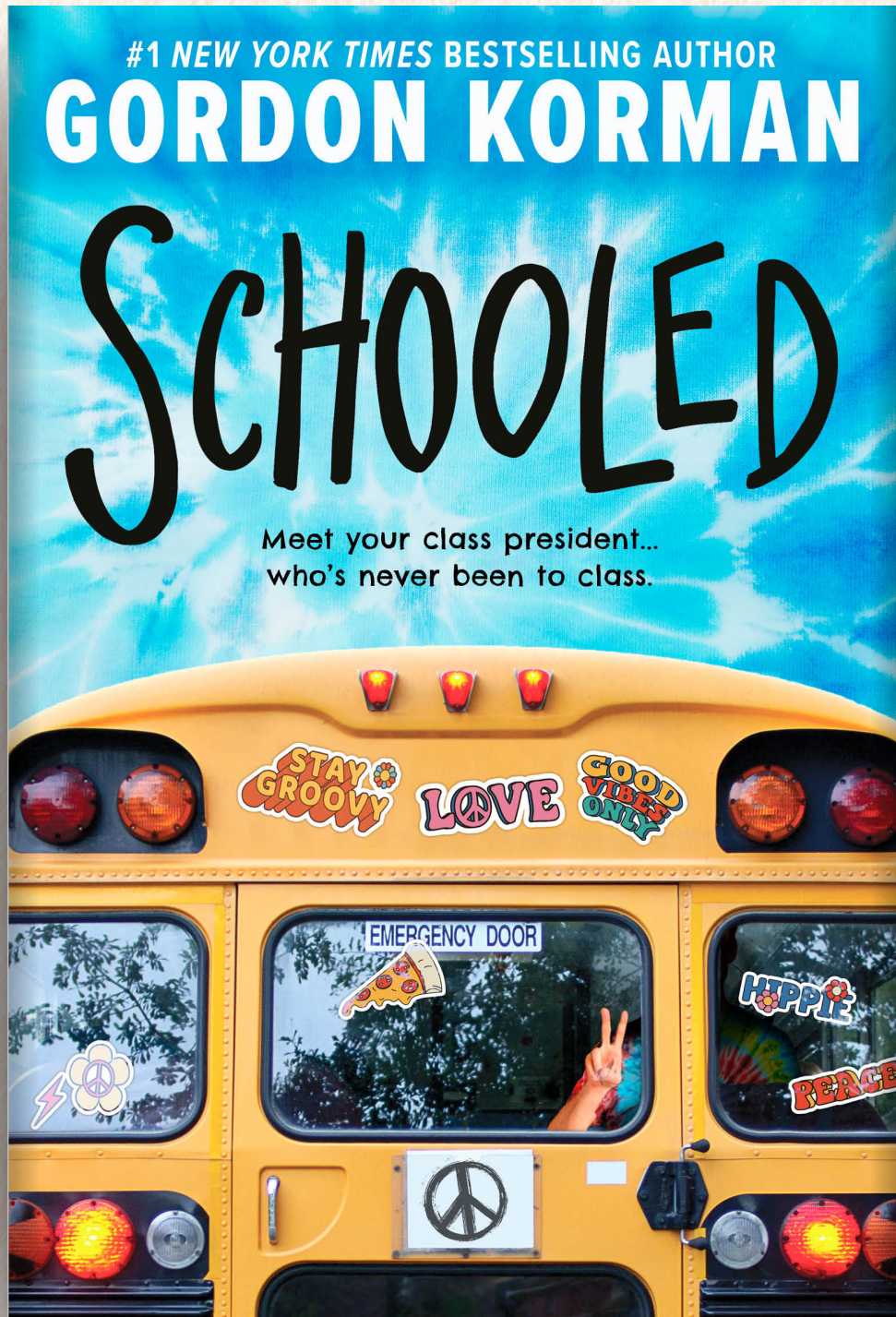


LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Educator's Guide | Ages 8–12



LittleBrownLibrary.com



Xbschool f LittleBrownSchool

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Explain the type of life Cap has been leading at Garland. How is his life about to change dramatically? Have you ever daydreamed about being homeschooled? What do you think it would be like?
2. Where does Cap land while his grandmother Rain recovers? What do you think would be the most difficult thing for an outsider to understand about middle school life?
3. How is Cap treated by Sophie, Zach, Hugh, and Naomi? How do people decide whether to be cruel or kind to someone who is new? Do you blame Sophie for her reaction to him? Would you want Cap to be living in your house?
4. Hugh realizes that if it weren't for Cap he would be at the bottom of the social ladder. "Better him than me," he thinks (p. 30). Do you think this is a theme of middle school? Do students put up with their peers being bullied because they're afraid they could be next?
5. What prank does Zach plan for Cap? Why do people go along with it? Do you think this could happen at your school? In your opinion who is worse—Zach or Naomi? Why?
6. Cap is full of hippie wisdom like, "When you're unkind to others, it's usually because you don't believe that you, yourself, deserve kindness" (p. 46). Do you agree with this statement? What about his other philosophical statements?
7. What is the turning-point for how people perceive Cap at school? Do you know someone who has acted heroically?
8. Why does Hugh think, "I was a worm, but at least I had the strength of character to be ashamed of it" (p. 75). Does Zach realize he's being a worm too?
9. How does Cap make a connection with Sophie? What common interests do they share? How does he try to make up for her dad's thoughtlessness? Does it work? Have you ever acted anonymously on someone's behalf?
10. Mr. Kasigi admits, "I had long suspected how the kids went about picking their eighth-grade president. And when I chose to look the other way, I was sort of putting a stamp of approval on it" (p. 154). How does this decision blow up in his face? Can adults sometimes be complicit in the bullying that happens in schools? Do you think Mr. Kasigi deserves what he gets? Why?
11. What happens at the pep rally? Have you ever experienced other examples of group mentality? What do the students at school ultimately believe happened to Cap? How is the misunderstanding resolved?
12. Despite his experiences in middle school and his longing to return to Garland, once he is home, Cap suddenly misses his classmates and the chaos he has come to understand. How can some experiences change who you are? In the end, what do Rain and Cap decide to do? Do you think it is the right decision for Cap's future? Why?

continued on next page . . .

PROJECTS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Write ten rules of survival for middle school. What should every student know before entering the doors of your school? After you've written the rules, write a brief journal about your experience coming to understand the rules.

ART

Tie-dye, of course. Experiment with this fun art form by trying out a variety of techniques. Wear your art proudly!

MUSIC

Explore the music of the '60s and '70s. What artists were your parent's (or grandparent's!) favorites? Which songs have lasted through the decades to become classics or anthems of the period? Explore Rain's playlist of songs of the period below.

RAIN'S PLAYLIST

- *The Times They Are A-Changin'* — Bob Dylan
- *The Weight* — The Band
- *You Can't Always Get What You Want* — The Rolling Stones
- *A Whiter Shade of Pale* — Procol Harum
- *Big Yellow Taxi* — Joni Mitchell
- *Truckin'* — The Grateful Dead
- *The Kids Are Alright* — The Who
- *California Dreaming* — The Mamas & The Papas
- *Ohio* — Neil Young
- *The Age of Aquarius* — From the musical *Hair*
- *Wild Thing* — The Troggs
- *For What It's Worth* — Buffalo Springfield
- *Break on Through To the Other Side* — The Doors
- *All You Need Is Love* — The Beatles



continued on next page . . .

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

You visit many schools during the year. How do you find time to write?

It's true that traveling and speaking takes up a lot of time, but I think it would be even harder to write if I didn't do it. Meeting my readers is a great way to keep in touch with my audience, to hear what gets the big laugh, what gets the introspective chuckle, and what gets: "You think that's funny? That makes one of us." Remember, when I wrote my first book, I was very close to the age of my readers. That's not true anymore, so school visits are my way to stay connected.

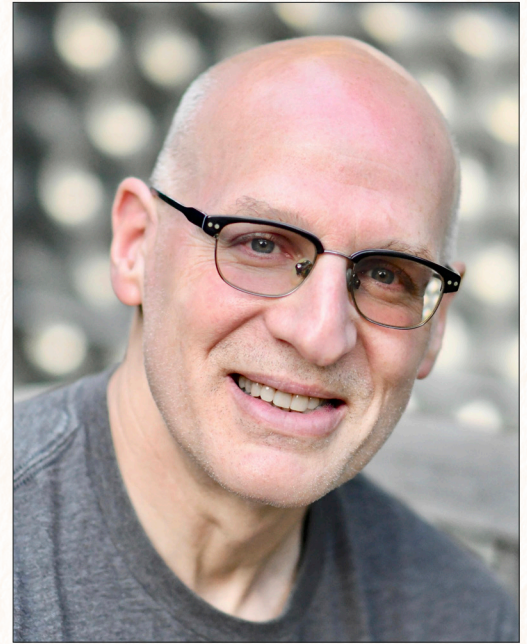
How do you know you've got an idea worth turning into a book? Are you ever wrong?

You sort of develop an instinct when you've been writing for a while. Sometimes the idea comes in stages. *Schooled* started as a book about a homeschooled kid, and the sixties/hippie angle only occurred to me later. As for being wrong, that happens all the time. Luckily, I have a fantastic editor who stops me before I waste too much time on a bad idea. And, of course, the kids at my school visits are the ultimate sounding board.

What's your favorite part of the writing process?

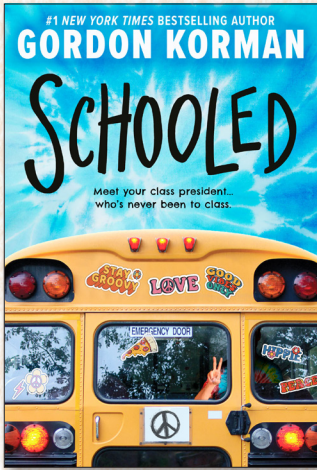
I'm a big-time planner, so my favorite part of the process is when all the plotting starts to come together. Generally, that happens about two-thirds of the way through the book, when the developing story begins to hook up with the ending, which has been growing backward in my mind.

About the Author



GORDON KORMAN published his first book at age fourteen, and since then has written more than one hundred middle-grade and teen novels. His favorites include the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Fort*, *Linked*, *The Unteachables*, and *Restart*. Gordon lives with his family on Long Island, New York. He invites you to visit him online at gordonkorman.com

About the Book



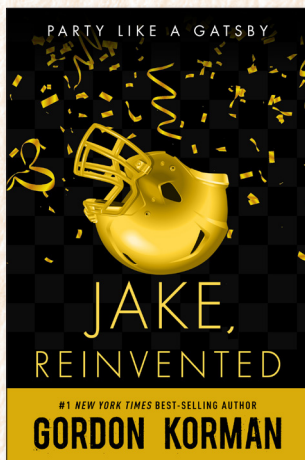
PB: 9780316564502

Capricorn Anderson (Cap for short) has never watched a television show. He's never tasted pizza. He's never heard of a wedgie. And he has never, even in his wildest dreams, thought he'd live anywhere but the Garland Farm commune with his hippie grandmother and homeschool instructor, Rain.

But all this changes when Rain is stuck in the hospital and Cap is sent to Claverage Middle School (dubbed C Average by the kids). Cap doesn't exactly fit in at school, with his long, ungroomed hair and hemp clothes; in fact, he's the biggest nerd around. But when he's elected eighth-grade president as a joke, Cap is more puzzled than ever, and soon the joke grows into something more. Will Cap be the greatest president in the history of C Average or the biggest punch line?

Rife with Gordon Korman's signature humor, *Schooled* is a heartwarming story about friendship, kindness, and finding your place—which may not always be where you think it is.

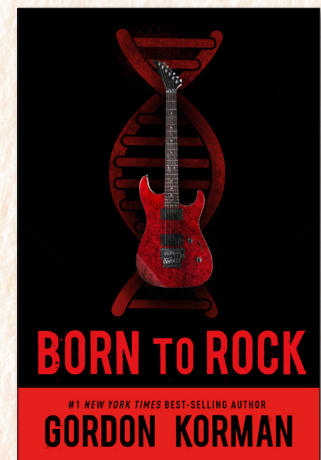
More Books by Gordon Korman



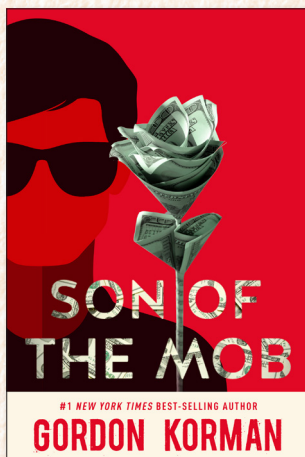
PB: 9781484798423



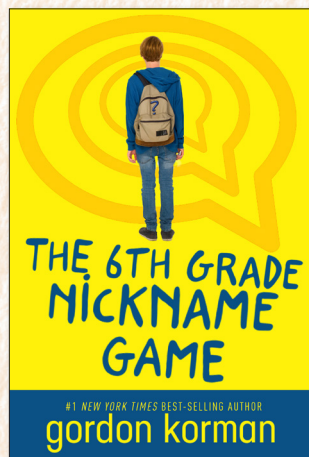
PB: 9781484798430



PB: 9781484798416



PB: 9781484798454



PB: 9781484798409



PB: 9781484798447