



Stink: Hamlet and Cheese

Megan McDonald

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Hie thee to Shakespeare camp with Stink to learn fake sword-fighting, spout silly curses, and prithee try to escape a kiss . . . BLUCK!

It's spring break, and Stink is faced with a difficult choice: hang out at home with his sister, Judy, or become a Shakespeare Sprite with his friend Sophie of the Elves. Hanged be! When Sophie tells Stink that there will be swordplay and cursing at Shakespeare camp, his choice is made. But wait! How now? The eager young thespian hadn't counted on Riley Rottenberger being a Sprite, too. And he positively had not counted on being the only boy! Fie upon't!

Stink: Hamlet and Cheese Details

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Author : Megan McDonald

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From Reader Review Stink: Hamlet and Cheese for online ebook

Anthony says

Stink spends his Spring break at Shakespeare Camp, along with Sophie, and Riley Rottenberger. Stink, Sophie, and Riley learn some interesting facts about Shakespeare. By the end of the week they learn methods of stage acting, and perform the last scene from MacBeth in front of an audience. Although Stink is the only boy at camp, he doesn't mind because there is swordplay, knock-knock jokes, tongue twisters and colorful cursing to keep him interested.

Suzanne says

It's a cute story with great lead ins to Shakespeare for kids. Daughter was fascinated with the fun facts about Shakespeare and the things he contributed to our current society. Kept saying "Mom, did you know..."

Rosemary says

Judy Moody's brother is back with his 11th adventure - and he's going to Shakespeare camp! Stink and his friend Sophie head to camp for spring break, where they'll learn to sword fight and yell silly curses, like "fat guts" and "stewed prune". The only problem? Riley Rottenberger is at Shakespeare camp, too, and she's determined to land a kiss on Stink! Stink does his best to avoid Riley while getting ready to act in the camp's production of the Scottish play... yes, the Play That Shall Not Be Named (psst... it's MacBeth). This latest story is loaded with black and white illustrations, callout boxes of Shakespeare insults and fun facts, and a good story for Stink and Judy Moody fans. For readers who want to learn a little more about Shakespeare, a copy of *Where's Will? Find Shakespeare Hidden in His Plays* (Kane Miller, 2016) combines Shakespeare with *Where's Waldo*; the Stratford Zoo graphic novel series depicts zoo animals putting on Shakespearean plays with loads of backstage hilarity.

Brenda says

Hamlet and Cheese sounds a lot like a Kid College course offered at our local community college over the summer where kids learn the basics of drama and put on a small play for their parents at the end. For Stink and Sophie, Shakespeare camp included making silly faces, creating Shakespearean insults, learning lines, the art of stretching, role-playing, sword-fights and my favorite, dramatic death scenes. Hamlet and Cheese provides a brief introduction to Shakespeare and the theater while incorporating plenty of humor. Who knew that the earliest Knock Knock joke might have been from Macbeth? The insults are silly and amusing with ones like "maggot pie" and "toad-spotted bum bailey." I could see children wanting to come up with their own. There are even a few lines quoted from Macbeth and Hamlet, while the lines weren't explained fully, they might still pique a child's interest. I wish my ARC had included the finished artwork by Peter Reynolds, but I'm sure it will be just as fun as his previous illustrations for the Stink series. My favorite part is when Stink and Sophie are watching an outdoor performance of Macbeth and Stink's dog Pugsy tries to get in on the act.

Review copy received from publisher in exchange for an honest review

Courtney Umlauf says

There's a lot of things Stink's enjoying during Shakespeare camp: learning Shakespearean insults, working on his sword fighting skills, and practicing how to die a glorious death on the stage. But there's one big negative: his sometimes-friend-but-mostly-enemy, Riley Rottenberger is also at the camp, and she seems bound and determined to lay a great big smooch on Stink before the week is over. Will Stink manager to avoid "a pox of girl cooties"?

A fun way for kids to learn a little bit about Shakespeare.

Series Review | TpT Store | Pinterest

Mindy says

I've read a few Judy Moody books in my day but this is my first Stink book and I definitely enjoyed the experience. The book was funny and I loved that it actually taught a lot about Shakespeare and even contained a few lines from it. The only negative thing, though it's a big drawback due to the target age, is that it contains some Shakespearean language that kids might have a hard time understanding. It's targeted at kids starting to read chapter books so they're still learning how to read a lot of words and learning a lot of vocabulary. Most of the words I think they can get from context but it would make the book even harder for kids to read. Otherwise, I loved the book and definitely recommend the series and the main series with Stink's sister, Judy.

I would like to thank the publisher, author, and Netgalley for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Jaymie says

Shakespeare camp pieces were fun. Illustrations were not available in my review copy, but they always add a terrific layer to Stink books. But I didn't find a "spark" in this book. It was solid, and good, but not more than that.

I didn't enjoy the emphasis on kissing - a girl trying to kiss Stink at camp and him trying to evade her. It all worked out fine in the end, but I didn't think it was a necessary piece for 1st - 3rd grade readers. It raised consent questions for me as he resisted her - although this could open up important dialogue for kids.

Heather Brown says

Hamlet and Cheese is a really fun intro to Shakespeare for elementary school kids. Stink goes to the Shakespeare Spites camp for Spring Break along with Sophie (and Riley Rottenberger). They learn Shakespearean insults, sword fighting, and even get to perform! As long as Riley doesn't reenact Romeo and Juliet, Stink will have the best Spring Break!

Linda says

Thanks to Candlewick Press, have now read my first “Stink” book, this time Stink: Hamlet and Cheese. Stink is going to need to stay home with older sister Judy, so enticed by swordplay and magic spells from witches, he signs up instead for Shakespeare Camp with his friend Sophie of the Elves. There are lots of fun things during these days like learning the best ways to hurl insults via Shakespeare: “Thou art more loathsome than a toad.” or “Fie on thee.” and sword-fighting with pool noodles, a beginning way to learn. Unfortunately, Stink also has to contend with Riley Rottenberger (great name) who just want to kiss him (or so he thinks). It turns out to be a fun week with some silliness and seriousness, a big surprise for Stink, too. The only thing I missed with the ARC was that Peter H. Reynolds' wonderful illustrations were not included this time. I'm sure they make the story even better.

Cat says

I've been a fan of this series since Stink and the Great Guinea Pig Express. These books fly off the shelf at my library. Now I can't honestly say I've read them all, just a smattering, but have always found them to be entertaining. I received this one from Netgalley to review, and found the tale just as much fun as ever! I think it was smart of Megan McDonald throw Stink into a Shakespeare group. Too few children are encountering Shakespeare, which is a shame, and the middle English language, which I recall even us grade schoolers back in the 1960's understood. I wonder who dropped the ball?? Anyway, nice intro to the Bard! There is some issue with Riley being after Stink; she's interested in him and tries to corner him for kisses. I guess it can be seen as sexual harassment, but it seems right behavior for the age-10-12. Not to condone it, someone maybe needs to have a talk with the young lady about appropriate behavior. And this book just might kick on a discussion concerning it! So- lots of cool insight in one book! great addition to the series.

Schizanthus says

It's spring break and Stink joins Sophie of the Elves at Shakespeare Camp. Webster is in Mexico for spring break and with the promise of learning swordplay and Shakespeare type insults (*Maggot pie!*), Stink is convinced that being a Shakespeare Sprite will be fun. Except Sophie of the Elves neglects to mention two important points about camp:

1. Stink will be the only boy at camp ?
2. One particular girl, Riley Rottenberger, will also be there. ?

While Riley is sometimes a friend and sometimes an enemy, she's certainly annoying Stink in this book as she spends most of the camp trying to smooch, follow and otherwise harass him. Usually I find Riley an amusing annoyance in Stink stories but in this one there was no amusement, only annoyance.

Call me oversensitive if you like but if this was a book aimed at teens Riley's behaviour would be in sexual harassment territory so I'm not so sure I liked it being made a joke of in this book. I pondered this while reading and I still enjoyed the book but this behaviour didn't sit right with me.

I hadn't realised the impact of the interplay between the three main characters until this book where Webster is absent. While it was still entertaining I did miss the banter between Stink, Webster and Sophie of the

Elves. Without Webster there to add his personality to the mix some of the charm of my favourite Stink books, like Stink and the Midnight Zombie Walk and Stink and the Shark Sleepover, was missing.

I don't know how young readers will manage with the *thee*, *thy* and *thou* language along with the rest of the Shakespeare-speak. It's a good introduction to some of the themes and stories of the Bard but that language can be intimidating when you first come across it.

I would have loved to have known the contents of Riley's letter, although to be fair I read an ARC sans illustrations and it's possible the letter's contents may be shown in one of the illustrations.

I was disappointed I didn't get to see the illustrations while I was reading but based on having already read most of both the *Stink* and *Judy Moody* series I know Peter H. Reynolds will come through in this book too. His illustrations are always spot on in both series, bringing the characters and scenes to life in a humorous way. I will make a point of borrowing this book from my library once it's released to fill in the pieces that my imagination has missed or gotten wrong.

Thank you so much to NetGalley and Candlewick Press for the opportunity to read this book.

Emily says

Instructions:

Take famous Shakespeare lines and random Shakespeare info

Throw collected items in a blender

Purée

Pour mixture out on a page

From provided info craft story about Stink Moody

It was cute. Interesting way to introduce Shakespeare to kids.

Katie Fitzgerald says

This is a really fun installment in the Stink series. Stink attends Shakespeare camp during spring break, where he learns Shakespearean insults and prepares and performs a scene from a play. I was impressed by the way the author makes Shakespeare accessible to chapter book readers without dumbing down his work. I also like the fact that Stink is enthusiastic about studying Shakespeare on his own, without being forced by a parent. The emphasis on swordplay and verbal sparring highlights the key aspects of Shakespeare that are particularly appealing to kids, and guides them away from the popular idea they can sometimes develop that Shakespeare is difficult or irrelevant to their interests.

The fact that Stink is the only boy at the camp adds an interesting dynamic to the story that will resonate with many elementary schoolers. Stink also worries that one of the girls will try to kiss him before the end of camp, a concern which provides fodder for a few humorous moments. This is the stuff of playground interactions in the early elementary grades, and Megan McDonald has a great ear for the way kids speak to one another at this age.

Hamlet and Cheese would be a great book to share with a child who is beginning to read stories based on Shakespeare's plays (or the plays themselves) as well as any child who has an affinity for stage acting. It's

also sure to please established fans of the series, who will be glad to share another adventure with Stink.

Steven R. McEvoy says

In the last 6 years I have read 40 books with the Moody's. From the Judy moody Series, The Stink Series, The Judy and Stink books, and most recently the Judy Moody and Friend's series. I started reading these books before I had kids, and now read them with my three children ages 11, 10 and 7. The Moody books are family favorites and we always look forward to a new book in any of the four series, and this book was another great read! I have yet to read anything by either McDonald or Reynolds that was not a great read. And tis book, these series are great for kids to read or to read with kids. We are at the point that my oldest two can read the Stink books by themselves or to the youngest. Or like this one we can take turns reading pages and worked through the book on a rainy afternoon.

This book is a big change for Stink. He has a girl interested in him. Stink and one of his best friends Sophie are at a camp called Shakespeare Sprite during spring break. When Stink gets there the first day he is the only boy. And Riley Rottenberger has promised him that he will get a great big kiss before the end of the week at camp. For the most part camp is fun, they learn Shakespeare insults, sword play and stage fighting. By the end of the week they will each get to be in a scene and their parents and friends can come. Stink's fear of the kiss and the shenanigans surrounding that add some fun to the story. Both his sister Judy and Sophie help his make a shield to fend off the dreaded Rottenberger. They go to a community production of the cursed play, and Stink says the 'M' word several times.

Reading this book raised a lot of questions about Shakespeare. It is great to get younger children interested in the story. My kids immediately made the connection to Gnomeo and Juliette. And asked if any other movies or plays were appropriate. And living not far from Stratford Ontario and one of the largest Shakespeare festivals in the world helps draw their interest even more.

This book would be a fun read for young fans of drama or children who like to put on performances (my girls). My son loved the stage fighting and sword play lessons in the book. For fans of the Stink books it is a great addition to the series. The book is entertaining for children and for those of us who read to or with them.

Read the review on my blog [Book Reviews and More](#) and reviews of other books by mcDonald and Reynolds. Including reviews of most of the books about the Moody's.

Kelly Tarr says

ARC review

A great addition to the Stink series! Stink spends a week at a Shakespeare day camp, learning some basics about Shakespeare and acting. He gets to try his hand at sword-play, Shakespearean insults, and acting out a short scene from Hamlet at the end of the week. I enjoyed the Shakespearean facts and famous lines sprinkled throughout the book, as well as the Shakespearean insults (the perfect amount of "naughty" and silly for the reader).

The ARC did not have any artwork in it yet, but I am sure that Peter Reynolds has created the perfect artwork to supplement and break up the text for chapter-book readers.

As a teacher, I would have appreciated a short appendix with a brief bio of Shakespeare, or info about where

the lines quoted in the book came from, and perhaps an insult generator for the reader to try, or a suggestion of where to find more info on Shakespeare aimed at kids.

Overall, a winner and a great introduction to the Bard for young kids.
