

ZOMBIES!



Evan Jacobs

red rhino

b k s[®]

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Blackout | Ghost Mountain | Party of Four |
| Body Switch | The Gift | Please Don't Tell |
| The Brothers | Going Viral | Racer |
| The Cat Whisperer | The Hero of | Sky Watchers |
| Clan Castles | Crow's Crossing | The Soldier |
| Clan Castles 2: | Home Planet | Space Trip |
| Upgrade Pack | I Am Underdog | Standing by Emma |
| Clan Castles 3: | Killer Flood | Starstruck |
| Epic Fail | Little Miss Miss | Stolen Treasure |
| The Code | The Lost House | Stones |
| Destiny's Dog | The Love Mints | Too Many Dogs |
| Fight School | The Magic Stone | World's Ugliest Dog |
| Fish Boy | The New Kid | Zombies! |
| Flyer | One Amazing | Zuze and the Star |
| The Forever Boy | Summer | |
| The Garden Troll | Out of Gas | |

With more titles on the way . . .



Copyright © 2020 by Saddleback Educational Publishing

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, scanning, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the publisher. SADDLEBACK EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING and any associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Saddleback Educational Publishing.

ISBN: 978-1-68021-864-0
eBook: 978-1-64598-243-2

Printed in Malaysia

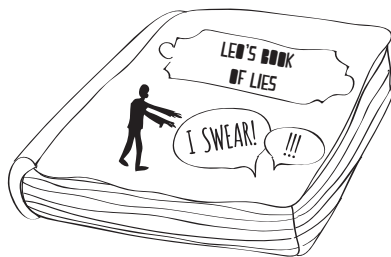
24 23 22 21 20 1 2 3 4 5

1

LEO THE LIAR

“Then,” Leo Jennings said, “zombies appeared. Dozens of them. They came down the street. I hid behind a big car.” He grinned. “So they wouldn’t see me.”

It was recess. Leo was telling a story. Two kids sat in front of him. They were new at school. Neither knew Leo yet. But they seemed to like his story. This made him happy. He could use some friends.



Most kids called him “Leo the Liar.” He didn’t mind all that much. The stories he told weren’t true. But Leo didn’t think of them as lies. His imagination was just really big. There was a lot in his head.

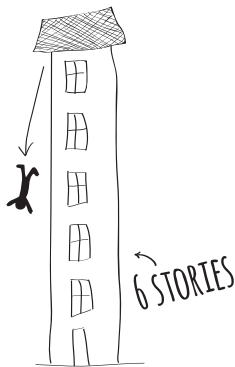
LEO the LIAR !!

Leo loved scary movies. They gave him many ideas. Stories would come to him. It felt like he had to tell them. He’d try to stop himself. But sometimes it was hard.

Once, Leo saved a family from a fire. Another time, he fell from a six-story building. Amazingly, he lived. None of this



really happened. But they were cool stories. At least that's what Leo thought.



“What happened next?” one of the new kids asked. Leo went on.

A loud voice cut in.

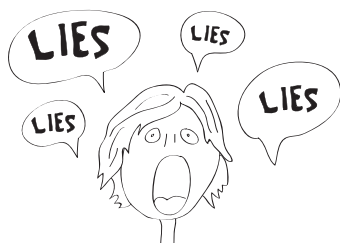
“Leo the Liar. Telling more stories?” It was Adam Ortiz. He didn't like Leo. Manuel Mendez and Angelo Setari stood nearby. They didn't like Leo either.

“No.” Leo gulped. Adam wouldn't believe him. He knew it. “I was just telling . . .”



Leo turned. The two new kids had walked away. People usually did once they realized his stories were fake. He sighed.

“Did I hear you right? Zombies?” Adam smirked. “Another big lie.”



He moved closer to Leo. Manuel and Angelo did too.

“The bell is about to ring,” Leo said. He eyed his watch. “Why not wait until lunch? You’ll have forty minutes to get me then.”

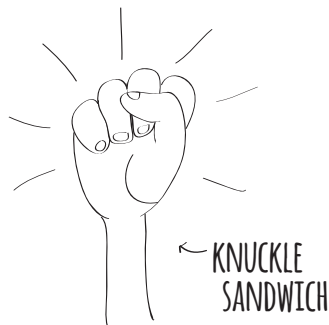
“Forty minutes!” Adam laughed.

Manuel and Angelo smiled.

“I only need four seconds. We told you to stop lying. You didn’t. Now you’ll pay.”



Adam grabbed Leo by the shirt. He held up his fist.



Leo closed his eyes. He was going to get pounded. It was better not to watch.

Your stories will get you in trouble one day. That's what his parents always said. It seemed that day had arrived.

THE PROOF

More students gathered. They wanted to watch. Leo was going to get what he deserved. Today he would pay for his lies.

But Leo had an idea. “Wait!” he yelled. Adam let him go.

“I can get proof. Then I’ll show you. There are zombies. They’re all over town.”



Will Adam buy it? he thought. Or is this it?

“Okay. Fine,” Adam said. “Let’s see your proof.”

Whoa. It worked!

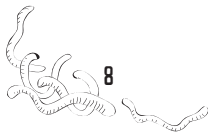
Now Leo was fired up. Telling stories excited him. Once he started, his idea would grow. Then it was hard to stop. Sometimes he got carried away.

“Give me until Monday. I’ll bring pictures. You’ll see. Zombies walk around late at night. Big groups of them.”



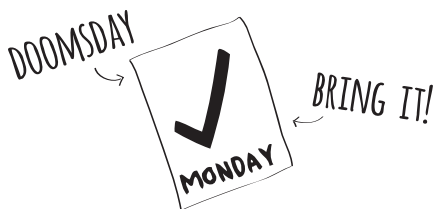
“Pictures? How?” Adam asked.

“Don’t worry about it,” Leo snapped.
Several students gasped.



No one had ever stood up to Adam like this. The bully was in sixth grade. He was the toughest kid in school. Leo was only a fourth grader.

“Bring proof,” Adam said. He pushed a finger into Leo’s chest. “Monday. And it better be real. Or else.”



“What happens when I bring it?” Leo asked.

“I guess you won’t be a liar anymore. Right, Leo the Liar?”

“Just wait. I’ll have proof. Then you can’t call me that ever again. Nobody can. And if they do? Well, you’ll have to stop them.”

“Or what?”



“I know zombies,” Leo lied. “Do you really want to mess with me? A kid who has zombie friends?”

Adam rolled his eyes. “Just bring your proof. We’ll deal with it Monday. At recess.” He walked away. Manuel and Angelo followed.

Leo turned. He looked at the other kids. They were still stunned. Everyone stared at him. Then the bell rang. The crowd headed off.

The rest of the day was terrible. Leo couldn’t focus. Something had changed. Now no one would look at him. It was like he was sick. If they looked at him, they’d get sick too. Leo knew he had told one lie too many.

He heard his parents’ words again. *Your stories will get you in trouble.*



Leo was in for it. He just didn't know how much.

