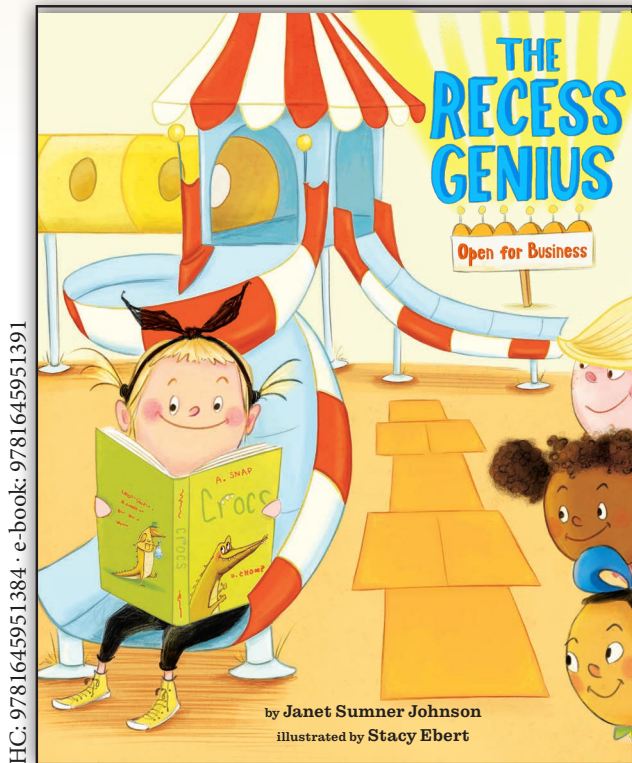


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EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



The Recess Genius 1: Open for Business

by **Janet Sumner Johnson**

illustrated by **Stacy Ebert**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Introducing the playground problem solver who uses quick thinking, practicality, tenacity, love of reading, and a little creative perspective to help her schoolmates out of their stickiest jams. From the author of *Help Wanted*, *Must Love Books* and the illustrator of *Hello World!*

Regina Grey's never had much of a knack for anything, apart from disappearing into her books. She muddles her math, splutters her spelling, and gets jumbled up in gym. Until the day she offhandedly solves a classmate's brother troubles. Soon, rumor spreads across the playground of the pint-size crisis manager who makes her office at the top of the jungle gym. She can solve any problem. But all that problem-solving for *other* kids doesn't leave much time for escaping into her books. Can the Recess Genius use her magical power to solve her own dilemma?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the cover art. How does the illustrator reveal the main character? Why are the kids on the right peeking at the girl?
- How many types of playground equipment are on the end pages? Take a close look at the title page spread. How do you know there is only one girl, rather than seven? Why does the girl move about the equipment?

- Define “genius.” The girl genius is introduced as Regina Grey on the first page of the story. What do the contents of her locker reveal about her? Why isn’t she noticed by her classmates? What does “flew under the radar” mean? How does Regina fly under the radar? At what point do the kids at school start noticing her? How does it make her feel?
- Discuss the term “spread like wildfire.” How does Regina’s knack for solving problems spread like wildfire?
- Regina soon discovers that there are “too many problems to solve.” What happens when she launches a plan to dismiss the number of problems she is asked to solve?
- Take a close look at the illustration on page 20. Explain how the illustrator makes her look so angry. Why is Regina angry? Describe her hiding place. How does she feel when no one finds her?
- What does Regina miss most about problem-solving? How is she a genius at solving her own problem? Study the last double-page spread. Explain why Regina is standing on a pedestal. How does she call attention to her new sign? Brainstorm ways she could solve her math, spelling, and gym problems.

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Janet Sumner Johnson is the author of *Help Wanted, Must Love Books*, which was the winner of the 2021 CLEL Bell Picture Book Award and was nominated for the Washington and Colorado Children’s Book Awards. She lives in northern Utah with her husband, three kids, and a dog. As a kid, she learned to distinguish good advice from bad after following her big sister’s suggestion to cut her own bangs. When she’s not writing, Janet loves eating cookies, laughing, and going on long walks. You can learn more about her and her books at JanetSumnerJohnson.com.



Stacy Ebert is the illustrator of *Hello World!* by Kelly Corrigan and *How to Build a Story . . . Or, the Big What If* by Frances O’Roark Dowell. Stacy’s background is in communication art and design and elementary education. She lives in Minnesota with her husband and three sons, where she is excellent at disappearing into books. Visit Stacy online at StacyEbert.com.