

Accidental Adventures Series

Activities & Curriculum Connections

1. Television on Trial

Oliver and Celia watch a *lot* of television. So much so, in fact, that television seems to rule their lives—they get very upset when anything interrupts their regularly scheduled programming. However, all of this television watching has come in handy in the middle of several life-threatening situations. Make a case for or against the Oliver and Celia’s television watching. Is it worthwhile to watch endless hours of television in the hope that you might learn something?

2. Exploring Vocabulary

The author sprinkles challenging vocabulary (along with corresponding definitions) throughout his stories in order to boost readers’ comprehension. Create a running list of these words and the definitions provided. After reading each book, return to the list and incorporate some of those words into a book review.

3. Monsters Wanted

The Navel family encounters a wide variety of storied beasts—a kraken, a basilisk, and a yeti, to name a few. Using trusted websites for information, dive into the history of these creatures. When were they first discovered? Where do they reside? What is their significance? What should you do if you meet one of them in a dark alley? Using short bursts of text, incorporate this information on a “Wanted” poster for each creature. Print out online images or draw a picture of the beast to decorate each poster.

4. Comedic Comparisons

“He had discovered the royal tombs of the ancient Pyu kingdom in Burma. He had paddled a kayak across the Atlantic Ocean. He’d been to Dayton, Ohio. Twice!” (*We Give a Squid a Wedgie*, p. 11)

The author uses details and sentence structure to develop humor. Ask readers to mirror this formula by writing two detailed sentences and following them up with a short sentence that has an ordinary (slightly opposing) focus.

For example:

When she stepped on stage during the school play, she danced as if her feet had wings. She sang as gloriously the Little Mermaid lying on the sun-drenched rocks. She looked as if she didn’t brush her hair.

5. Lights! Camera! Action!

The Navels watch a number of hilariously titled television shows, such as *Beast Busters*, *Sunset High*, *Ten Ton Taco Challenge*, *Love at 30,000 Feet*, and *Velma Sue's Snack Cake Times Square New Year's Eve Spectacular*. Pairing up with a friend, create a 30 second commercial for one of these shows. Gather any information about the show provided in the book and use imagination to fill in the blanks. Make sure that each commercial presents compelling reasons to watch.

6. School of Adventure

Celia and Oliver's father says, "Adventure is the greatest source of education." (*We Are Not Eaten By Yaks*, p. 16) What does he mean by that statement? Do you agree or disagree? Provide support for your answer.

7. Road Trip!

Using a map, chart out each location that the Navels explore. Start with the headquarters of the Explorers Club at Number Seven East Seventy-Fourth Street and add markers for each stop on their journey. Can you guess where they might be traveling next?