

WIN A VIRTUAL SCHOOL VISIT WITH AUTHOR BRUCE HALE
in the...

MONGOOSE MADNESS **CLASSROOM CONTEST**



Are your students huge fans of Chet Gecko, the best elementary-school detective around? Do they have great imaginations? Do they make you laugh?

If so, enter your class or library reading group to win a virtual author visit (via Skype) with author Bruce Hale, OR a classroom set of the Chet Gecko mysteries, OR a paperback Chet Gecko mystery for everyone in the class.

All it takes is a little creativity...

Contest Activity:

Classrooms or library reading groups will create new chapter headings for all seventeen chapters in *Dial M for Mongoose*. Chapter headings need to be written in the funny and witty style of the Chet Gecko mystery series. (Don't fret...Bruce Hale offers friendly writing advice to your students.)

Just for Fun:

Students can create "spot art" to be used at the start of their newly named chapters. What is "spot art?" Well, it isn't a drawing you've spilled grape juice on. "Spot art" is a small illustration of a character or a scene in the chapter. It can appear at the beginning of a chapter or within the text.

(Entries that include the extra credit portion will not be given preferential treatment. This is included simply for pleasure and fun. Art is not required for each chapter.)

How to Enter:

1. All contest entries must be submitted by the classroom teacher or school librarian. Parents may submit entries for children who are homeschooled.
2. Each contest entry must include the following information:
 - A. Teacher name
 - B. School name
 - C. School address
 - D. School phone number
 - E. Teacher or classroom email address
 - F. Grade level
 - G. Number of students in class or group
 - H. Chapter headings for ALL seventeen chapters in *Dial M for Mongoose*
 - I. Chapter spot art (if your class decides to complete the art)

3. Contest entries will be accepted by mail or email.

Mail contest entries to: Bruce Hale, P.O. Box 91835, Santa Barbara, CA 93190

Email contest entries to: writerguy@brucehale.com

Deadline:

The contest runs from 12:01 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 12, 2009, to Friday, Nov. 13, 2009 at midnight. Yes, you read that right — the contest ends on Friday the 13th. **All submitted entries must be postmarked no later than Friday, Nov. 13, 2009 at midnight.**

Winner Selection:

Bruce Hale will be reviewing and judging all entries. He will select the winners based on: 1) the funniness factor; 2) originality; 3) how well the headings reflect the style of the Chet Gecko mystery series; 4) how well the headings reflect the content of the chapter; 5) level of completion of the contest activity. Winners will be notified no later than Monday, December 7, 2009.

Prizes:

Grand Prize — a Virtual Author Visit (via Skype) with Author Bruce Hale

First Runner-up — a hardcover set of the entire Chet Gecko series

Second Runner-up — a paperback Chet Gecko mystery for every kid in the class

Third Runner-up — a paperback Chet Gecko mystery for every kid in the class

Advice for Teachers & Librarians:

1. Introduce your students to the Chet Gecko mystery series if they are not yet familiar with it. Highlight the newest book in the series, *Dial M for Mongoose*.
2. Explain the contest activity and contest “extra credit” artwork.
3. Share Bruce Hale’s brainstorming and writing advice. This will help to make the project fun and not overwhelming.
4. Breaking the class into small groups will make the project more manageable for most students. We suggest four groups with each group being responsible for naming 4 chapters. Each group can offer suggestions for the title of the final seventeenth chapter.
5. Invite your students to create spot art to match their chapter headings.
6. Have a blast!