

This is Not My Story

By: Ryan Uytdewilligen

Illustrated: David Huyck

Synopsis: This hilarious and unique take on metafiction offers a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process as the hero of this book embarks on a genre-bending journey to find the right story with the help of the author.

Suggested Reading Date: Beginning of the year/unit to introduce genre; April 27th (National Tell a Story Day); March 20 (World Storytelling Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Teach about genres and ask students to name the genres in the book.
- Have students discuss their favorite genre.
- Have students write the type of story they would like to be in.
- Create an interactive storytelling activity where students work together to create storyboards, write an alternate ending, or act out scenes from the book.
- Have students create the main character, aliens, or other characters with playdough, clay, or other materials.
- Discuss the different styles of illustrations and that the illustrator used a mix of narrative and graphic novel styles. Have students create their own related graphic novel/page.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://ryanuytdewilligenauthor.com/>
- Illustrator's Website: <https://davidhuyck.com/>
- Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/TAY6DXRILak>
- Author Interview: <https://youtu.be/5jmb8AfEzYA>
- Article about the story behind the book: <https://authorspublish.com/the-story-behind-this-is-not-my-story/>
- Video explaining the word "genre" and showing the Science Fiction genre: <https://youtu.be/nrusqQ5JftA?list=PLC1Jq5GGDqOMc7u59Y9ufGFA8siBf0tv2>
- Video showing different types of genres: <https://youtu.be/0mFKgjAOUJ0>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Chester* by Melanie Watt
- *The Perfectly Messed-Up Story* by Patrick McDonnell
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt

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