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# Gooney Bird and All Her Charms

Kristie Hinckley

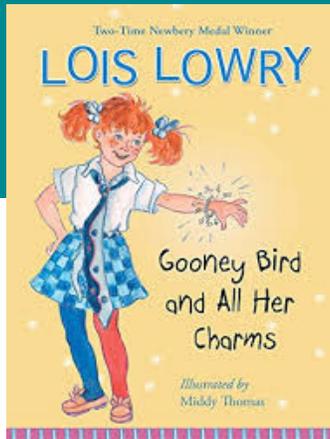
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## Book Review

### Gooney Bird and All Her Charms

#### Author

Lois Lowry

#### Illustrator

Middy Thomas

#### Reviewer

Kristie Hinckley

#### Rating

Outstanding

#### Level

Primary

#### Pages

151

#### Year

2013

#### Publisher

Houghton Mifflin

#### ISBN

9780544113541

Gooney Bird is a high-spirited, bright second-grader at Watertower Elementary School. For their science unit, Gooney Bird brings in a skeleton named Napoleon for the class to borrow. They find ways to teach their whole school about the human body by placing Napoleon in different relevant places in the school with posters around him. He starts in the library as they learn about the brain. Then, he travels to the cafeteria, the gym, and outside to teach about the digestive system, the muscular system, and the respiratory system. His time outside quickly comes to an end when he is stolen. The class uses clues to find the culprit, a parent who is unhappy about the creepy skeleton being around the school in the first place.

Second-graders will especially love this short chapter book because it is about a rambunctious class of second-graders at Watertower Elementary School. This is not the first of Lois Lowry's Gooney Bird books, but it might be a fast favorite for readers. It would make an excellent read-aloud in a classroom or home as well. In second grade, students are beginning to understand humor and wordplay, which all students creatively do in this story, especially Tyrone, who loves to make up raps. This book is entertaining and extremely educational, as it highlights the second grade class's unit about the human body. Gooney Bird with her lively personality, way with words, and photographic memory might remind readers of Ramona Quimby, Amelia Bedelia, and Cam Jansen, all wrapped into one.