

Multimillion-copy bestselling author of *Frindle* and *Lunch Money*

ANDREW CLEMENTS

Jake Drake

BULLY BUSTER

Can a bully magnet like Jake
survive second grade?



CHAPTER ONE

Bully-Magnet

I'm Jake—Jake Drake. I'm in fourth grade. Which is my best grade so far. I've got a man teacher this year, Mr. Thompson. He's pretty old, but he's not mean. And he likes the same kinds of books I do. Adventure stories, books about volcanoes and jungles and the ocean, joke books, Calvin and Hobbes—stuff like that.

But there is one thing about Mr. Thompson that's weird. Pete was the first to see it. Which makes sense. Pete is a science kid. He collects bugs and fossils and plants, and he knows all

their names, and he's maybe the smartest kid in the school.

After about two weeks of school, Pete pointed at Mr. Thompson. Then he whispered, "He's wearing those pants again."

"Which pants?" I said.

"*Those* pants," Pete said. "The same pants he wore yesterday and the day before and the day before that. I think he wears the same pants *every* day."

"No way," I said. "He probably has a lot of pants that are the same, that's all."

So Pete said, "I'm going to test my theory."

See what I mean? That's how science kids are.

That afternoon we had read-aloud time on the rug, and Mr. Thompson sat in a beanbag chair. Pete sat right next to Mr. Thompson and a little behind him. Mr. Thompson started reading, and he got to the part when the Swiss Family Robinson wrecks their ship.

All the other kids were looking at Mr. Thompson's face or at the ceiling or somewhere. I was watching Pete.

Pete pulled his hand out of his pocket. His

hand went behind Mr. Thompson's foot, just for a second, and then back to his pocket. And then Pete sat and listened like everyone else.

When reading was over, I got next to Pete and whispered, "What did you do?"

Pete grinned and pulled something out of his pocket. It was a little black marker, the kind that doesn't wash out.

I got behind Mr. Thompson and looked down. On the right leg of his pants, on the back of his cuff, was a tiny black spot.

So that's how we found out that Mr. Thompson really has two pairs of pants. Every Thursday he wears tan pants that are just like the other pair, but they don't have the little black spot and they look a little newer. Pete's theory is that Thursday must be laundry day at Mr. Thompson's house. Because every Friday, we can see the little spot again.

My best friend is Phil Willis. Everyone calls him Willie. Willie isn't in my class this year. We have gym class and music class and art class together, but for the rest of the time Willie has Mrs. Steele.

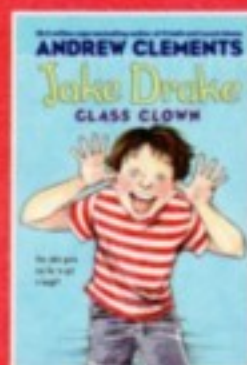
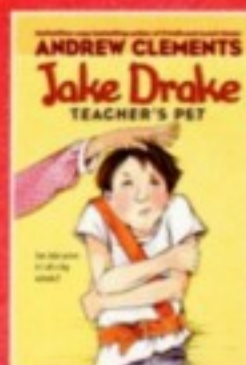
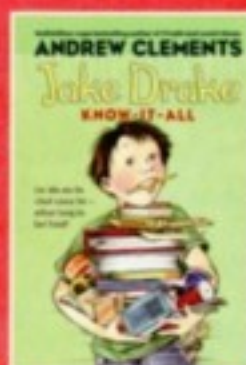
MEET JAKE DRAKE, BULLY BUSTER.

When Jake was three years old at Miss Lulu's Dainty Diaper Day Care Center, what did he know about bullies? Nothing. But he learned fast! Why? Because Jake was kind of smart and not a tattletale, and he had no big brother to protect him. He was a perfect bully magnet.

But everything changed the year Jake was in second grade. That's when SuperBully Link Baxter moved to town. Jake had his hands full just trying to survive, until class project time. Who did the teacher assign to be Link's partner? You guessed it.

Jake has to use all his smarts—and his heart as well—to turn himself from Jake Drake, Bully Magnet, to Jake Drake, Bully Buster.

Read all of Jake's adventures!



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