

# ***Willy Maykit in Space***

By Greg Trine with illustrations by James Burks

## **Annotation:**

Earth-dwelling fourth-grader Willy Maykit couldn't be more excited about his school field trip to Planet Ed. Willy's class will blast off for the afternoon, learn about outer space, and be home in time for dinner. But when he wanders off on his own, Willy ends up being left behind on Ed! Can Willy, along with his classmate Cindy and an alien boy named Norp, outsmart the big hungry monsters on Ed until someone rescues them? With a little help from an android who likes knock-knock jokes and a seagull with terrific aim, they just might! (from the publisher)

## **Book Talk**

Teacher says: Knock knock. Students reply: Who's there? Teacher says, Doris. Student's reply: Doris who? Teacher says, Door is locked. That's why I'm knocking. (p. 74 PB) If you want to read more of these exciting knock knock jokes and to travel along with Willy on his space adventure you will have to read this book!

## **Book Trailer**

- None available as of 3/4/2017

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website (author): <http://www.gregtrine.com/>
- Website (illustrator): <http://jamesburks.com/>
- Twitter: <http://us.macmillan.com/author/gregtrine/>
- Blog: <http://jamesburks.com/blog/>

## **Items to use in a library display**

- Knock knock joke books

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- Willy travels to space and makes friends with aliens.
- Can you imagine yourself meeting aliens?
- What do you think you would say?

## **First Line of the Book:**

- "When Willy Maykit was three years old, his father went on an African safari and came home with amazing stories of lions, tigers, and bears."

## **Non-Fiction Companion Titles**

- *Knock Your Socks Off: A Book of Knock-Knock Jokes* by Michael Dahl
- *100 Year Starship* by Mae Jemison

## **What to Read Next**

- *The Stinky Cheese Caper (and Other Cases from the Zpd Files)* (Disney Zootopia)

### **Other Books by this Author:**

- *Melvin Beederman Superhero* series
- *The Adventures of Jo Schmo* series

### **Additional Resources**

- Music: Compose and perform a song for the Monster Ball.
- Poetry: Write a poem about life on a planet other than Earth as you imagine it may be.
- Art/craft activity: Create a planet that you would like to visit.
- Interview with the author:  
<http://www.melvinbeederman.com/the-creators/greg-a-rhode-interview>
- Lesson ideas from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt:  
[https://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/HMH/Middle\\_Grade\\_Mania\\_Final.pdf](https://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/HMH/Middle_Grade_Mania_Final.pdf)