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BINK

& Gollie

TEACHERS' GUIDE



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Bink & Gollie

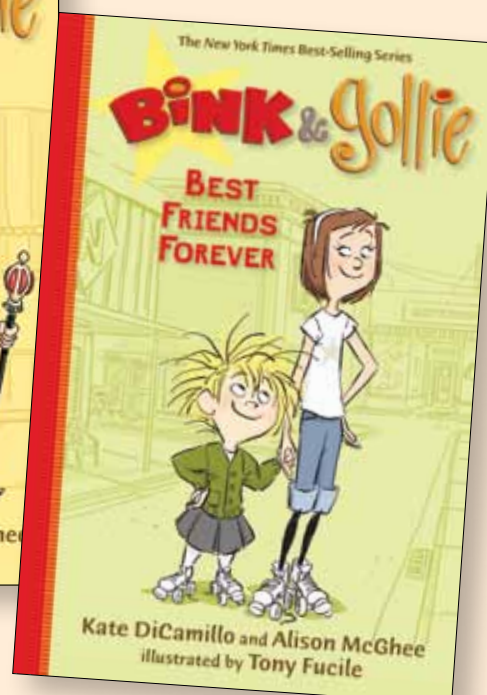
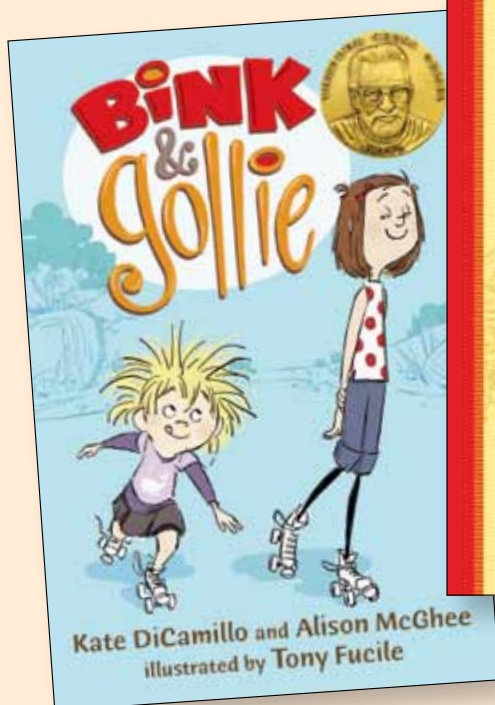
Bink & Gollie: Two for One

Bink & Gollie: Best Friends

KATE DICAMILLO • ALISON MCGHEE • TONY FUCILE



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About the creators



KATE DiCAMILLO is the author of *The Magician's Elephant*, a *New York Times* bestseller; *The Tale of Despereaux*, which was awarded the Newbery Medal; *Because of Winn-Dixie*, a Newbery Honor winner; and six books starring Mercy Watson, including the Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride*. Kate DiCamillo lives in Minneapolis.



ALISON MCGHEE is the award-winning author of books for all ages, including *Song of Middle C*, illustrated by Scott Menchin; the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Someday*, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds; the young adult novel *All Rivers Flow to the Sea*; and the adult novel *Shadow Baby*, a *Today Book Club* selection. Alison McGhee lives in Minnesota.



TONY FUCILE is the author-illustrator of *Let's Do Nothing!* and the illustrator of Hallie Durand's *Mitchell's License*. He has spent more than twenty years designing and animating characters for cartoon feature films, including *The Lion King*, *Finding Nemo*, and *The Incredibles*. He lives in the San Francisco Bay area.



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Bink & Gollie

Meet Bink and Gollie, two BFFs as different as can be. One's short, and one's tall. One's blonde, and one's brunette. One loves outrageously bright striped socks, and one can't stand looking at them! At least they both know how to compromise . . . and roller-skate!

Invite students to join this mismatched pair as they battle their way through a "sock bonanza," scale a mountain, and give a goldfish a marvelous new home. These two remarkable companions can accomplish anything — as long as they're together.

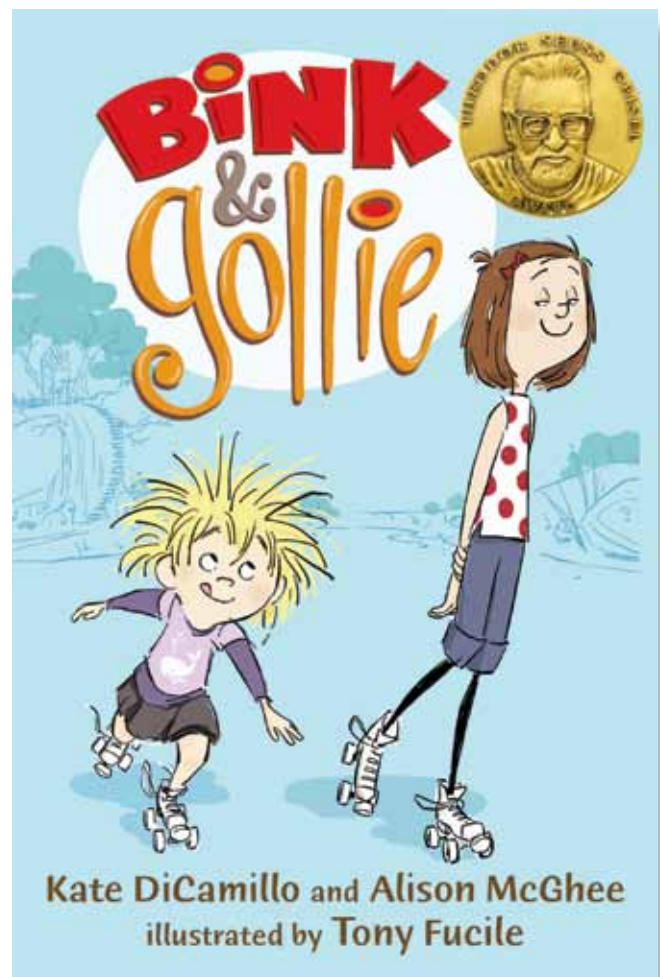
Designed to engage young readers and extend the themes and concepts found in *Bink & Gollie* into cross-curriculum instruction, the following activities will help students get to know these two wonderfully different, yet strikingly similar friends.



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Kate DiCamillo
and
Alison McGhee

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Classroom Activities

Bink & Gollie & Math

Bink is short and Gollie is tall. How does your class measure up?

Materials:

White butcher paper
Tape
Markers
Tape measure

Instructions:

Tape a large piece of butcher paper along one wall. Have students look at the cover of *Bink & Gollie*. Ask them to think about the difference in height between Bink and Gollie. Have them draw a life-size likeness of Bink at one end of the paper and one of Gollie at the other. Measure and record each character's height. Then line up the class in height order, using Bink and Gollie as a reference. Have students take turns tracing one another with a marker on the butcher paper. When the drawings are complete, ask each student to measure his or her height and compare it to Bink's and Gollie's. Finally, invite students to decorate and color their traced selves. Hang the size chart in the hallway for the whole school to see!



Bink & Gollie & Science

On page 76, Bink tells Gollie to use her gray matter to figure out who her most marvelous companion is. Explain to students that gray matter is gray-colored tissue in people's brains that helps them think. Have them follow the steps below to make their own "gray matter." Note that three different substances combine to make a very different fourth substance. It won't really help them think, but it's gooey and fun to play with!

Each student will need these materials:

Materials:

1 cup water
½ cup white glue
1 tablespoon borax
Mixing bowl
Plastic bags

Directions:

Mix ½ cup water and ½ cup glue in a mixing bowl. In a separate bowl, mix ½ cup water and 1 tablespoon of borax. Add the borax solution to the glue mixture. Using your hands, knead for five minutes. Make sure you store the "gray matter" in a plastic bag so it doesn't dry out.



Bink & Gollie & Social Studies

Gollie uses a globe to pick out a spot for her next adventure. She closes her eyes, spins her globe, and points. Her finger lands on the Andes Mountains, and for next few hours she entertains herself by imagining what it would be like to climb a snow-covered mountain.

Have your students explore the globe and go on exciting worldwide adventures without leaving the classroom. Ask each student to choose a different place on a globe or map. Allow them time to look up fun things to do in each destination. Then have students design a scrapbook page using words and drawings that show themselves enjoying their journey. Invite them to share their adventures with the class.

Bink & Gollie & Language Arts

The next three activities, are designed as reproducibles to be handed out to your class.

My Marvelous Companion

Bink and Gollie are very different, but they are still best friends.
Read the paragraph below. Then fill in the blanks with words and phrases describing your relationship with your own best friend.

My most marvelous companion is _____.

Our favorite thing to do together is _____.

Some ways we are alike are _____,
_____, and _____.

Some ways we are different are _____,
_____, and _____.

I can't wait to see my best friend next because we are going to
_____.

Sometimes we argue about _____.

But we always make up because _____
_____.

Use your answers in the paragraph above to help you write a story about what would happen if you and your most marvelous companion were both stranded on a desert island and had to live together in a tree house.



A Perfect Pair

In *Bink & Gollie*, many things come in pairs. Look at the items in the left-hand column. Then draw lines to their partners in the right-hand column.



Bink & Gollie

TWO FOR ONE

Step right up! Bink and Gollie are back!
This time, everyone's favorite
marvelous companions enjoy an
exciting day at the state fair.

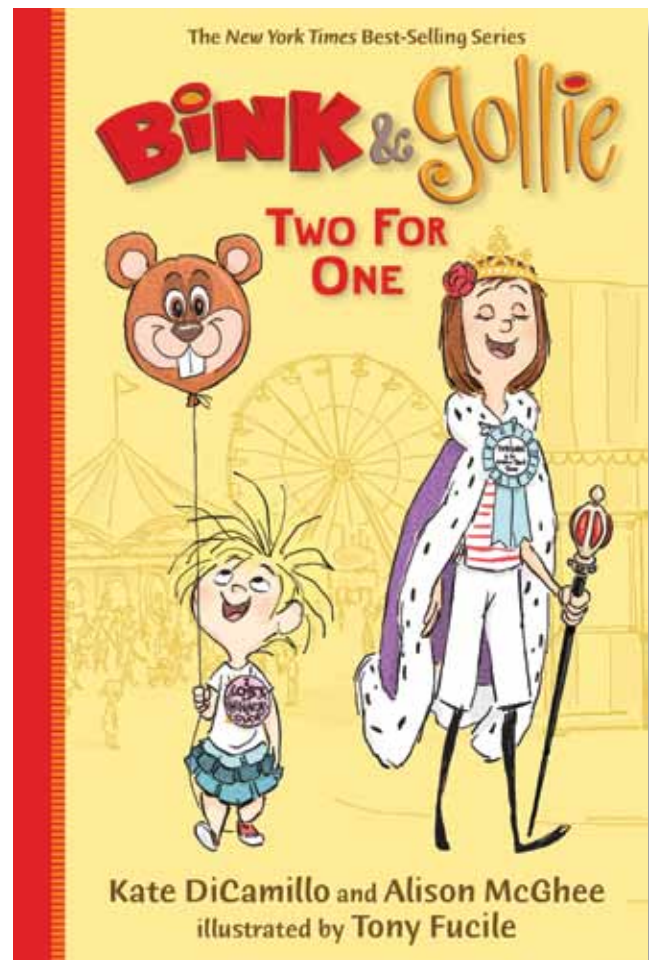
Join these wonderfully different yet
strikingly similar BFFs as they tackle
seemingly impossible carnival games,
overcome stage fright in a unique way,
and find out that the future is not
so different from the past.

Here are some activities to help
you extend the book's themes and
concepts across the curriculum.



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Tony Fucile



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Adding Ducks, Dollars, and Donuts

Bink is determined to win the world's biggest donut by playing Whack-a-Duck at the state fair. Point out to the class that she is allowed to throw three balls for \$1.00 (page 4). But when Bink doesn't win, she buys three bags of mini donuts (page 23). Ask students if mini donuts cost \$1.00 a bag, how much does Bink spend both buying and trying to win donuts at the fair?

After solving this problem as a class, invite students to create their own math story problems based on events in the book. Have students take turns presenting their story problems for the class to solve.



Fair-a-Palooza

Signs, flyers, and billboards inform Bink and Gollie about the state fair. Have your class write and illustrate a poster advertising your state fair. Help students research such facts as:

- the fair's dates and location
- competitions
- prizes and awards
- featured animals and food
- types of rides and shows

Invite students to design a logo and slogan for the fair and to include the information they learned while researching, using a combination of words and pictures. Invite students to share their posters with the class, then hang them around the classroom.

E-I-E-I-O

In *Bink and Gollie: Two for One*, Gollie recites her poem perfectly to a barn full of cows at the state fair. Help your class research the variety of animals that can be found at your state fair. When the research is done, you can invite students to create a bulletin board to showcase the animals they have learned about.



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A Day at the State Fair

Join Bink and Gollie at the state fair by filling in the blanks below. Be sure to use your gray matter to think of the most descriptive and unique words to complete your story. You can use words that are serious, silly, strange, or a combination of all three!



It's finally time for the _____ State Fair again!
(statename)

I have been going every year since I was _____ years old. I can't wait
(number)

to go this year because I am going with my best _____,
(plural noun)

Bink and Gollie. The first thing I want to do is try to _____ a
(verb)

_____ prize. I hope I win a _____
(adjective) (noun)

this year!

Last year, _____ performed. But I bet the
(name of band or singer)

_____ will be even better this year!
(noun)

After we _____ some delicious food, I want to
(verb)

ride the _____. I hope Bink and Gollie don't get
(noun)

_____. I know I won't!
(adjective)

Before we go home, I want to buy myself a souvenir
_____, a _____
(noun) (animal)

balloon for Bink, and a _____ costume for Gollie.
(favorite character)

I know that our trip to the _____ is going to
(event)

be one of the best days of my life!



Top-Quality Talent



Gollie has many talents. However, when she is in front of an audience at the state fair talent show, she gets stage fright and runs off the stage. What would have happened if Gollie did *not* get stage fright? How would the story have ended differently? Rewrite the chapter "You're Special, Aren't You?" as a comic strip that shows how you think the story would turn out with your alternate ending.

Bink & Gollie

Best Friends Forever

by Kate DiCamillo
and Alison McGhee

illustrated by
Tony Fucile

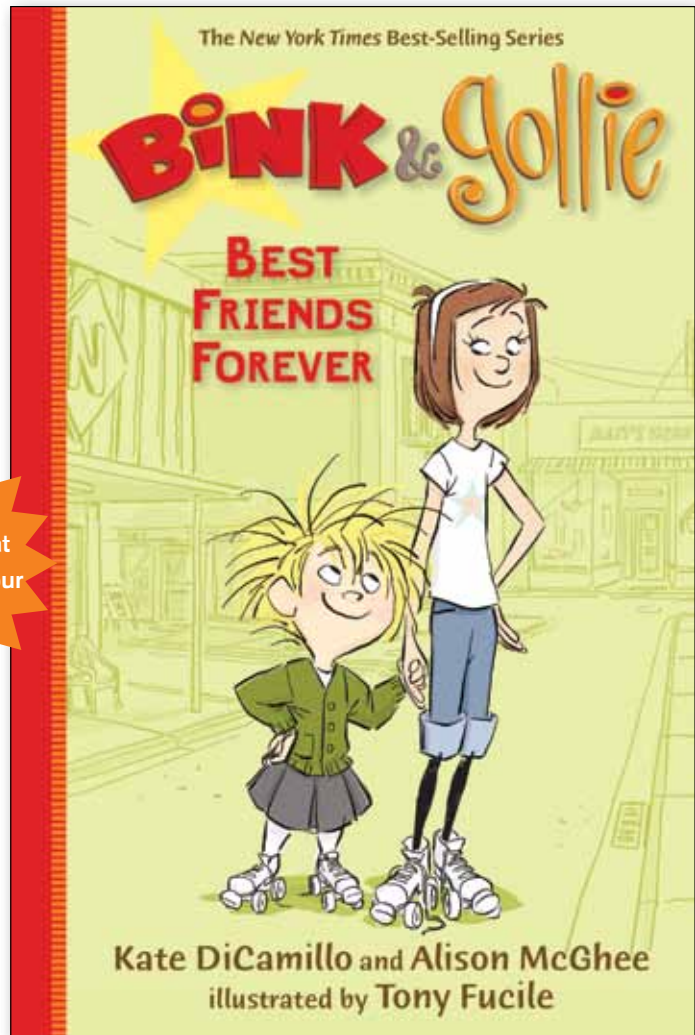
Classroom
activities that
connect to your
curriculum!

Introduction

Bink and Gollie are back at it again! Join the charming, award-winning duo as they test the waters of their friendship, try to grow in more ways than one, start the ultimate collection, and eat pancakes, of course. Help celebrate the tall and short of a marvelous friendship with activities based on Bink and Gollie's third adventure — designed to engage young readers as well as extend the themes and concepts found in *Bink & Gollie: Best Friends Forever* across your curriculum.

Common Core Connections

The Reading Standards for Literature in the Common Core State Standards state that students in grade 1 should be able to "describe characters . . . in a story using key details" and that students in grade 2 should be able to "acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters." Use the "Best Friends Compare and Contrast" activity with your students to encourage them to think about what they know about Bink and Gollie.



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**All righty, then — let's get
these activities started!**



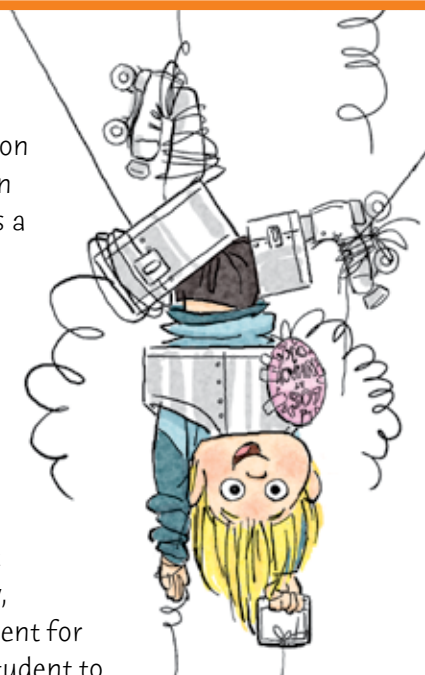
Royally Good Content-Area Classroom Activities

Kudos for Math

When it comes to size, Bink and Gollie couldn't be more different. Help students measure different-size objects in your classroom and at home using nonstandard measurements. Let each student trace one of his or her hands on construction paper, then cut out the hand shape, and use it to measure various items around the classroom and at home. Before students measure each object, ask them to estimate how many of their hands they think it will measure. Then have students take the hand-length measurement and figure out the difference between their estimates and the actual length.

Kudos for Science

In the book, an ad for the Acme Stretch-o-Matic asks the question "Why should you be shorter than your friends?" Bink thinks this is a good question, so she buys the "top quality" machine. Ask your students to think of something that frustrates them. Then have them design a machine to address the situation or issue that causes their frustration. Ask them to draw a picture of what the machine looks like, list its features, and name it. Finally, have them create an advertisement for their machine and invite each student to present their machine to the rest of the class.



Kudos for Social Studies

While researching her family history, Gollie discovers that her great-aunt Natasha was a queen. Ask your students to learn about their own family's past by creating a family tree. Encourage students to be creative by interviewing family members; researching online; using pictures, drawings, and maps; and uncovering family heirlooms, lore, and stories. Ask students to take turns talking about their family and what makes it special.



Kudos for Language Arts

From international garden gnomes to giant tinfoil balls to massive amounts of marbles, collections are something Bink and Gollie love. Read "Kudos, Bink and Gollie" aloud. Then ask your class to think of a collection they have or would like to start. Have your students write a paragraph about their collection and illustrate it. Combine all the collection descriptions into a class volume of *Flicker's Arcana*. Be sure to decorate the cover with gold star stickers, of course.

Best Friends Compare and Contrast

Bink and Gollie are a lot alike, but they are also very different.
In the boxes below, draw pictures of Bink and Gollie.
Then answer the questions that follow.



Bink

Gollie

What are two ways Bink and Gollie are alike?

What are two ways Bink and Gollie are different?

How do Bink and Gollie's differences make them better friends?

Are you more like Bink or Gollie? How?

Think of one of your friends. Is he or she more like Bink or Gollie? How?

Bink and Gollie Word Scramble

Uh-oh! The letters in some of the most important words from *Bink & Gollie: Best Friends Forever* got mixed up. Use your gray matter to unscramble the words. If you get stuck, look through the book for inspiration. Once you've fixed all the words, the boxed letters will spell out Bink and Gollie's favorite thing.

paunet ubrtet	_____	<input type="text"/>	_____
qunee	_____	<input type="text"/>	_____
sknacaep	_____	<input type="text"/>	_____
hserttc	_____	<input type="text"/>	_____
lkicfre	<input type="text"/>	_____	_____
otylayr	<input type="text"/>	_____	_____
neicctooll	_____	<input type="text"/>	_____
elorlr taksse	_____	_____	<input type="text"/>
nenetcmnhat	_____	<input type="text"/>	_____
dusok	_____	<input type="text"/>	_____

Bink and Gollie's favorite thing is a:



Answers: peanut butter; queen; pancakes; stretch; Flicker; royalty; collection; roller skates; enchantment; kudos. Hidden words: best friend

Royalty Rules

When Gollie makes the extraordinary discovery that her great-aunt Natasha was a queen, she tells Bink that she will no longer be making pancakes for her since, as she regretfully informs her, “royalty does not cook for others” (page 12). If you were to find out that you were a queen or king, what tasks would you inform your friends and family you wouldn’t be doing anymore?

As ruler of this empire, I regret to inform you that I do not . . .

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

