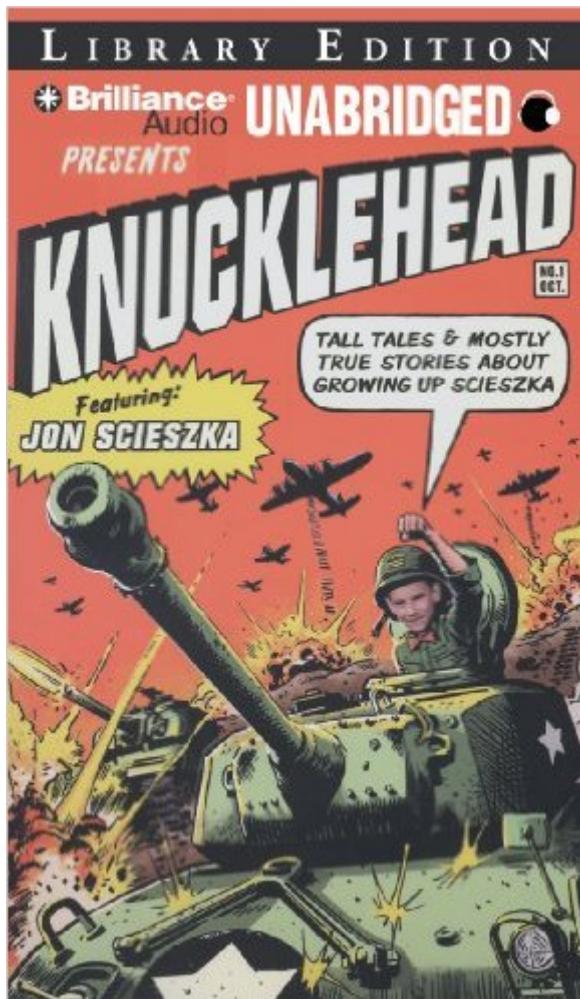


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# Knucklehead: Tall Tales And Almost True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka



## **Synopsis**

Have you ever: • Had your brother try to sell you your own shirt? • Made a list of all the bad words you know • for your teacher who is a nun? • Believed one of those AMAZING! ads in the back of a comic book? • Broken your brother's collarbone playing football • four times? • Tied your little brother into his bed with your dad's ties? Jon Scieszka has. Which is probably why Jon's dad used to call him and his five brothers KNUCKLEHEADS. Here is Jon's side of the story. And here, at last, is the memoir that might answer some of the questions of how the heck does someone think up a story of a little man made of very smelly cheese.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## **Customer Reviews**

This is an awesome funny book. My husband was raised in Michigan and has a sweet routine of telling my two boys ages 6 and 11 stories of his childhood at bedtime every night. He found this book and bought it for our 11 year old. He loves it. Last night he read it outloud to me and we both laughed so hard my faced hurt! Awesome book.

As the mother of four boys (and a child of the 70s), I adore what Jon Scieszka has done for male-accessible literature. My sons are reading again and again the adventures of Jon and his brothers who "don't know" how mischief happens. Perhaps my favorite part of this book is his description of how the term "knucklehead" changed from being a deragatory term to a phrase of

endearment. My boys love the funny stories of what happens when you get a pack of boys together. We also love the book he edited, *Guys Write for Guys Read*, full of great authors that boys/men and the women who love them like to read.

Our nine year-old son read this and started asking my husband and me questions about our childhoods, so we each quickly read it as well. While we're significantly younger than the author and decidedly not Catholic, "Knucklehead" still provided a wonderful starting point for all of us to talk about stories from our childhoods, the nine year-old included. Accessible and heartwarming.

Pee swords, fried urine, and cat yak.....what more could a 7 year old kid want in a book? This is such a sweet and funny collection of stories about the author's experience growing up in a family of 6 brothers. Each story is only 2-3 pages long, which is perfect for kids, and most of them are about everyday things like chores and haircuts and summer time and Cub Scouts. Its funny, and endearing. I enjoyed it as much as the kids. We wished it were longer.

These were great stories about the six Scieszka brothers' adventures, while they were growing up. I couldn't read them without laughing, and I felt a sense of nostalgia as I remembered my own childhood. My whole family enjoyed the book.

This is a memoir that I enjoyed more than I expected. Being a member of the author's generation, I could relate to some of the cultural references of his early childhood. Comic book titles that I loved to read back then and some TV programs that I watched were part of his early childhood. I couldn't help but laughing at many of his small anecdotes. One of my favorites is when he decides to order plastic soldiers that were often advertised in old DC comic books and his disappointment at the size of these soldiers. I thought it was funny because I always wanted to order these but never did. I bought this book because I thought it would have been useful to the classroom when discussing memoirs. Although it is not as popular as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, a fictional text, undoubtedly it has some space in a 4th to 6th grade classroom as long as you know how to adapt it.

I came across this title after enjoying *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* with my two sons, six-year old Kai and four-year old Kou. To call Jon Scieszka's book "Knuckleheads" self-indulgent wouldn't be entirely incorrect. However, you'd miss the greater value this family scrapbook offers to young or expectant parents - anyone considering the daunting task of raising

two or more boys. Scieszka himself is the second-oldest of six boys. And like a card game of Slap Jack, he flips from one childhood memory to another. He doesn't dwell on any one topic, nor does he attempt to defend or analyze his behavior. I called this book a family scrapbook and that's the fairest description for 38 chapters in 108 pages. Chapter titles serve either as how-to lessons for young boys or what-to-watch-out-for cautionary tales for parents: Chapter 2: Who Did It? Chapter 10: Watch Your Brothers Chapter 16: Brothersitting Chapter 32: Stop Breathing My Air "Knucklehead" is a humorous quick read with a comic book cover design that makes it an eye-catching coffee table book. Better yet, consider giving the book as a baby shower gift, especially if the parents already have one son.

Jon did an ok job, lots of artwork and it's trendy at best, but the stories were mediocre and while he may have started to tell one story or another, he never got into any of them, why tell me uncle so and so was Airborne in Vietnam and not tell me any real bad ass stories, why throw away the time he drove a jeep into a lake?

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