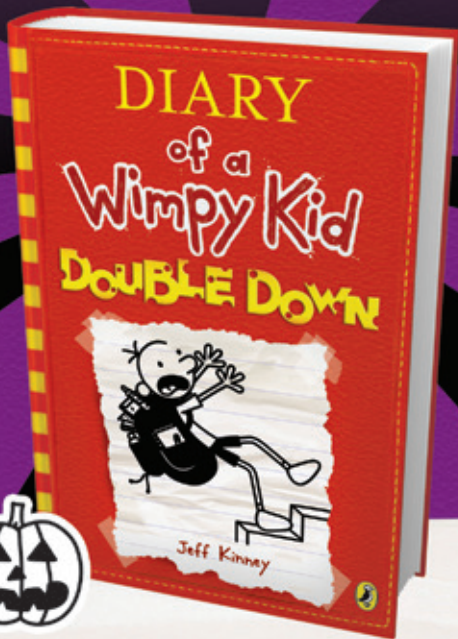


Diary of a Wimpy Kid



# DOUBLE DOWN



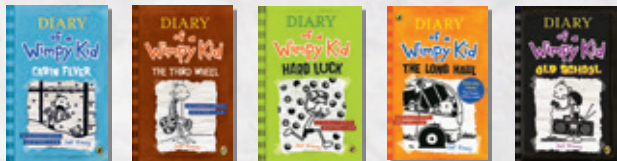
**SPOOKY** sneak peek inside!

# Have YOU Read Them All?

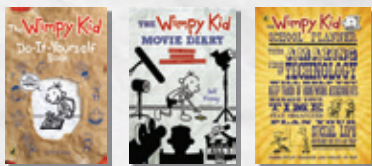
Check off the ones you have.



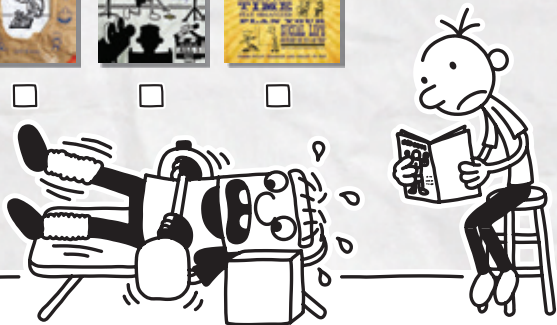
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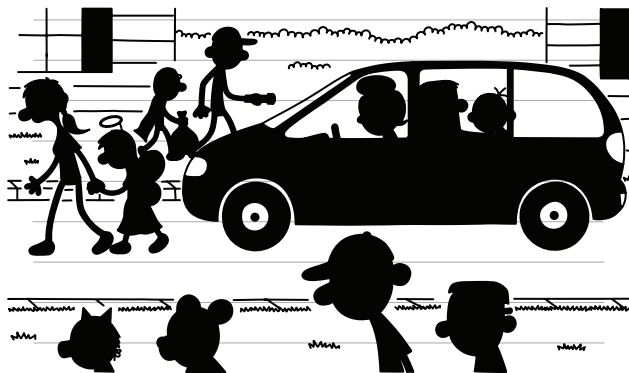


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## Halloween

It took a long time to get to Mariana's house tonight because the street was full of little kids trick-or-treating.

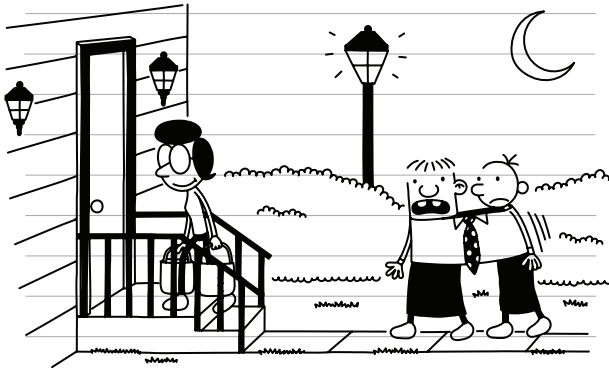


I was kind of GLAD we were a little late, because if we showed up right on time, we'd look like we were too eager. When we finally got to Mariana's, I told Mom thanks for the ride and not to come back for us until the party ended at 11:00.

But Mom turned off the ignition, got out of the minivan, and pulled some bags from the back.

When I asked her what she was doing, she said she was coming in to introduce herself to Mr. and Mrs. Mendoza.

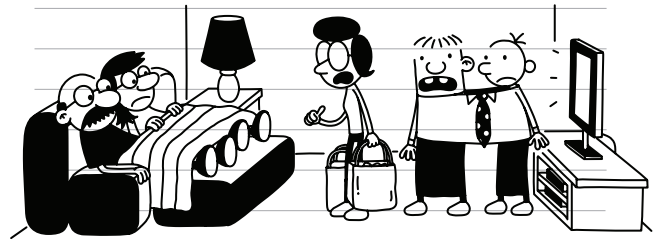
I BEGGED Mom not to, but when she decides to do something, there's really no stopping her.



We rang the doorbell, but nobody answered. We could hear loud music coming from the basement, so Mom opened the door and we all stepped inside.

Mr. and Mrs. Mendoza were on the couch watching a horror movie, and they didn't seem too interested in getting up and chatting with Mom.

Mom asked if she could go downstairs and check out the party, and they seemed totally fine with it.



Now I was REALLY nervous. Mom opened the door to the basement and headed on down, and all me and Rowley could really do was follow. There were a lot of kids there already, and they looked like they were having a blast.



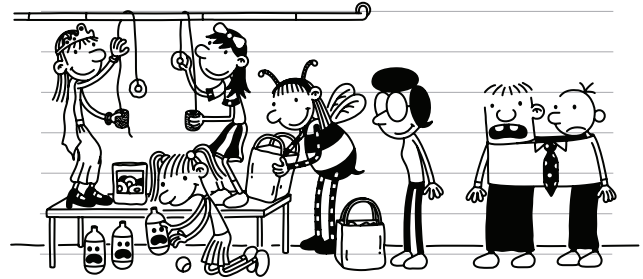
But when everyone saw Mom, they stopped what they were doing.

Mom pulled a bunch of homemade Halloween games out of her bag, and I got a sick feeling in my stomach. I should've known what Mom was up to when I saw her reading the October edition of "Family Frolic" magazine last night.

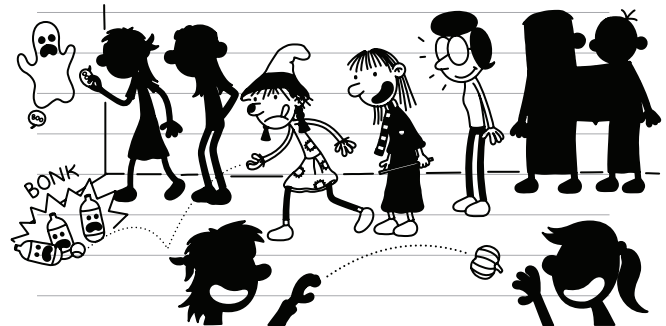


When Mom pulled out her party games, I figured everyone would just ignore her and go back to having fun. But then something CRAZY happened.

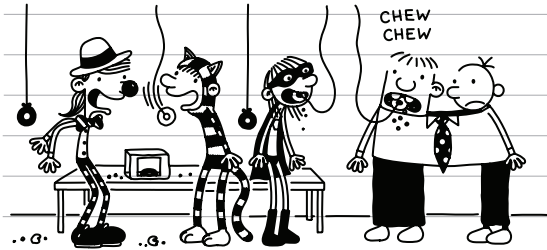
A bunch of the girls started HELPING Mom set up her stuff.



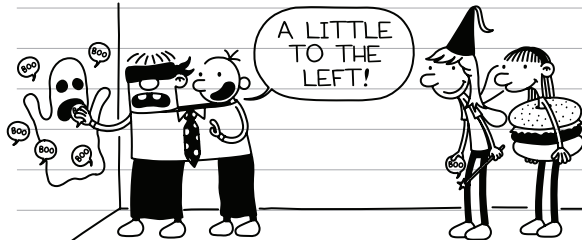
From that point on Mom was running the show. She invited everyone at the party to play these corny Halloween games. I thought I might actually die of embarrassment, but everybody got into it and seemed to be having a great time.



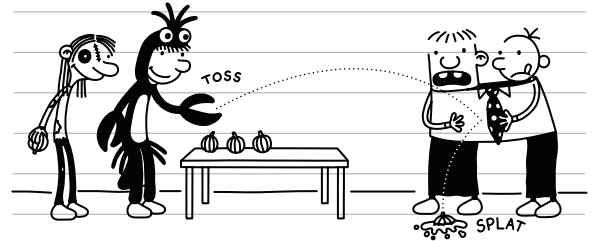
I think the person who was having the MOST fun was Rowley. His favorite game was the one where you eat a doughnut on a string, and he set the record with five in thirty seconds.



Once I realized everyone was having a good time, I relaxed a little. I even played a few games MYSELF. Me and Rowley took first prize in Pin the Boo on the Ghost, and I gotta admit we made a pretty good team.



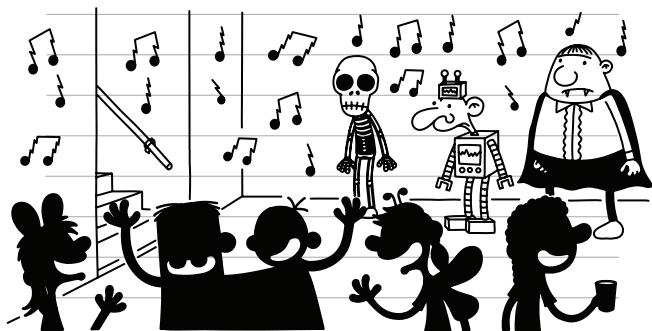
In fact, we won a LOT of Mom's games. The only one we stunk at was the Mini Pumpkin Toss, but I guess you can't be good at EVERYTHING.



After the games were over, somebody turned the music louder, and the party cranked up a notch. It was a little hard to pull out my best moves while I was attached to Rowley, but I still had some pretty good stuff.



I gotta say, it was AWESOME. The only kids who WEREN'T having fun were the handful of guys who were there. But I wasn't gonna let a few sour grapes spoil my good time.



Right when the party was about to hit the next level, Rowley told me he needed to use the bathroom. But when we made the costume we didn't PLAN for that sort of thing.

There wasn't a zipper or anything like that, so the only way to get out of the costume was to cut it off. Neither one of us was wearing pants underneath, so THAT wasn't happening.

I was pretty annoyed, because earlier in the evening I had TOLD Rowley to slow down on the fruit punch, and of course he hadn't listened.

I decided he was just gonna have to wait until we got home to deal with it. So I tried to go back to having fun, but Rowley made it kind of impossible for me to enjoy myself.



I think Mom figured out what was going on from the look on Rowley's face, and she said it was time for us to "wrap things up" and head home.

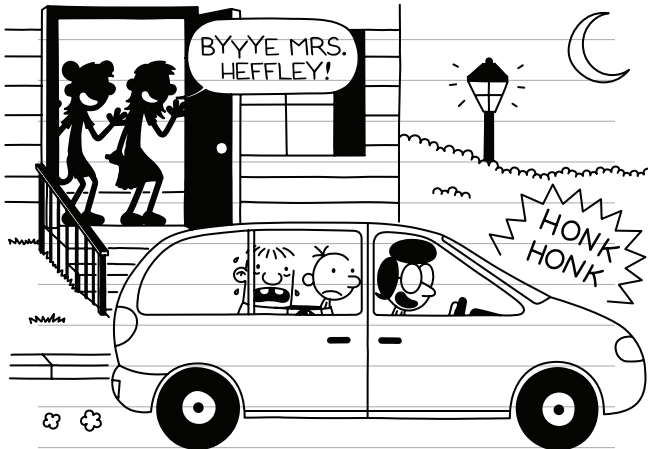
Now I was REALLY mad. The party was in full swing and we had to leave because Rowley needed a potty break.



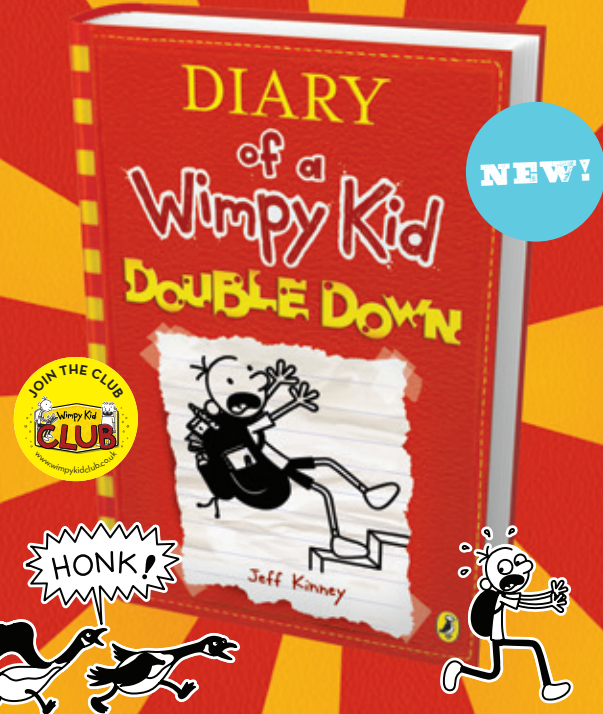
But Mom said it's better to leave a party when it's going strong than when it's fizzling out. She said it makes you look COOL, because everybody will think you have better things to do.

I don't know what's better than hanging out with Mariana Mendoza, but Mom was practically pushing me up the stairs.

When we drove away, I was pretty miserable. But Mom was as happy as I've ever seen her.



DOUBLE THE LAUGHTER...  
DOUBLE THE TROUBLE...  
DOUBLE THE FUN...



## A cartoon spider is positioned on a large, stylized spider web that dominates the left side of the page. The spider is small and simple, with a round body and two visible legs. The web is composed of concentric circles and radial lines, creating a spiral pattern.





# Diary of a Wimpy Kid

# DOUBLE DOWN

The pressure's really piling up on Greg Heffley. His mom thinks video games are turning his brain to mush, so she wants her son to put down the controller and explore his 'creative side'.

As if that's not scary enough, Halloween's just around the corner and the frights are coming at Greg from every angle.

**READ THE SPECIAL EXTRACT FROM**

## DOUBLE DOWN



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Penguin  
Random House  
CHILDREN'S