A summary is a short statement about the most important parts of a story. After you read each chapter write a short summary about what happened during that chapter. Be sure to focus on only the most important parts of the story.
- Make a list of the ways people earn money in the story. Then discuss which jobs you'd most like to get involved in.

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- Have students write a letter to Katy Kelly about what they learned by reading Lucy Rose's stories. How did they feel about Ashley's behavior? How would they try to raise money for friends? Would they have refused to walk with Melonhead too?
- Lucy Rose makes Mrs. Hennessy a "Things to Remember" book with important pictures. Instruct the class to create a similar book for Alzheimer's patients in their own town.

Melonhead

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Ask the class: Have you ever tried to invent something?
What do you think are the steps to making an invention?



ABOUT THE BOOK

Lucy Rose, one of Adam Melon's good friends, gave him his preferred nickname: Melonhead. And while Melonhead's mom is not thrilled about it, he certainly is! Melonhead loves shortcuts, snakes, and inventing, though all three get him into some interesting situations!



Illustration © 2009 by Gillian Johnson

COMPREHENSION

Encourage students to complete these activities as they read:

- Readers get to know characters by studying what they say, what they do, how others react or talk to them, and what they look like. Fill out the following chart about Melonhead himself on the next page.
- Create a diagram or chart which lists the experiments and what Sam and Melonhead learned from each attempt for the Challenge America contest.
- Since good readers make predictions about what is going to happen next, write a question at the end of each chapter about what you hope will be answered. For example, *I wonder if Melonhead will get out of the tree?*

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- Encourage students to try a Challenge America invention—for themselves, of course! Remind them what Mr. Santalices said: try to create something new, original, and useful.
- Melonhead wants to keep the snake he found but he's not even sure what it needs at first to survive. Have students research the needs of their dream pet and calculate how much it would cost to not only purchase the pet but provide for him for one year.
- Diaper science! Get a variety of diaper brands and reenact the experiment that Sam and Melonhead conduct in the bathroom. What are your class's findings?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Here's the thing about Katy Kelly: If you look at Lucy Rose's life and then look at Katy's, you'll see that in some ways they're very similar. Katy grew up on Capitol Hill and had a dog named Gumbo. Her parents are very much like Madam and Pop . . . and she's an original thinker, at least according to her dad. Now working as a writer, Katy Kelly has worked as a reporter for *People* magazine, a feature writer for the Life section of *USA Today*, and was a senior editor at *US News & World Report*. She comes from a family of writers. Katy's mom, Marguerite Kelly, is the author of *The Mother's Almanac* and the syndicated column, *The Family Almanac*. Her father, Tom, wrote for the long-gone *Washington Daily News* and her brother, Michael, was a syndicated columnist and the editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*. Her sister, Meg Kelly, is an Emmy Award-winning television writer. Katy, her husband, and their daughters, Emily and Marguerite, now live in Washington, D.C.



Photo Credit: Matt Mendelshon

Prepared by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, a reading specialist and award-winning children's author.

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Name _____

Getting To Know Melonhead

DIRECTIONS: Readers get to know characters by studying what they say, what they do, how others react or talk to them, and what they look like. While reading *Melonhead*, fill out the following chart about Melonhead himself.



Description:	What he says:	What he does:	How others react:

EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet to use with your students.