

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan book discussions, library programs, or classroom activities.

Meet Ohio author Ryan Gebhart and learn about his debut novel.

Select from a range of discussion questions and extension activities to deepen the experience of reading *There Will Be Bears*.

Discover read-alikes, informational texts and websites, and documentary videos to explore topics and themes in depth.

There Will Be Bears

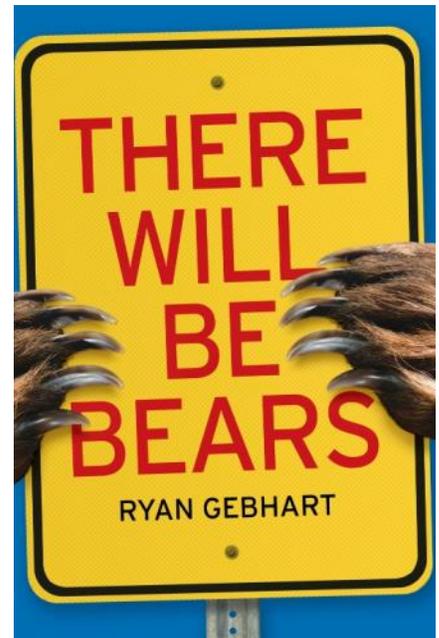
By Ryan Gebhart



About the Book

Thirteen-year-old Tyson loves hanging out with his roughneck Grandpa Gene, who's a lot more fun than Tyson's ex-best friend, Brighton. These days, Bright just wants to be seen with the cool jocks who make fun of Tyson's Taylor Swift obsession and dorky ways. So when Grandpa Gene has to move to a nursing home that can manage his kidney disease, Tyson feels like he's losing his only friend.

Not only that, but Tyson was counting on Grandpa Gene to take him on his first big hunt. So in defiance of Mom and Dad's strict orders, and despite reports of a scary, stalking, man-eating grizzly named Sandy, the two sneak off to the Grand Tetons. Yes, there will be action, like shooting and dressing a six-hundred-pound elk. Is Tyson tough enough? There will be heart-pounding suspense: is Grandpa Gene too sick to handle the hunt, miles away from help? And, oh yes, there will be bears. . .



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Book Details

There Will Be Bears by Ryan Gebhart.
Candlewick Press, 2014. ISBN 9780763665210. Ages 10+. 217 pages.
Leveled Reading: AR Points 6.0. ATOS Book Level 4.2. 640 Lexile.
candlewick.com/cat.asp?browse=Title&mode=book&isbn=0763665215

Available as an ebook through the Ohio Digital Library:
ohiodigitallibrary.com

Book Awards

- Association of Children's Librarians of Northern CA Distinguished Books
- Maine Student Book Award Master List
- New York State Reading Association Charlotte Award nominee
- Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Master List
- Texas Lone Star Reading List



Author photo and biographical information courtesy Candlewick Press; used with permission.

About the Author

Ryan Gebhart was born and raised in Maumee, Ohio, and graduated from Ohio University with a master's degree in Spanish. Having held twenty-one jobs in his life, he can do lots of unexpected things, from wiring a house to painting portraits to quartering large game to making a fierce smoothie. ***There Will Be Bears*** was inspired by a gig working at a hunting ranch in western Wyoming. Ryan Gebhart lives in Ohio.

Author Resources

Ryan Gebhart's Twitter handle [@RyanGebhart](https://twitter.com/RyanGebhart)

All For Kids: An Interview with Fearless Fifteeners' Krista Van Dolzer
fearlessfifteeners.wordpress.com/2014/04/23/all-four-kids-an-interview-with-ryan-gebhart-author-of-there-will-be-bears/

Ryan Gebhart answers *There Will Be Bears* questions (video)
youtu.be/t0-yjCHfywQ

For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:
Contact appearances@candlewick.com

Talk About It

*Topics to share when discussing ***There Will Be Bears*** with teens.*

Spoiler warning! Some discussion questions refer to key elements in the book. Do not read if you do not want to find out what happens.

- Although there are serious themes in this book, there are also humorous elements. Why do you think the author put funny sections (such as the prune game) in the book?
- Why was it so important to Tyson to hunt an elk?
- How do you feel about hunting?
- When do you feel a person crosses over from childhood to adulthood? Does your family have a tradition or ritual to celebrate becoming an adult?
- Tyson believes that revenge is best served with prune juice. Do you think that is a fitting punishment?
- What role did the financial situation of Tyson's family play in the book?
- Why did his grandfather have to be sent to a nursing home?
- Brighton betrays his friend by revealing Tyson's deepest secrets to fit in with the popular kids at school. Was it worth it? How did that impact Tyson and his social life?
- Do you think Tyson and his grandfather were wrong to lie about their trip? Why or why not? What if something had gone wrong?
- How did Tyson feel when he learned that Gene was not his biological grandfather? Did it matter to him? How do you define family?

Go Further

Ideas for extending the experience of reading **There Will Be Bears**.

Educators: Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. Other Learning Standards, such as Science: Life Science (Grade 8) and Social Studies: Economics and Financial Literacy (HS) may also apply. Discussion questions and educational activities for **There Will Be Bears** align with Learning Standards for Grades 5-10.

Librarians, parents, and others: These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, education.ohio.gov. From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Ohio's Learning Standards."

- **There Will Be Bears** is written as a first person narrative. Discuss reasons why you believe Gebhart chose to write in this perspective. Is Tyson an effective and fitting narrator for the story? Select and rewrite scenes from **There Will Be Bears** using other perspectives or points of view. (Example: when Tyson runs to the Privetts' house during the prune juice cleanse.)
- The Grand Tetons are a major setting in the book. Use a map to determine the location of the Grand Tetons. Are there any major landmarks near this mountain range? What is the elevation and terrain of the area? Where is the closest hospital? Using online resources available to students through INFOhio (infohio.org) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library (ohioweblibrary.org), research the history of Grand Teton National Park.
- Tyson's parents are afraid that Sandy, the man-eating grizzly bear, will attack him and his grandpa during their hunting trip. Research grizzly bears and note characteristics such as height, weight, life span, temperament, top speed, sense of smell, how long cubs stay with their mother, and how widely adult bears range. Which grizzly bear traits are most beneficial for their survival? Create a poster or presentation to educate park visitors on what to do if they encounter a grizzly bear, and how to survive or prevent a grizzly bear attack. Include an "Important Facts" section about grizzly bears.
- Tyson wants to take one epic adventure with his grandfather. If money were not a limitation, what epic trip would you take? Who would you go with? Why? Create a travel itinerary including what you would do/see, how long you would travel, and a budget. Plan where you would stay, and what you would need to bring. Would you need a passport, travel visa, immunizations, or to convert money?
- Brighton wants his new friends, the jocks, to like him, so he tells them all of Tyson's secrets. Brighton then invites Tyson over to be mocked by the jocks. What social groups exist in your school? What would it take to break down barriers and change the behavior of social groups? What have you done, and what actions will you take in the future, to help create a more inclusive community?
- Write an essay about a time when you or someone you know chose silence or inaction over speaking up in a difficult or uncomfortable situation. What was the harm in not doing or saying anything? What did you learn from that experience and how will that knowledge influence your actions in the future? (From the 2016 Maltz Museum Stop the Hate® Essay Contest: maltzmuseum.org/stop-the-hate/contest/theme/)

Check It Out

Teen and Middle Grade novels with similar themes to **There Will Be Bears**.

Of Jenny and the Aliens by Ryan Gebhart. Candlewick Press, 2017.

Alabama Moon by Watt Key. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.

Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip by Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic, 2012.

Dan Versus Nature by Don Calame. Candlewick, 2016.

Double Eagle by Sneed B. Collard III. Peachtree, 2009.

Take Me to the River by Will Hobbs. HarperCollins, 2011.

Explore More

Additional ideas and resources to use with **There Will Be Bears**.

Grand Teton National Park

nps.gov/grte/learn/photosmultimedia/index.htm

Official photo gallery and multimedia resources from the Grand Teton National Park. Users can also take virtual tours of several of the park's hiking trails from the comfort of their computers.

Official information on the Grand Teton National Park Elk Management Program:

nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/elkhunt.htm

"13 Amazing Coming of Age Traditions from Around the World" by Leticia Pfeffer and Christina Nuñez

globalcitizen.org/en/content/13-amazing-coming-of-age-traditions-from-around-th

Tyson views the tradition of participating in the annual elk hunting trip at age 13 as his family's coming-of-age rite of passage. Families and communities around the world celebrate the passage from childhood into adulthood in many ways.

"Elk Stalking in the Rockies" by Isabella Rozendaal

isabellahunts.com/usa-rockies

Isabella Hunts is a project about modern hunting cultures around the world. Documentary filmmaker Isabella Rozendaal went on an elk hunt in Wyoming. Her 1940's hunting camp is accessible by horseback only and has no running water or electricity. Her photographs depict elk being quartered and packed out.

"The Top 7 Benefits of Prunes and Prune Juice" on Healthline

healthline.com/health/food-nutrition/top-benefits-of-prunes-prune-juice

Prune juice is made from dried plums (prunes), which contain many nutrients that can contribute to good health. The Cleveland Clinic recommends drinking 2 tablespoons of the following mixture everyday: 1 cup apple sauce, 1 cup unprocessed wheat bran, and 3/4 cups prune juice.

How to Survive a Grizzly Attack

Two videos demonstrating how to survive a grizzly bear attack.

National Geographic: "How to Survive a Grizzly Attack."

youtu.be/lsEGWV5JXuw

Good Morning America: "How to Survive a Bear Attack" (Episode 1).

youtu.be/Cs9vGLWM_F4

Grizzly Bear Facts and Myths

Many myths surround grizzly bears. The Get Bear Smart Society has compiled a list of 15 common myths about bears, and the truths to these myths.

bearsmart.com/about-bears/dispelling-myths/

Defenders of Wildlife also provides an information fact sheet about grizzly bears:

defenders.org/grizzly-bear/basic-facts

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits:
library.ohio.gov/ctro.

THERE WILL BE BEARS.
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