

# **The Magnificent Mya Tibbs: Spirit Week Showdown**

by Crystal Allen

## **Annotation**

Nine-year-old Mya Tibbs is boot-scootin' excited for the best week of the whole school year—SPIRIT WEEK! She and her megapopular best friend, Naomi Jackson, even made a pinky promise to be Spirit Week partners so they can win the big prize: special VIP tickets to the Fall Festival! But when the partner picking goes horribly wrong, Mya gets paired with Mean Connie Tate—the biggest bully in school. And she can't get out of it.

Good gravy.

Now Naomi is friend-ending mad at Mya for breaking a promise—even though Mya couldn't help it—and everyone at school is calling Mya names. Can Mya work with Mean Connie to win the VIP tickets and get her best friend back?

## **Book Talk**

Read the first chapter to the students. Ask students, "How do you spot a bully?" Discuss what they think a bully looks like. Then read the next chapter. Make guesses on who you think the real bully is in the book.

## **Book Trailers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFo6-Q25QO8>

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://crystalallenbooks.com/>
- Twitter: @rcpjallen

## **Items to use in a library display**

- pennants
- cowgirl boots
- pictures of Annie Oakley
- Texas Star

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- *If you could give the book another title, what would it be?*
- *Which characters would you like to meet in real life?*
- *What do you wish was different about the ending?*
- *Would the book make a cool movie? Video game? TV show?*
- *What is one thing you could ask the author if you could talk to her?*

## **First Line of the Book**

*"I'm only wearing five braids to school today."*

## **Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

- *DK Biography: Annie Oakley* by Chuck Wills
- *Who Was Annie Oakley?* by Stephanie Spinner

## What to Read Next

- *Lola Levine: Drama Queen* by Monica Brown
- *The Great Pet Escape (Pets on the Loose!)* by Victoria Jamieson

## Other Books by this Author:

[How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy](#)

[The Laura Line](#)

[The Wall of Fame Game \(The Magnificent Mya Tibbs, #2\)](#)

[The Magnificent Mya Tibbs: Mya in the Middle](#)

[The Magic Hour](#)

## Additional Resources

- Music: She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ghd-xL5gAjc>  
You Done Stomped on My Heart by John Denver  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79FracPREK4&list=RD79FracPREK4&t=11>
- Poetry: *The Range Call* by Rhoda Sivell of Canada, 1912  
<http://www.cowboypoetry.com/cowgirl.htm#Range>
- Art/craft activity:
  - Make a yellow bracelet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah2KQGi8Swk>
  - How to Tie a Lasso: <https://www.wikihow.com/Tie-a-Lasso>
- Cheerleading techniques: <http://www.livestrong.com/article/432436-basic-step-by-step-for-cheerleading-routines/>

## MakerSpace Activities

- Bead jewelry for kids: <http://www.education.com/activity/beads-jewelry/>
- Friendship bracelets:  
<http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/kidscraftsactivitiesblog/2011/01/how-to-make-friendship-bracelets-easy-step-by-step-tutorial-for-kids/>
- Reader's Theater  
script: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oM0Hrf0dJNDBjBfRjdl88z9pvIZBH-ua60VsUwbaBsQ/edit>
- Interview with the author: <https://thebrownbookshelf.com/2016/01/26/happy-book-birthday-crystal-allen/>

## Book Study

Mya liked to tell taradiddles. Would you like hearing these nonsense stories or would you think they are more like lies? Can you tell one?

The author started each chapter with an illustration that hinted at what was going to happen. What did you think of this technique?

Nugget was willing to do Solo's math homework in exchange for his protection from name calling and to hang with the cool crowd. What would it take for you to agree to do someone else's homework or would you just walk away?

Skye and Starr are twins. Would you like to be one? Why or why not?

How did you feel about Nugget dropping his best friend, Fish, so he could team up with Solo?

Mya and her Dad were talking about the mistakes she made that led to her detention. What do you think Mya meant when she said, "I'm sorry, Dad. I'll try to make better mistakes tomorrow"?

Mya, Connie, and Nugget were all teased with these names – Mya Tibbs fibs, Mean Connie, and Word Nerd Nugget. If you or a friend were the victim, what would you do to stop this teasing?

Bullying occurred in this story. Have you been a victim or were you a bully? If so, how did this happen and has it been resolved?

Connie and Mya were partners for Spirit Week and decided to be "fake friends". Have you ever pretended to be a friend with someone? If so, did things turn out the way you wanted them to?

Mya betrayed Connie by telling Naomi some of their Spirit Week plans. Do you think her reason was good enough? Would or could you betray your partner?

Mya thought, "It hurts to lose your best friend, and when you do, you'll do anything to get him back." What do you think about this?

Would you like your school to sponsor a Spirit Week? Explain.

Has anything like Naomi's mechanical bull riding experience ever happened to you? If so, how did it turn out?

Mya's school had a random picking process for Spirit Week partners. Do you think students should be allowed to trade partners? If so, under what circumstances?

What do you think of pinkie promises?

Mya wanted so badly to be best friends with Naomi. Would you want to be best friends with Naomi? Why or why not?

Would you want to be friends with Mya? How about Connie? Why or why not?

When did you realize that Naomi only wanted to be friends with Mya because she was Nugget's sister? Has this happened to you?

A lot of kids thought Connie was mean and a bully. Do you think she acted this way? Explain.

Mya had lucky cowgirl boots. Do you or have you ever had a good luck charm? Do you think it works?

Nugget and Mya helped their dad in his store. Explain if you would like to help your Mom or Dad at their workplace.

Do you think Mya was right in roping and tying Naomi to stop her from going into Connie's art room? Why or why not? What did you think of her detention? Was it too severe or just right?

How did you feel about how Mya's parents handled her detention? As Mya's parent, what would you have said to her?

### **Lesson ideas**

Research women cowgirls and their accomplishments.

### **Name that Book**

"I think about the time I tried to swing across the dining-room table on the ceiling fan and pulled it clean out of the ceiling. We were out of glue, so Nugget used toothpaste to put it back up, but it fell down in the middle of dinner and smashed Mom's meat loaf. He took the blame." (p. 3)

"Girls back away from me like I stink. I'm looking for help, from anybody, as girls say that ugly nickname over and over on their way out of the restroom." (p. 59)

"All night Friday, and early Saturday morning, I sit on the floor in my bedroom and listen to sad country music. The songs seem to be written just for me - songs about how my best friend done left me and now I'm all alone, and all my exes live in Texas." (p. 67)

"Her words hit harder than any punch from Connie could have given me. I've got enough tears rushing to my eyes to fill the Atlantic Ocean, and I don't know if I'm crying because I'm angry or it it's because I now know the truth, or if I'm crying for Connie. Mr. Winky tweets his whistle, and everybody runs to line up." (p. 136)

"Dad's eyebrows rise as he nods. "It's been tough on your mom and me, waiting for both of you to come and talk to us. We know when things aren't going well for you. Things don't always go right out there in the world. But in here, at this table, we're family, and we help each other, understand? That's what families do." (p. 165-166)