

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan book discussions, library programs, or classroom activities.

Meet Ohio native Dav Pilkey and learn about his bestselling graphic novel series.

Select from a range of discussion questions and extension activities to deepen the experience of reading *Dog Man*.

Discover informational websites, projects, and videos to explore topics and spark creativity.

Dog Man

By Dav Pilkey



About the Book

New from the creator of *Captain Underpants*, it's *Dog Man*, the crime-biting canine who is part dog, part man, and ALL HERO!

George and Harold have created a new hero who digs into deception, claws after crooks, and rolls over robbers. When Greg the police dog and his cop companion are injured on the job, a life-saving surgery changes the course of history, and *Dog Man* is born. With the head of a dog and the body of a human, this heroic hound has a real nose for justice. But can he resist the call of the wild to answer the call of duty?



Book jacket image and book description courtesy of Scholastic. Used with permission.

Book Details

Dog Man by Dav Pilkey
Scholastic, 2016. ISBN 9780545581608. 240 pages. Ages 7-10.
Leveled Reading: AR Points 1.0. ATOS Book Level 2.6. GN390 Lexile.
[scholastic.com/teachers/books/dog-man-by-dav-pilkey](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/books/dog-man-by-dav-pilkey)

Available as an ebook through the Ohio Digital Library: ohiodigitallibrary.com

Dog Man is the first book in a series being released by the Scholastic imprint Graphix:

Dog Man #2: Dog Man Unleashed

Dog Man #3: A Tale of Two Kitties

Dog Man #4: Dog Man and Cat Kid

Dog Man #5: Lord of the Fleas

Dog Man #6: Brawl of the Wild

All books include Flip-O-Rama (a two-page version of a flip book). This simple animation technique, popular with readers, is also featured in Pilkey's earlier series, ***Captain Underpants***. Each book also includes a how-to section at the end of the book that details how to draw the characters.



Author photo and biography courtesy pilkey.com; additional biographical information from Ohio Center for the Book.

About the Author

Dav Pilkey, creator of the worldwide bestselling **Captain Underpants** and **Dog Man** series, has written and illustrated numerous popular and award-winning books for children. He won a Caldecott Honor for his picture book, **The Paperboy**.

Dav was born in Cleveland and grew up in northeast Ohio. He suffered from ADHD and dyslexia. He loved to draw and make up stories, and created his own original comic books. In second grade, Dav created a comic book about a superhero named Captain Underpants. The **Captain Underpants** series has more than 80 million copies in print to date, has been translated into more than 25 languages, and was released in 2017 as a feature film by DreamWorks Animation.

Dav's new bestselling graphic novel series, **Dog Man**, launched in Fall 2016 to rave reviews. Booklist said, "Pilkey has once again fired an arrow of joy straight at the fevered childhood psyche of millions of readers," and Kirkus called **Dog Man** "riotously funny and original." **Dog Man and Cat Kid** debuted at #1 on the New York Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and Publishers Weekly bestseller lists. For more information, go to:

www.scholastic.com/kids/books/planet-pilkey.



Author Resources

Dav Pilkey's official website
pilkey.com

Follow Petey (Dav) on Instagram
[@petey_haw_haw](https://www.instagram.com/petey_haw_haw)

Author page on Scholastic website
scholastic.com/teachers/authors/dav-pilkey

Dav Pilkey discusses writing and drawing **Dog Man**
youtu.be/pbDd38sqDug

Dav Pilkey demonstrates "Flip-o-Rama" technology
youtu.be/Z89laxaSvwo

Q & A with Dav Pilkey
publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-authors/article/71281-q-a-with-dav-pilkey.html

Talk About It!

Topics to share when discussing **Dog Man** with young readers.

- **Dog Man** doesn't start with the story of Dog Man. Before Chapter One starts, George and Harold describe how they found their old comics. They do the same thing in the middle of the book. What do you think about these parts? Do they provide context or distract from Dog Man's story?
- This book has four chapters. Do all of the chapters tell a part of the whole story, or are all of the chapters completely different?

Talk About It! (continued)

- Another book series by Dav Pilkey, ***Captain Underpants***, was the thirteenth most frequently challenged book from 2000 - 2009, and the #1 most challenged in 2012 and 2013. ***Dog Man*** shares a lot of the same characteristics that people didn't like. What do you think are the most commonly challenged features of these books? Go to www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10 and scroll down to 2013 to see if you're right!
- Describe the character Dog Man. How does he show both human and dog characteristics? When are these qualities helpful, and when are they not?
- Look at the drawing tutorials at the end of the book and try a few. Do you feel encouraged to write your own comics? Use the drawings of Dog Man and Petey expressing different emotions to see if you can tell a story without words.
- Author Dav Pilkey has ADHD and dyslexia, to which he attributes his difficult time in school. How do you think his challenges may have affected his choice to write books?
- Describe the chief's attitude towards Dog Man at the beginning, middle, and end of the book. How much has it changed? Explain why you think it changed.
- One of Petey's evil ideas is to take away the words in all the books in the world, so that people get dumber. Why do you think it worked? What did you learn by reading this book (including new words, like the word "novella" on page 3)?
- George and Harold met and started writing Dog Man comics in Kindergarten, then rediscovered their early comics when they were in fourth grade. The ***Dog Man*** book is the result of their editing efforts. Find a sentence or drawing you made as a young child and change it. What changes did you make? If you gave both versions to a friend, could they tell which was created more recently?

Explore More!

Additional ideas and resources to use with ***Dog Man***.

About Dyslexia and ADHD

dyslexiaida.org

chadd.org

ADHD and dyslexia are common learning differences that affect millions of people across the world. Dav Pilkey describes that he received very little support, but fortunately children with a similar diagnosis now have a greater chance for success. Explore the websites above for a wealth of information about these diagnoses, and explore your community for more local resources.

Kindness

spreadkindness.org

thekindnessrocksproject.com

The chief is not always very happy to see Dog Man, and oftentimes Dog Man annoys him. At the end of the book the chief finally hugs Dog Man. Explore spreadkindness.org for ideas on how to lead a kindness movement in your community. Check thekindnessrocksproject.com for another activity idea.

The 39 Clues

the39clues.scholastic.com

When asked what they want to be when they grow up, many children respond that they want to work as a police officer. Consider introducing interested children to the ***39 Clues*** book series to encourage their budding investigative skills. The robust website for this series also keeps reluctant readers interested.

Go Further!

Ideas for extending the experience of reading **Dog Man**.

Educators: Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. Other Learning Standards such as Visual Art 2PE (Grade 3) may also apply. Discussion questions and educational activities for **Dog Man** align with Learning Standards for Grades 3-4.

Librarians, parents, and others: These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, education.ohio.gov. From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Learning in Ohio."

Create your own comic! Templates are a quick internet search away. Storytelling helps kids develop their creativity and accurately express themselves.

- After creating your main character, develop a short ad to describe why yours is the best hero.
- Check out the Scholastic guide to creating a Flip-O-Rama here: www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/free-printable/reading-printables/make-flip-o-rama

Comics, or graphic novels, are typically among the most popular books for reluctant and enthusiastic readers alike. Dav Pilkey is passionate about using and sharing graphic novels in the classroom.

- Dav Pilkey talks about why graphic novels are important: youtu.be/eOLzG9yyF40
- Here is a Scholastic article for parents about child literacy up to 5th grade. Young children benefit tremendously from developing a joy of reading: goo.gl/PgzdYo
- A story with both words and pictures can add elements to the reading experience, compared to a story told through just one of those two mediums. Have students pick a few pages and describe where the pictures either changed or enhanced the meaning of the text.

The American Library Association observes Banned Books Week annually during the last week of September. Libraries create displays and actively encourage people of all ages to read banned books.

- In this YouTube video, Dav Pilkey talks about his **Captain Underpants** series and how to express concern about a title without censoring it. youtu.be/eA6_y2CvLU
- Hold a debate about censorship with students. The debate can be about a specific book or about censorship in general.

Consider a project about learning differences. Over two million students are diagnosed with a learning difference.

- Check this helpful packet full of activities to help students understand different learning and physical differences. goo.gl/ipbpgg (PDF)
- One of the learning differences that Dav Pilkey has is dyslexia. The following website is a dyslexia simulator that helps students understand how letters jump around and make reading difficult for people with dyslexia. geon.github.io/programming/2016/03/03/dsxylic

Find more fun, educational activities in Scholastic's **Dog Man** teaching guide: scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/lesson-plans/18-19/dog-man-teaching-guide.pdf

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: library.ohio.gov/ctro.

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