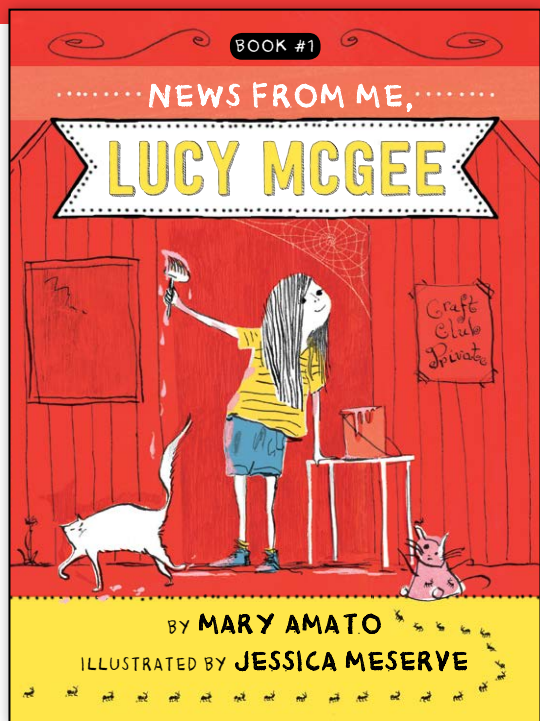


# HOLIDAY HOUSE | EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



978-0-8234-3871-6 • E-book available • Grades 2–5

## News From Me, Lucy McGee

by Mary Amato, illustrated by Jessica Meserve

A new chapter book series by favorite author Mary Amato starring a fun-loving heroine who matches wits with a mean girl.

*“Fun accompanied by useful life lessons.”*  
—Kirkus Reviews

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Spunky Lucy McGee proves herself a match for mean girl Scarlett Tandy, but not before learning a difficult lesson about friendship. In this humorous and heartfelt story about a girl with a song in her heart and a spirit that can't be kept down, Lucy falls prey to Scarlett's flattery and tricks. When she ends up being the errand girl and tea server for Scarlett's new private club in her backyard cottage—and gets in trouble for skipping the afterschool songwriting club she's supposed to be attending—Lucy strikes back. But it turns out that singing her songs and playing the uke—and having fun doing it—are the best revenge.

### PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Share with students that this book is about a girl who gets manipulated into doing some things that she knows aren't right. Have students share similar situations. Ask them to reflect and then jot down some ideas that explains how people get talked into doing things they know are wrong. If students are reluctant to share personal stories, ask them to imagine and then write about a scenario of this situation.

Explore the word “manipulate.” Have students write a definition of what they think it means before looking up the word. Share these definitions and then look the word up in a dictionary and compare to the class definitions. Apply this word to a variety of situations. When does the meaning switch from something that is positive to something that is negative?



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## READING ACTIVITIES

### CHARACTER AND SETTING

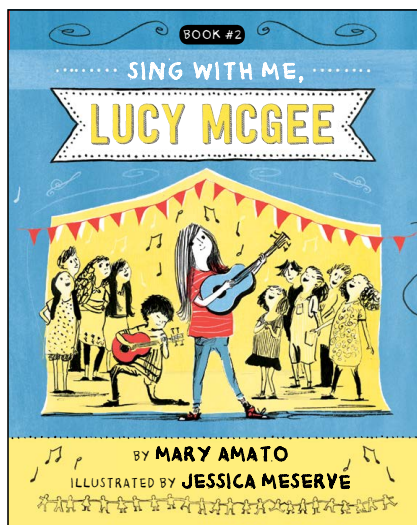
Lucy is our main character. She is telling the story. Find a few details from the story that show ways you and Lucy are similar. Find MORE that show ways in which you are not at all alike.

Lucy narrates the action and she has patterns of speech and ways of speaking that are distinctly her own. Compare Lucy's speech, for example, to the words (in quotes) that her mother says or that Scarlett says or that Phillip says. What is different from the way Lucy speaks and the other characters? Draw and write about someone you know that reminds you of Lucy (including yourself, if applicable).

The illustration of Lucy is based on the illustrator reading the book and making choices about the way in which she interprets her character. Do you have a different idea of how Lucy could look? Create it! What no one knows, however, is what Lucy's voice is like. If Lucy lived in your neighborhood, what would she sound like (and look like)? What did Lucy sound like when she was younger? What will she sound like in ten years? Twenty-five? Fifty?

Create a series of Venn Diagrams that compare and contrast Lucy with the other characters.

## CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF LUCY MCGEE?



*Sing with Me, Lucy McGee*, book two in the Lucy McGee series, is out now!

978-0-8234-3876-1 • E-book available • Grades 2-5

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