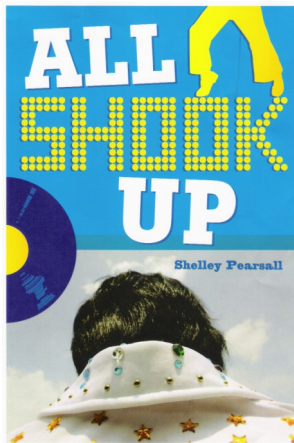


All Shook Up Teacher's Guide



Everything changes when 13 year old Josh learns he has to move to Chicago to live with his divorced dad, Jerry Denny. But when Josh arrives at his father's house he can hardly believe the changes he sees in his dad: dyed black hair, sideburns, sunglasses -- his father has turned into Elvis!

It's true. After losing his job as a shoe salesman, Josh's dad is trying to earn money as an Elvis impersonator. He's become *a hunk-a hunk-a burning shame* in Josh's eyes. Not only that, his dad has a new girlfriend named Viv and a crazy neighbor named Gladys who actually believes he is Elvis! If life wasn't already strange enough, once Josh starts school in Chicago, somebody begins leaving mysterious notes on his locker signed "Elvisly Yours."

All Shook Up is a funny story about a father and son both trying to figure out who they want to be -- and along the way, learning some important things about who they really are. It's a story about friendship, self-acceptance, and the bonds between fathers and sons.

Published by Alfred A. Knopf, 2008
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978-0-375-83698-5 (hardcover) \$ 15.99

Praise for ALL SHOOK UP

Junior Library Guild selection
Accelerated Reader (AR) selection
2011 Rebecca Caudill Award nominee (Illinois)
2010-2011 Young Hoosier Book Award nominee (Indiana)



"Alternately wry, silly, thoughtful, and laugh-out-loud funny" -- *BookPage* magazine

"Through a wonderful and believable process of discovery... father and son come to understand one another." -- *School Library Journal*

Elvis Factoids

- ★ What bird did Elvis keep as a pet? A turkey named Bowtie
- ★ Who received Elvis's first record? His mom.
- ★ What color appears most in Elvis's song titles? Blue appears in 15 song titles
- ★ Did Elvis have a twin brother? Yes, he died at birth.
- ★ How much did it cost (on average) to attend an Elvis show in the 1950s? Less than \$3.00

Discussion & Journal Questions

1. Josh calls himself a “shared kid” on page 3. What advice would you give Josh about how to handle being a “shared kid?” Write an advice letter to him.
2. Chapter 7: Who is Gladys and why does she seem to be important to Josh’s dad? Research: How was the name “Gladys” important to the real Elvis?
3. In Chapter 10, Josh faces his first day at a new middle school. Write about a memory you have of a “first day” -- at a new school, summer camp, etc. What did you worry about most?
4. Josh doesn’t like Ivory when he first meets her in Chapter 14 and thinks they will never be friends. What would Ivory say about Josh? Take her point of view and write her impressions of him after their first meeting.
5. React: How did you feel after reading Josh’s description of the “garbage can people” on pages 118-119?
6. Discuss: What are Josh and his dad searching for in their lives? Are they both looking for the same things (such as acceptance, friendship, fame...) or not?
7. Problem-solving: Josh faces a big problem with his dad in Chapters 20-21. In small groups, brainstorm a creative list of possible solutions for him.
8. Explain the meaning of the saying “walk a mile in my shoes.” (pg. 199) If you had to pick one person’s shoes to walk in, who would you choose and why?
9. Discuss/Respond: Is Josh a different person by the end of the book or not? Give examples to support your answer.

“All Shook Up” Author Trivia

- 1.) Author Shelley Pearsall met more than 25 Elvis impersonators for the story.
- 2.) She never met the real Elvis. He died in 1977 when she was 11.
- 3.) Elvis recorded more than 700 songs in his lifetime. Shelley listened to at least 100 for the story. What’s her favorite song title that didn’t get in the book? Song of the Shrimp.
- 4.) Shelley admits she has never tried Elvis’s favorite fried peanut butter and banana sandwich.



All Shook Up Classroom Activities & Projects

Need Something In A Hurry?

Try These Short Activities With Your Students...

In the Movies

Who would star in the movie version of *All Shook Up*?

Create a colorful movie poster and include a photograph of at least one popular actor you'd choose to play one of the leading roles.

(Writing/Art)

Say it in Four

On page 54 - 55, Josh mentions a plaque in his school with four words describing the school's namesake, Charles W. Lister. Josh unsuccessfully tries to come up with four words to describe himself. What would you put on a plaque about yourself? Draw or design an honorary plaque, using your words in your design.

(Writing/Art)



Coffee Cup Wisdom

On page 14, Josh says you can tell a lot about people by their coffee mug. Using a paper pattern of a coffee mug, decorate your own personal coffee cup and create a slogan for it. Display in the classroom. (Writing/Art)



Got A Little More Time?

Try These With Your Students...

Get Inspired by Music

Elvis song titles and lyrics are used throughout *All Shook Up* and often provide clues for what happens next in the story. Choose your own Elvis song title or line of lyrics and write a short story or poem that fits the lyrics you choose.

(Music/Writing)

Debate: Elvis vs. Michael Jackson

Elvis is called the King of Rock n' Roll. But who made the biggest impact on the history of rock n' roll? Was it Elvis? Michael Jackson? Madonna? Someone else? Research your singer, prepare your argument, and debate your side. (Debate/Research)

Memories of Elvis...

"Elvis is everywhere," Josh says at the end of the story. Select an older friend, school staff member, or family member and interview them to find out what they recall about Elvis. Did they listen to his music? Attend a show? Visit Graceland? Write, record, or make a video to collect these Elvis memories. (Research/Writing)



“A WHOLE LOTTA” READING GOING ON!

Elvis Reading Week Theme Ideas

With its Elvis theme, *All Shook Up* creates a lot of fun and excitement for school-wide reading week celebrations. (And Elvis himself was a big fan of books!) Get the entire staff -- from the principals to the lunch ladies -- involved in the week with the following ideas:

- ☆ Have a “vintage” clothing day.
- ☆ Run trivia contests during morning announcements -- *Name of Elvis’s house...*
- ☆ Serve toasted banana and peanut butter sandwiches. Or create an Elvis-themed cafeteria menu.
- ☆ “Catch Elvis Reading” contest -- purchase a cardboard Elvis and move him around the school holding a different book cover in each location. Kids who can name all the locations and book titles win a prize.
- ☆ Elvis Scavenger Hunt -- hold a competition between classes or teams to see how many Elvis items can be found from a list. Here are a few possibilities...
Can the team find someone who saw the real Elvis in concert? Someone who owns an Elvis record album? Movie? Someone who has been to Graceland? Someone who has worn an Elvis jumpsuit? Someone who owns an Elvis t-shirt or poster? Someone who can name 5 Elvis song titles? And so on...
- ☆ Hire a local Elvis impersonator for a surprise visit -- or convince a staff member to dress up as one!
- ☆ Include an author visit so students can hear the real stories and see the writing process (eight rough drafts!) behind *All Shook Up*. Shelley presents large group assemblies and a special “Blue Suede Shoes” writing workshop for small groups.

ELVIS RESOURCES

www.WindyCityNovelties.com

Low-cost source for Elvis decorations and novelty items for Reading Week themes. This on-line store carries inexpensive sets of Elvis sunglasses, inflatable guitars, plastic records, cardboard Elvis and “cling-ons” for windows (called add-ons).

www.elvis.com/elvisology

The official website for everything Elvis. Includes Graceland webcam and a great 5-minute video clip for students to watch called “Graceland for Kids”. It can be found by clicking on the Elvis for Kids link. Site also includes Elvis biography, facts, trivia, etc.