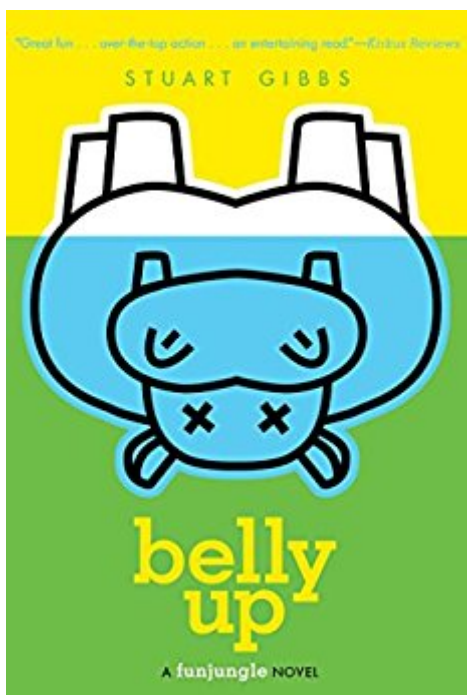


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Belly Up (Teddy Fitzroy Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt Fitzroy believes that Henry, the hippopotamus at the brand-new FunJungle, has been murdered. The zoo's top brass claim the hippo went belly up the natural way, but Teddy and his feisty friend Summer McCracken have other ideas. Could the culprit be FunJungle's animal-hating head of operations? Or is it FunJungle's owner "Summer's dad" a man who is much more concerned about money than animal welfare? The deeper Teddy and Summer dig, the more danger they're in "because when it comes to hippo homicide, the truth can't be caged!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stuart Gibb has written a thoroughly engaging and amusing mystery. Setting this series inside an animal park was a brilliant move and it shows. Teddy makes a great detective as well as a smart aleck, Teddy proves to be determined and unwilling to give up. At first he wants the adults to investigate Henry's murder but when the police turn him away, his mother brushes him off, and the

park itself covers it up, Teddy decides it's up to him to investigate. He recruits the help of Summer McCracken, the daughter of the owner of FunJungle and together they manage to wreak havoc as they search for the answers that nobody seems to want them to find. I found myself flying through this book once I got started. It's a great mystery with lots of suspects as well as twists and turns that made it unpredictable and delightful to read. I read this aloud to a bunch of classes and they all loved it. Note: there is a mild amount of what many would consider bad language.

The basic premise behind this story is fun, quirky, and appealing for both boys and girls. As an elementary school media specialist, I was excited to pick this book up and read through it, expecting it to be a good pick for reluctant readers. Unfortunately, this is not the book for elementary school! There were numerous instances of foul language throughout the book, beginning within the first couple of chapters as a character is identified as "p..... off." Thankfully, the author stops short of dropping the most offensive four letter bombs, however the story is still riddled with numerous expletives. The story would have been just as enjoyable (even more so, in my opinion) without this. The story seems a bit juvenile...hence a good match for elementary...but the language issues supersede the juvenile story line and therefore place this book as more appropriate for middle school.

My 9-year-old and 12-year-old have both read this book and love it. My 12-year-old has read almost every book Stuart Gibbs has written. Both of them were finished with the book within a few days because they said it was so good they just had to keep reading it.

I love books that are extremely well written AND funny AND mysteries and this is all three. I am reading this out loud to my daughters who are 9 and 11 and they have been laughing so hard I have to take big breaks for them to recover. Sometimes I am laughing so hard I just can't get the words out. This is the quality of children's book that I love to share with my kids: original, lively, confident, and the story keeps moving along. (I have also shared several moving, slower books with them, we like those too when they are good - like Michael Morpurgo's 'Shadow' and 'The Island of the Blue Dolphins' - sob and double sob). All these qualities make 'Belly Up' a particularly great book for reading out loud for the shared experience. Can't wait to read all of Stuart Gibbs' other books.

My son loves these books.

I thought the book *Belly Up* by Stuart Gibbs was a delightful read. There were some moments in the book that were quite hilarious and others were action packed with adventure. The book was a mystery I think others who like mystery books would certainly enjoy this book. I thought the book was fun and mysterious. The main character in the book was named Teddy Fitzroy. He was adventurous and daring as well as kind and courageous. When no one else will investigate the death of a theme park mascot Teddy does himself. Teddy also almost gets killed a couple times he continues his investigation even though he is in danger. Teddy also makes a few friends and enemies along the way. I would recommend this book for 13 to 16 year old kids.

I started to read this book because my friend was reading it on the way to swim practice and I wondered what kept her so intrigued and unresponsive. I asked her about it and she told me what it was about and what was currently happening. I was already rather to start it. I bought it and immediately began to read. I read for about four hours straight- stupidly- no joke!! It was one of few mystery/action-adventure novels that are actually really unpredictable in great ways! All I could think about was the story as I say in middle-school today, wondering what would happen next. I would most certainly recommend this to any reader, whether or not they like mystery or not!

Belly Up is a great book about Teddy Fitzroy and his adventures in FunJungle. This book has a lot of action going on and is a book that I would recommend for 10-11 year olds. This is an amazing book that I did not want to put down. I just wanted to see what happens next and why he did that and who it is. Teddy is always so sneaky so I wanted to find out what he was going to do. This is a page-turner book that makes you want to keep reading.

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