***Jack Strong Takes a Stand***

By Tommy Greenwald

**Grades 6-8**

**Annotation**

* Jack Strong just wants to be a regular kid. But his parents have overscheduled his week with every extracurricular activity under the sun: tennis, baseball, cello, karate, tutoring, and Chinese language lessons--all on top of regular homework. His parents want him to be "well-rounded" and prepared for those crucial college applications. Jack's just about had enough.

**Book Talk**

(From the Children’s Book Council website: <http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbc_book/jack-strong-takes-a-stand/#.VSHTVeHrC3k>)

* Jack Strong just wants to be a kid, but his parents have overscheduled his week with every extracurricular activity under the sun: tennis, baseball, cello, karate, and Chinese language lessons–all on top of regular homework. His parents want him to be “well-rounded” and prepared for those crucial college applications. Jack’s not even in high school yet! Fed up, Jack stages a sit-in on his couch, refusing to get up until his parents let him quit some of his extracurriculars. But as Jack’s protest gains major momentum, it becomes clear that this sit-in may be getting a bit out of hand. From the author of the popular Charlie Joe Jackson series comes a hilarious story of one overscheduled student who takes a stand . . . by sitting down.

**Book Trailer**

* From the publisher’s website: <http://mackidsbooks.com/book-trailer-jack-strong-takes-a-stand-by-tommy-greenwald/>

**Author on the Internet**

* Author’s website:<http://tommygreenwald.com/>
* Author’s Twitter: @tommygreenwald
* Author’s Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TommyGreenwald?fref=ts>
* Author’s Blog: <http://tommygreenwald.com/blog/>
* Author on Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4194377.Tommy_Greenwald?from_search=true>
* Author’s Email: tommy@tommygreenwald.com

**Realia/Display Items**

* Items that represent Jack’s activities: cello, baseball, soccer ball, Chinese alphabet/textbook, swimsuit, CPR dummy, math textbook
* Dollhouse couch to represent Jack’s couch
* Chapter 13, p. 60: baseball trophy

**Food**

* Chapter 3, p. 10. Tongue sandwich
* Chapter 6, p. 29. Cookies and juice
* Chapter 9, p.40. Ice cream sundae
* Chapter 10, p. 47. Milkshake
* Chapter 13, p. 60. Hot dogs and rootbeer floats
* Chapter 21, p. 99. Chinese food
* Chapter 41, p. 209. Pudding

**Book Charm**

* Baseball Cap from Fitness Finders: <http://www.fitnessfinders.net/Baseball-Cap-p/168-baseballcap.htm>

****

**Book Club Discussion Questions**

* Have you ever felt overscheduled?
* How did you handle it when you felt overscheduled?
* How do you deal with it when you disagree with your parents?
* Have you ever wanted to go on strike?
* Why does Jack want to quit some of his activities?
* How could his parents have handled the Jack’s strike differently?
* Were you surprised at how Jack’s parents reacted to his strike?

**Non-Fiction Companion Titles**

* *Where’s My Stuff?:The Ultimate Teen Organizing Guide* by Samantha Moss and Lesley Schwartz. AR: N/A, Lexile: 1090L.

**What to Read Next**

* *Katie Friedman Gives Up Texting (And Lives to Tell About It)* by Tommy Greenwald. AR: N/A (yet), Lexile: 560L.

**Additional Resources**

* Interview with the author (from Boystobooks.com): <http://www.boystobooks.com/2011/09/author-interview-tommy-greenwald-author.html>
* Interview with the author: <http://apocalypsies.blogspot.co.uk/2011/07/eleven-up-interview-with-tommy.html>
* Guest blog post by Tommy Greenwald on the Adventures in YA Blog: <http://www.adventuresinyapublishing.com/2011/01/wow-weds-tom-greenwald-on-writing-to.html>
* Guest blog post by Tommy Greenwald on the Macmillan website: <http://mackidsbooks.com/dont-forget-to-look-up-a-guest-post-by-tommy-greenwald/>
* Book Review by Greg Pattridge, Always in the Middle: <http://gpattridge.com/2014/06/02/jack-strong-for-marvelous-middle-grade-monday-2/>