

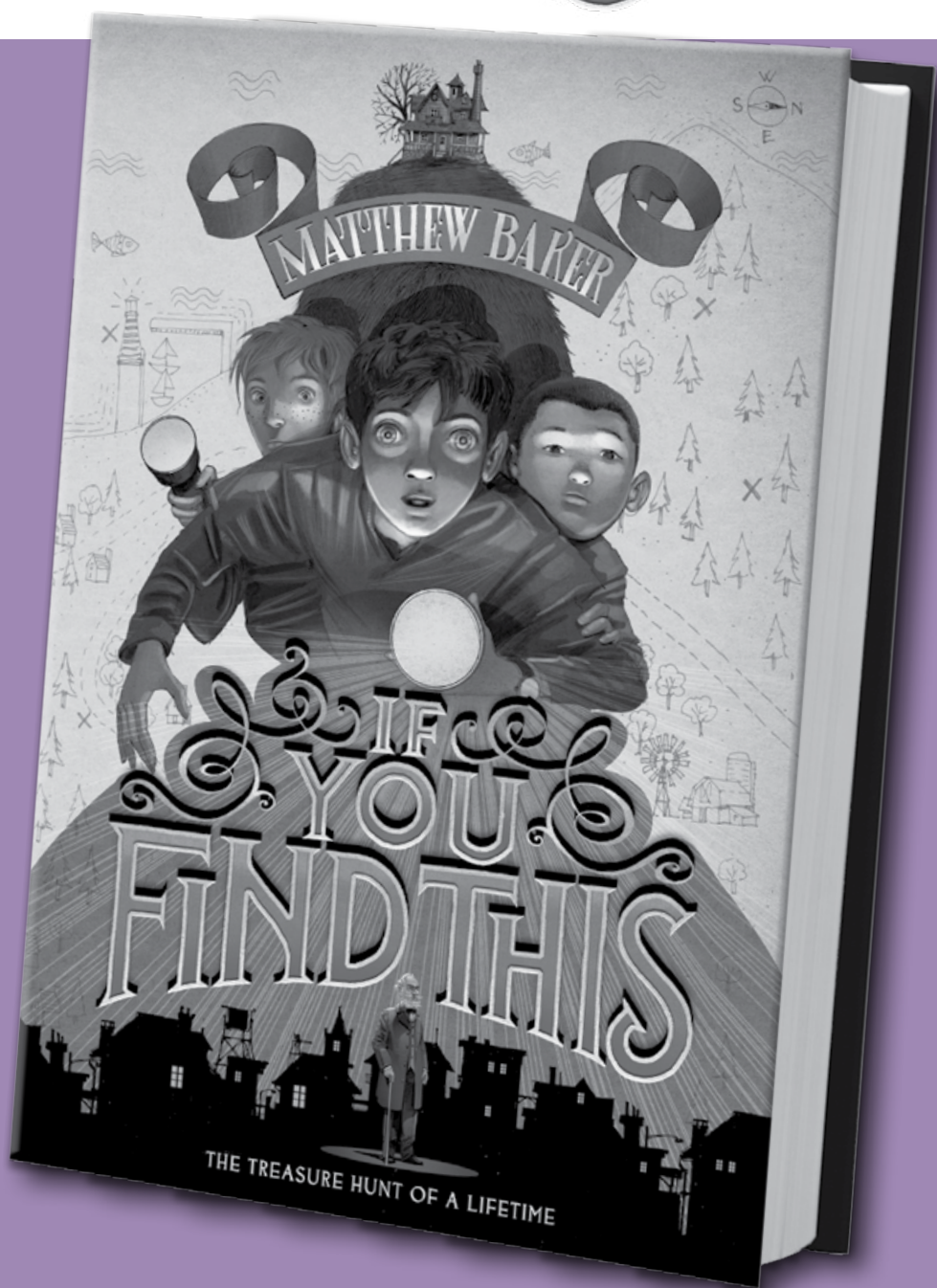
IF YOU FIND THIS

Curriculum connections

- ❖ Family/
Multigenerational
- ❖ Multiple Perspectives
- ❖ Bullying

Ages: 12 & Up

by
**MATTHEW
BAKER**



COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

This guide is aligned with the following Common Core Standards for 5th grade. If you teach another grade you will want to visit www.corestandards.org and find the coordinating standards for your students.

Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1

Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2

Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3

Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

Craft and Structure

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5

Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fit together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6

Discuss how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.A

Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Have students mark their opinion of the following statements below. Then, place posters around the four corners of your room that correspond with the rankings and discuss the answers as a class, allowing kids to move between their answers.

Statement:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Agree	Why I think this:
It would be worth getting in big trouble to discover secret treasure/heirlooms.				
Friendship can be complicated.				
There will always be bullies.				
Some kids are mean for no reason at all.				
Adults don't listen much to kids or old people.				

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. After reading the first chapter, decide who you think the narrator is writing to. What do you think is the most important information in this letter?
2. Discuss the narrator's theory about prime numbers and big events. What does he believe about his brother? Why? What could happen now that could take him away from his brother forever?
3. Explain what happened in the graveyard with the Isaacs and why it happened. Find a key quote that shows how things are even worse when Nicholas returns home.
4. What are "Dangerous Ideas?" How did they isolate Nicholas from other kids at school?
5. Where does Nicholas find his Grandpa Rose? Why was he there? How could it be an answer to all his family's problems?
6. How does Nicholas describe sounds in musical terms? What does this show us about the way his brain works?
7. Who is Jordon Odom? Why don't any of the kids like him? Does he deserve it? What is he known for? Why does Nicholas run into him at the rest home?
8. Why does Nicholas insist on asking the nurse about his grandfather after he showers? What is he hoping to find out? What nickname does Nicholas have? What awesome nickname did Jordan give his grandfather?
9. After reading the chapter, "Everyone Shouted," what would you add to your description of the narrator, Nicholas? Do you ever feel like he does in this chapter?
10. Where does Nicholas take his grandfather? Who else appears and convinces Nicholas that he shouldn't be left alone? What's the plan they make?
11. How does Jordan feel about Zeke? Why? What nickname has he given him? Where do the boys first look for the heirlooms? What important things do they learn about each other? How are the tattoos and clues finally discovered?
12. Create a list of the clues the boys must follow in order to find their heirlooms. Which one do you think will be most important to the story? Why? Why is the long number so powerful? How do things become even more complicated at home?
13. Describe Monte's childhood and compare and contrast it to your own. How did his troublemaking escalate (get worse) over time? Do people always keep getting into deeper trouble? Which heirloom meant the most to him? Why?
14. Describe the seance and the girl, Kayla Schreiber, who contacted the dead. What did they learn or not? What other facts may be valuable in the treasure hunt?
15. Why did Nicholas tackle Zeke? Was he justified or not? Why? What was Zeke's explanation? What important information was discovered?
16. Where is Nicholas's dad? Why? What does it mean when Nicholas says, "Whatever language I speak, my dad speaks something different"? What does he wait for when talking to him that never comes?
17. Despite the fact that he has this amazing mathematical and musical brain, Nicholas wishes he were just normal. Why? What expectations weigh him down?
18. Summarize the important events that happened around the bottomless pit. What story did they learn from Jordan's brother Ty? What discovery was made because of this incident?
19. What memory does Grandpa Rose have of becoming a father? Find a key quote that shows what he was really like as a person.
20. How had Monte worked for smugglers as a young man? What night did he make the most trouble? What did he do? Where did he hide the heirlooms?

21. What is the theory of True Names? Do you agree with it? What name or string of words would make Nicholas powerless?
22. Explain what Nicholas learns about his first real friends, Zeke and Jordan. What is a holmgang? What is a second? Why does Nicholas agree to be Zeke's second?
23. Create a timeline of events from the moment the boys arrive at the pier/lighthouse until their return. Put a star next to the three most important moments. Discuss your choices in reading pairs. Why do they still not have the treasure? What else must be solved?
24. Who was the ghost of ghosthouse? Why? Describe Monte's time in and out of prison.
25. What does Zeke "Skulltooth" have that the Isaacs want? Why did he take such a beating from them? Why does he refuse to return the stuff he took? What secret is Nicholas keeping from his friends now? Why?
26. Describe what happened when the kids showed up for a seance in the ghosthouse. How do things change for Nicholas in ways he never expected? How did Nicholas finally figure out where the treasure and heirlooms are buried?
27. Reconstruct the events leading up to the discovery. What did they discover inside the box? Why? What happens to Grandpa Dykhouse and Grandpa Rose?
28. Defend the reasons why the boys stole the rowboat (again) and created something new out of it. How did Jordan and Zeke both get part of their dreams realized?
29. What does Nicholas accomplish with the final clues he puts together? Did Grandpa Rose finally do something that redeemed him from his past?
30. What was your favorite chapter in the book? Why? What can you learn as a writer by looking closely at Matthew Baker's book?

COMMON CORE ALIGNED PROJECTS

Compare & Contrast: Looking for similarities and differences

Using standard CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3, ask students to fill out the chart below to compare and contrast the characters of Nicholas, Jordan, and Zeke.

How do these three characters become unlikely friends? Are friends often made up of contrasting parts? What can we learn by hanging out with people different from us?

	Description:	Strengths:	Weaknesses:	Home Life Background:
Nicholas Funes				
Jordan Odom				
Zeke Song				

Vocabulary: Words in Context

Standard CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4 requires students to determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes. Good readers can often figure out the meaning of words by carefully looking at the clues in the surrounding sentences.

Use the following words from the book and place it in the sentence where it makes the most sense in context:

suspicious lozenges bootleggers
perched deteriorated adrenaline
contradictions grimaced

1. "That's impossible. Those are opposite. You can't have felt both," I said. "Don't you know about _____?"
Grandpa Rose said.
2. "Jordan stumbled in the door, carrying pillows, boxes of toothpaste, and bent metal spoons. His hair was matted with sweat. He _____."

3. "The grocer is downtown, across from the arcade and exactly the same size. Some grandfathers in raincoats were _____ on a bench there, probably waiting for some grandmothers."
4. "If I asked the wrong question, or phrased a question the wrong way, or spoke in the wrong tone of voice, she might get _____."
5. "Creams? Ointments? _____? Pills? What do you need all of this stuff for?"
6. "No, you know, the underworld. _____, kidnappers, assassins."
7. "Some of the memories from when he was younger are quite vivid, but most of the memories from when he was older have completely _____."
8. "Now that you've got some _____, would you hit that with some actual muscle, and finish this already?"

Now, find at least 10 other new words from the novel as you read and try to discern (or figure out) what they mean by the way they are used:

New word:	How it's used in the story:	What I think it means:	Dictionary check:

Figurative Language

Author Matthew Baker often uses figurative language (ex: similes and metaphors) to describe something. A simile is a comparison between two things. It also adds a layer of meaning or understanding. Look closely at the following figurative phrases from the book and fill out the chart. Then, discuss your answers with a reading partner.

Figurative Language	What things are being compared:	What it means:
He was scratching his beard like it was a sweater he wasn't used to wearing.		
After the Isaacs beat up Nicholas in the cemetery he thinks: "I was a song they would want to keep singing."		
"Then a breath whistled from his chest, like wind whistling from a cave."		
"A deer with a crown of antlers was standing alongside my brother."		

Key Quotes: Crack the Clues

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1 focuses on quoting accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. Good readers can find specific evidence and clues directly in a story (or non-fiction article for) that proves a fact or detail the same way Nicholas cracks the complicated clues in the novel. Find a key quote from the text that proves the statements below. There can be more than one correct answer!

A statement or fact from the story:	A key quote (or direct sentence) from the text that proves this point:
Grandpa Rose thought about his own wishes and desires before his family.	
Zeke Song is known for stealing stuff from people.	
The two Isaacs are mean and cruel.	
Grandpa Dykhouse has the best nickname.	

about the book



IF YOU FIND THIS

HC 978-0-316-24008-6

Also available in downloadable audio and ebook formats

Mixing mystery and adventure in the tradition of Louis Sachar, Avi, and E.L. Konigsburg, *If You Find This* is the story of unlikely friendships, unexpected bravery, and 11-year-old Nicholas Funes's quest to prove his grandfather's treasure is real.

Nicholas is a math and music genius with no friends and a huge problem: his father has lost his job, and they'll have to sell their house, which holds the only memory Nicholas has of his younger brother. Just in time, Nicholas's senile grandfather arrives, filled with tales of priceless treasure he has hidden somewhere in town—but where?

With the help of misfit classmates, two grandfathers, a ghosthouse, hidden messages, seances, and an uncanny mind for numbers, Nicholas stages a nursing home breakout, tangles with high schoolers in smugglers' tunnels, and gets swept up in a duel with the biggest bullies in the neighborhood. Will it be enough to find the treasure and save his house?

★ “[T]his is a rich, captivating tale about family and redemption that redefines the meaning of treasure.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

about the author



Matthew Baker's stories have appeared in *American Short Fiction*, *New England Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *Best of the Net*, and been shortlisted in *Best American Short Stories*. He has held creative writing fellowships through the Fulbright Commission, the MacDowell Colony, and Vanderbilt University, among others. He was born and lives in Michigan. *If You Find This* is his first novel. Visit him online at mwektaehtabr.com.

