***Welcome to Wonderland: Home Sweet Motel***

By Chris Grabenstein

### **Annotation**

The Wonderland Motel is the best place a kid could ever live! It has all-you-can-eat poolside ice cream, a snack machine in the living room, and a frog slide. But the one thing it doesn’t have is customers. If Wonderland doesn’t get them soon, it’s doomed. Wonderland won’t go down without a fight. Think big! Think bold! Think outrageous!

**Book Talk**

‘I’m P.T. Wilkie, and I know one thing for a FACT: the Wonderland Motel is the BEST place a kid could ever live! All-you-can-eat poolside ice cream! A snack machine in the living room! A frog slide! There’s only one thing the Wonderland DOESN’T have: customers. And if we don’t get them soon, the Wonderland is toast. We need to think BIG. We need to think BOLD. We need an OUTRAGEOUS plan. Lucky for us, my friend Gloria is a business GENIUS, and OUTRAGEOUS is practically my middle name. We’re not going down without a fight!’

**Book Trailers**

* [**https://vimeo.com/162211637**](https://vimeo.com/162211637)
* [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKmxil6OHxw**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKmxil6OHxw)
* [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4FE1oxFqGI**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4FE1oxFqGI)
* [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4w9n3QzvHE**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4w9n3QzvHE)

### **Author on the Internet**

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### Items to use in a library d**isplay**

* inflated flamingo, swimming floatees
* toy alligator, rocket ship, sand bucket
* chocolate pirate coins
* plastic palm trees
* map of Treasure Island, FL
* treasure chest
* string of small lights
* play money
* any Florida memorabilia

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

**First Line of the Book: ‘**Like I told my friends at school, living in a motel is always exciting -- especially during an alligator attack.’

**Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

* *A Kids’ Guide to Florida,* by Karen Grove

**What to Read Next**

* *Welcome to Wonderland 2: Beach Party Surf Monkey*
* *Welcome to Wonderland 3: Sandapalooza Shake-up*
* *Samantha Spinner and the Super-Secret Plans* by Russell Ginns

Other Books by this Author:

* *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library*
* *Mr. Lemoncello’s Library Olympics*
* *The Island of Dr. Libris*
* *The Haunted Mysteries series: The Crossroads, The Hanging Hill, The Smoky Corridor, The Black Heart Crypt*

**Additional Resources**

* Music: Someday My Prince Will Come; Bein’ Green; Froggy Went A-Courtin’ (p. 89)
* Poetry: <https://www.poetrysoup.com/famous/poems/>
* Art/craft activity: miniature sand sculptures
* Food: Frozen Green Pond Scum Punch, Pond Scum Slime Snacks (back of book); ice cream
* Interview with the author: <https://binged.it/2u4g7oJ>
* Lesson ideas: Ponce de Leon, Christopher Columbus; banking and money math; stock market

Author website Resources: <http://www.chrisgrabenstein.com/kids/welcome-to-wonderland.php>

* Activities: <http://www.chrisgrabenstein.com/kids/PDFs/wonderland-activities.pdf>

**Name that Book:**