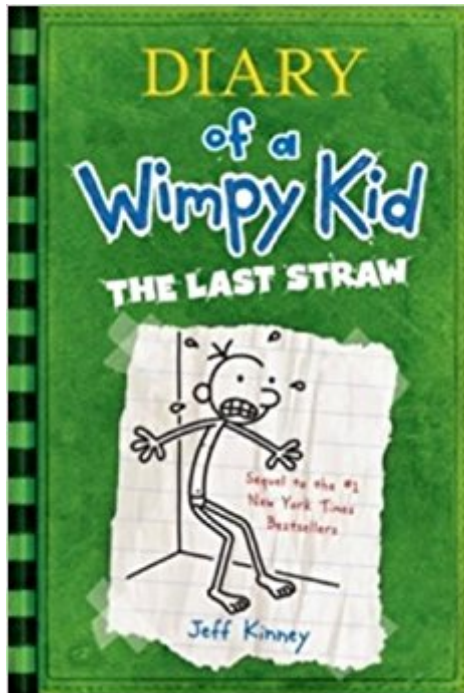




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# Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw (Book 3)



## Synopsis

Let's face it: Greg Heffley will never change his wimpy ways. Somebody just needs to explain that to Greg's father. You see, Frank Heffley actually thinks he can get his son to toughen up, and he enlists Greg in organized sports and other "manly" endeavors. Of course, Greg is able to easily sidestep his father's efforts to change him. But when Greg's dad threatens to send him to military academy, Greg realizes he has to shape up . . . or get shipped out.

Greg and his family and friends, who make the Diary of a Wimpy Kid books a must-read for middle school readers, are back and at their best in this hilarious new installment of the series, which is sure to please current fans while attracting new ones. This highly anticipated third book in the critically acclaimed and bestselling series takes the art of being wimpy to a whole new level.

Publishers Weekly-1/19/2009: The third book in this genre-busting series is certain to enlarge Kinney's presence on the bestseller lists, where the previous titles have taken up residence for the past two years. Kinney's spot-on humor and winning formula of deadpan text set against cartoons are back in full force. This time, Greg starts off on New Year's Day (he resolves to "help other people improve," telling his mother, "I think you should work on chewing your potato chips more quietly") and ends with summer vacation. As he fends off his father's attempts to make him more of a man (the threat of military school looms), Greg's hapless adventures include handing out anonymous valentines expressing his true feelings ("Dear James, You smell"), attempting to impress his classmate Holly and single-handedly wrecking his soccer team's perfect season. Kinney allows himself some insider humor as well, with Greg noting the "racket" children's book authors have going. "All you have to do is make up a character with a snappy name, and then make sure the character learns a lesson at the end of the book." Greg, self-centered as ever, may be the exception proving that rule. Ages 8-12.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

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For those wondering why tween boys don't read very much, the answer is that more books aren't like this. In this third (but not last, despite the subtitle's implication) series entry, Greg Heffley, the Georgia Nicolson of American middle-school males, is just trying to get through life. In hilarious diary entries, he details his attempts to get along with his brothers; a potential romance; and his dad's futile efforts to turn him into a jock, which reinforce Kinney's well-realized theme that grown-ups just don't get it. While diary may not be the most macho term, as Greg will be the first to tell you, the format certainly hooks the target audience with its printlike font, straightforward language, and copious cartoons. As the book opens,

Greg is eschewing New Year's resolutions: "It's not easy for me to think of ways to improve myself, because I'm already pretty much one of the best people I know." And while it is clear to all that he is no saint, he is real, and many kids will agree with that self-assessment. Grades 5-8. --Andrew Medlar

Brought these for my 10 year old son years ago. He loves these books. He wanted the completed series ---- so one by one, we've collected the series. He's now 16 and still loves to read these books.

I can only say that our grandson likes to read them, so he's reading. I've heard some negative remarks regarding some of the name calling in these books. I believe that the name calling can be a tool for learning. It evokes conversation . Conversation results in sharing of thoughts and helping young minds determine right from wrong; cause and effect. It's a plus all around.

I like it because it is funny and has Greg in many situations that he can't get out of and at the end he ends up making a thought of going out on a date with the new girl in town but there is another problem with Rowley that Greg is thinking the same thing so they are either going to fight over her or decide who gets to go out with her without making a scene to embarrass themselves. Also at the end I thought Greg's dad would be so mad the whole book because of what he all did but it actually turned out they figured it out on their own. I thought it was a great book because of the stuff he tries to get out of without him getting in trouble.

Thanks for this funny, creative story which entertains our seven-year-old boy every time it is read aloud to him. He has incorporated story-telling into his repertoire as he recounts different incidents. He decided to give himself similar situations, family members, friends and uses different names for them. For example, he (although an onlychild, in reality) now has an older brother (17) whose name is Alex. Alex is often not to be found at home because he is involved with his same age friend and will be gone overnight to a "sleepover". Thank you, Jeff Kinney, for your intelligence, creativity and ability to put yourself in the shoes of little boys and bigger boys and their situations and learning experiences.

If your kids know and love Jeff Kinney's bestselling 'Wimpy Kid' books, this latest installment will not disappoint. If you and your family haven't yet read these hilarious cartoon novels, let this

green-bound book be your delicious introduction. In "The Last Straw" we rejoin middle school student Greg Heffley journaling his frank opinions about school, suburbia and his own zany family. But unlike Harriet the Spy, another intrepid chronicler of everyday American life, Greg's greatest ripostes are at his own expense. He cheerfully confesses to an attempt to make change from the church collection plate and also describes digging up a time capsule and pocketing the contents. (There's an especially funny reflection about the dilemma of a young man with no clean underwear except a worn Speedo and a pair of Wonder Woman Underoos.) Happily unethical, young Greg is always searching for the shortcuts in life. For example, after he signs up with Boy Scout Troop 133, he is dismayed to learn he must earn a 'whittling badge.' Greg determines he can squeeze the soap into shapes instead of carving it. After turning in a soap with four protuberances as a "sheep" Greg then turns it upside down and resubmits it as "the Titanic." While Greg will never make Eagle Scout, he does remain true to himself and his fear of sharp objects. One of the best things about this best-selling series is how addictive the books are to young people, even the reluctant reader. If your child enjoys this book, he or she will happily move on to the original, red-bound "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," (\$[...]) and the second in the series, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules" (\$[...]) There's also the fun "Diary of a Wimpy Kid Do-It-Yourself" book (\$[...]) This orange-bound book will get your child to journal and answer some rather tough questions. A sample: True or False: Have you ever peed a swimming pool? It's interesting to note that Kinney, a former college cartoonist, worked on his Wimpy Kid concepts for six years before publishing in installments on [...] To date, the online version has had more than 70 million visits. Having won a vast online and print audience, 'Wimpy Kid' is expected to move to the big-screen, with a casting call now underway for the film version of Greg Heffley's adventures. [...] As with Charlie Brown creator Charles Schultz, Kinney's work revolves around childhood events like the school Valentine party, sibling rivalry, or warming the bench during the big game. But unlike Schultz, Kinney suggests that being the underdog is not so bad. In fact, the underdog may even get the last laugh in the end--or at least avoid military school. Time will tell if Kinney's works deserve to be ranked with Schultz' Peanuts gang, or with Bill Watterson's Calvin & Hobbes series, for that matter. In the short term, these books will be a rollicking, well-read addition to your family bookshelf.

My 7 yr old loves this book and the entire series.

This book is very interesting and keeps you occupied when you're bored! Such a funny book to read, relatable and fun. I recommend this book to kids from 4-8 grade

My grandson loves these books.

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