

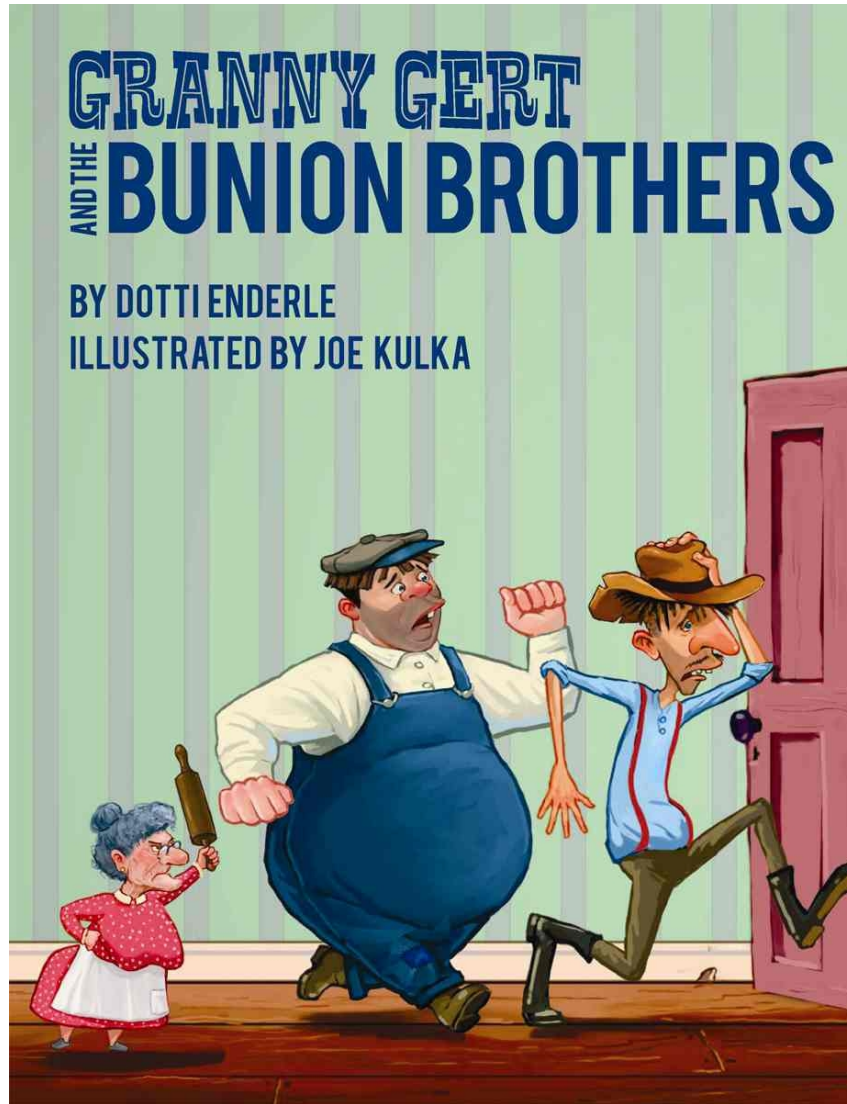


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Teacher Guide for



Activities for:

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Pre-Reading | Language Arts |
| Math | Science |
| Music | Art |

Created by
Dotti Enderle

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**Reproducible
Worksheets**

TEACHER GUIDE

Granny Gert and the Bunion Brothers

Written by Dotti Enderle
Illustrated by Joe Kulka
(Pelican Publishing)



Pre-reading:

Look at the cover only. Judging by the expression on Granny's face, does she look happy? Angry? Scared? What about the Bunion Brothers?

What's Granny holding? What is the real purpose of a rolling pin?

Do the Bunion Brothers look like brothers? What are their similarities? Differences?

Why do you think the Bunion Brothers are running? What can you guess about the story before hearing it?

Whose house do you think they're running through?

Language Arts:

Who chased the Bunion Brothers out of Amarillo? Where do you think the dog came from?

Granny tells the boys she needs someone to clean her privy. What is a privy? Do people still use them? What does this tell you about the setting? Are they in the present or past? Do you think Granny has a computer?

Granny threatens to sic Mad Dog on the Bunion Brothers. Did you guess what kind of animal Mad Dog was before hearing the end?

What is the conflict between Buck and Buddy? What do they both want?

While cleaning the privy, Buck has something on his nose. What do you think it is? What is the primary use for clothes pins?

Buddy and Buck Bunion play the banjo. How do they play it? Do they take turns?



Language Arts (Cont'd):

After cleaning the privy, the Bunion Brothers whitewash the fence. What does whitewashing mean?

How does Granny feel about the Bunion Brothers courting Starla? Is she happy about it? Angry?

Granny tells the Bunion Brothers that blood is thicker than water. What do you think that means?

Did seeing Mad Dog surprise you? Why do you think the Bunion Brothers were frightened of him? Would you have been afraid?

Math:

How many signs do you see posted throughout the book? _____

What is the shape that's carved into the privy door? Can you find other crescent shapes in the book?

Starla and Scarlett are twins. What are twins? What are triplets? Quadruplets?

How many times do these items appear in the book:

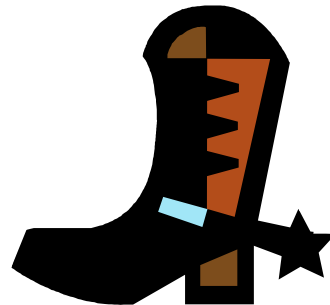
Banjo: _____

Mad Dog: _____

Privy: _____

Boots: _____

Chickens: _____



Science:

Discuss why do Starla and Scarlett look exactly alike, but Buddy and Buck look different? Could Starla and Scarlett be different ages?

“Your singing is so sour it pickled the cucumbers!” What happens to cucumbers when they’ve been pickled? Can other vegetables be pickled?

Music:

Write a tune to the songs that the Bunion Brothers sing to Starla and Scarlett.



Art Project:

Shoe Box Banjo

Materials:

Four rubber bands of various thickness

Plastic or cardboard shoebox

A wooden ruler

Directions:

Stretch four rubber bands around the long direction of the plastic or cardboard shoebox. Place the ruler under the rubber bands to make a bridge.

Pluck each of the rubber bands in turn to play.



Granny Gert's Lemonade Pie

- 4 cups vanilla ice cream, softened
- 6 oz. can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
- 1 9" graham cracker crust

1. In medium bowl, mix ice cream and lemonade concentrate until blended.
2. Immediately spoon into graham cracker crust.
3. Freeze at least 4 hours until firm.
4. Let stand at room temperature for a few minutes before cutting.

Serves 8.





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GRANNY GERT AND THE BUNION BROTHERS

By Dotti Enderle
Illustrated by Joe Kulka

Buddy and Buck Bunion, known as the dumbest boys in Texas and worthless rascals, have met their match with Granny Gert. After being chased out of Amarillo, the Bunion Brothers ask Granny Gert for a job. She agrees to give them a chance but threatens to sic Mad Dog on them if they don't behave. Everything is fine until Buddy and Buck both fall in love with Starla Scissors, Granny Gert's granddaughter. Granny, after putting up with their antics and attempts to woo Starla, finally has enough and decides she must sit them down and explain that blood is thicker than water.

This delightful, humorous tale teaches us a valuable lesson about family. Children will love the surprise ending after all is resolved with the help of Granny's ferocious pet, Mad Dog.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dotti Enderle has been a professional storyteller since 1993, entertaining children and parents at numerous schools, libraries, museums, and festivals. She is the author of fifteen books for children and educators, including *The Cotton Candy Catastrophe at the Texas State Fair*, published by Pelican. A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Authors Guild, and Writers League of Texas, Enderle lives with her husband and two teenage daughters in Houston, Texas.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Joe Kulka earned his B.F.A. in illustration from the University of Arts in 1987. The illustrator of *Woodsy's ABCs*, now included in the Head Start Program, he is a member of the Graphic Artists Guild and Picture Book Artists Association. Kulka lives in Quakertown, Pennsylvania.

GRANNY GERT AND THE BUNION BROTHERS

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