***Nerd Camp***

By Elissa Brent Weissman

Grades 3-5

**Annotation**

* Ten-year-old Gabe feels excited to go to the Summer Center for Gifted Enrichment for six weeks. However, after he meets his cool soon to be step-brother ten-year-old, Zack, he frames his letters so Zack won’t think it is a camp for nerds. Gabe loves camp, but he really wants Zack to like him and Gabe thinks Zack won’t appreciate the experience if he knows about all of it. By the end of the book, everyone comes to understand that nerds and non-nerds can like each other.

**Book Talk**

* Gabe is a 10 year old boy who loves to learn about everything, except now he is worried about what his new step brother, Zach will think of him. He is trying to impress him by making his sleepaway experience seem less academic. Will he be able to deceive Zach or will he be true to himself?

**Book Trailer**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4a73pJajuY>

**Author on the Internet**

* Author’s website:<http://ebweissman.com/>
* Author’s Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Elissa-Brent-Weissman/105409156161128>
* Author on Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2508796.Elissa_Brent_Weissman/blog>
* Author’s Email: [elissa@ebweissman.com](mailto:elissa@ebweissman.com)

**Realia/Display Items**

* Chapter 15, Page 119 (HB)  Item: Postcard wall
* Chapter 22, Page 186 (HB) Item: Jeopardy Board Game

**Food**

* S’mores by a reading “campfire”
* Edible lice

**Book Charm**

* Honor student charm from Fitness Finders: <http://www.fitnessfinders.net/Honor-Crown-p/111-honorcrown.htm>



**Background Knowledge**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDUyr-9LC3E>

**Book Club Discussion Questions**

* Can giftedness and "cool" co-exist?
* What do gifted students have in common?
* Are super-smart kids comfortable around "regular" kids their age?  Are "regular" kids comfortable around super-smart kids?
* What examples of gifted behaviors in this book strike you as most realistic?
* Write a letter to Zack as if you are Gabe, but be totally honest about things that happen at camp.
* Make a list of stereotypes about smart people, and discuss why each one is true or not, in your experience.

**Non-Fiction Companion Titles**

* *Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi: A Math Adventure* by Cindy Neuschwander. AR: 3.8, Lexile: 510.
* *Words, Wit, and Wonder: Writing Your Own Poem* by Nancy Loewen. AR: 4.1, Lexile: 670.
* *Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini* by Sid Fleischman. AR: 6.6, Lexile 940.

**What to Read Next**

* *Letters from Camp* by Kate Klise. AR- 6.1, Lexile- 830
* *Raymond & Graham, Cool Campers* by Mike Knudson. AR- 4.0, Lexile-600
* *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place* by E.L. Konisburg. AR- 5.5, Lexile- 840
* *Alvin Ho: allergic to camping, hiking and other natural disasters* by Lenore Look. AR- 3.7, Lexile-570
* *Summer Ball* by Mike Lupica. AR- 5.3, Lexile-910

**Additional Resources**

* Nerd Camp Color War (from Teaching Books): <http://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/SimonSchuster/NerdCampColorWar_AG.pdf>
* Nerd Camp Scavenger Hunt (from the author’s website): <http://www.ebweissman.com/NerdCampScavengerHunt.pdf>
* Educator Resources, including recipes and science experiments (from the author’s website): <http://ebweissman.com/for-teachers/>
* Podcast with the author: <http://geekdad.com/wp-content/uploads/podcasts/141001-ElissaWeissman.mp3>