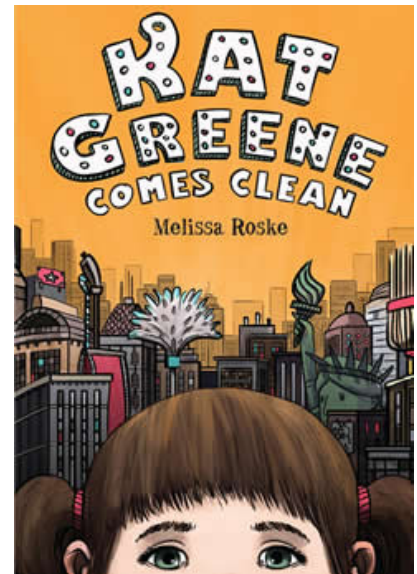


A Curriculum Guide for Educators & Readers

Aligned to the Common Core Grades 4-7

Discussion points, activities, and writing prompts to help educators use *Kat Greene Comes Clean* as a classroom read aloud or as a selection for independent reading. Great for book clubs, too!



About the Author



Melissa Roske is a writer of contemporary middle-grade fiction. Before spending her days with imaginary people, Melissa interviewed real ones, as a journalist in Europe. In London, she landed a job as an advice columnist for *Just Seventeen* magazine, where she answered hundreds of letters from readers each week. Upon returning to her native New York, Melissa contributed to several books and magazines, selected jokes for *Reader's Digest*, and got certified as a life coach. She lives in Manhattan with her husband, daughter, and the occasional dust bunny. Visit her at www.melissaroske.com.

Guide content © Copyright 2017 by Marcie Colleen. Available free of charge for educational use only;; may not be published or sold without express written permission. Marcie Colleen is an education guide creator and a former teacher with a BA in English Education from Oswego State and MA in Educational Theater from NYU. Marcie can often be found writing her own books at home in San Diego, California. Visit her at <http://www.thisismarciecolleen.com/>.

About the Book

Eleven-year-old Kat Greene has a lot on her pre-rinsed plate, thanks to her divorced mom's obsession with cleaning. When Mom isn't scrubbing every inch of their Greenwich Village apartment, she's boiling the silverware or checking Kat's sheets for bedbugs. It's enough to drive any middle schooler bananas! Add friendship troubles to the mix, a crummy role in the school production of *Harriet the Spy*, and Mom's decision to try out for "Clean Sweep," a competitive-cleaning TV game show, and what have you got? More trouble than Kat can handle—at least without a little help from her friends.

Common Core Aligned for Grades 4-7

4th grade: ELA. RL.4.1,2,3,4,6,7; W.4.1,2,3; SL.4.1,2,4; L.4.4,5

5th grade: ELA. RL.5.1,2,3,4,6,7; W.5.1,2,3; SL.5.1,2,4,5; L.5.4,5

6th grade: ELA. RL.6.1,2,3,4; W.6.1,2,3,4,7,8,9; SL.6.1,2,3,4,5; L.6.4,5

7th grade: ELA. RL.7.1,2,4; W.7.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9; SL.7.1,2,3,4,5; L.7.4,5

Before You Read...

1. Take a close look at the front cover of *Kat Greene Comes Clean*. Create a list of everything you see.
2. Can you make any predictions about the main character, Kat Greene? What from the illustration and title of the book supports your prediction?
3. Can you predict what this book might be about?
4. Read the text on the jacket flap and the quote from author Erin Dionne on the back of the book. What do you learn about the book from this text?
5. Look closely at the design of the book: the colors, text, illustrations, and word choice. How would you describe the design?
6. Who do you think is the intended audience for this book? If you saw this book on the shelf, would you want to read it? Why or why not?

Write one paragraph describing your thoughts about the book, and include one question you have that you hope to learn the answer to when you read. Share your paragraph with the class.

Chapters 1-7

1. Using specific examples from Chapter One as evidence, explain how Kat is affected by her mother's cleaning.
 - a. Why does Kat leave for school angry at the beginning of the book?
 - b. Do you think she had a reason to be mad at her mother? Support your answer using examples from the text.
2. Kat goes to the Village Humanity School. Choose three words to describe the school.
3. What is the Harriet project?
 - a. Why is Kat unhappy about the assignment?
 - b. Why is Halle happy about the assignment?
4. Why does Kat not want to tell her dad about her mother's recent cleaning habits?
5. Write a diary entry regarding the incident in the supermarket from the point of view of one of the following characters:
 - a. Kat's mother
 - b. Madeline
 - c. Madeline's mother
 - d. A store clerk
6. What do you think Kat's mother means when she says, "It's tacky to air your dirty laundry in public?"
 - a. Do you think talking to Olympia would be considered "tacky"? Why or why not?
 - b. Why does Kat trash the email to Olympia?

Who is Kat?

Draw an outline of a human figure, which will represent Kat, on a large piece of paper.

Using Chapters 1-7 as evidence, write any known details about Kat inside the outline.

Outside the outline, record any questions you may have about Kat.

- c. Is there someone else you would recommend Kat talk to?
7. Describe *Clean Sweep* in your own words.
- a. Do you, or do you not, think it is a good idea for Kat's mom to apply to be a contestant on the game show? Explain your answer.

Making Connections:

Kat says on page 17, "If Harriet's taught me one thing, it's that you don't want those closest to you to know *everything* you're thinking. It will only land you in trouble."

What do you think is meant by this quote?

How do you think this quote relates to Kat's situation?

Do you agree with the quote? Do you share everything you are thinking with those closest to you? Why or why not?

Chapters 8-14

1. Olympia suggests that Kat try talking to her mother about the situation, but Kat is having difficulty finding the words. Why?
 - a. Write a scene in which Kat talks to her mother. What does she say? How does her mother react?
 - b. Write a scene in which Kat talks to her father about the situation with her mother. What does Kat say? How does her father react?
 - c. If you were Kat, which parent would you prefer to talk to about the situation? Use information from your two written scenes above to support your answer.
2. Divide a piece of paper into two columns and create a pro/con list for Kat's mother becoming a contestant on *Clean Sweep*.
 - a. Write a four-paragraph opinion essay, choosing one side, using your above pro/con list to support your answer.

3. Halle wants Kat to ask Michael if he likes her. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?
4. Kat's dad asks Kat and Halle if they would be interested in babysitting for Kat's little brother, Henry, every weekend. It would be a regular gig like the Baby-Sitter's Club. Imagine that you are Kat and draft up a contract of what you would need in order to say yes to this offer.

Making Connections:

Sometimes talking openly and honestly about something can be difficult, because we don't want to hurt the person we need to talk to. Or maybe we are embarrassed to share what we are thinking or feeling. Or we fear the outcome if we were to talk about the problem.

How does Olympia create a safe environment for difficult discussions during her rap sessions?

Using Olympia's format as inspiration, create a list of ground rules that you feel are important to the success of a difficult conversation.

Examples could include:

1. Listen actively; respect others when they are talking.
2. Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing (i.e., "I" instead of "they," "we," and "you").
3. Participate to the fullest to ensure every voice is heard.

Create your list and share it with your classmates.

Chapters 15-22

1. Using the following bits of information, make inferences to determine how Kat's mother might feel about or be dealing with the divorce:
 - a. She does not want to see Kat's father when dropping Kat off at his apartment.
 - b. She has been cleaning a lot.

- c. She has stayed unemployed.
 - d. She wears the pearls Kat's father gave her on Mother's Day to the *Clean Sweep* dinner.
 - e. She decides to give away her wedding china.
2. Kat's mother wants to throw out Kat's Snapple cap collection. Why?
- a. Why do you think the collection means so much to Kat?
3. During their sleepover, Halle wants to prank call Michael. What is a prank call?
- a. Why does Halle want to prank Michael? Why does Kat not want to prank call Michael?
 - b. Prank calls are a nuisance and/or could hurt a person's feelings. Were Kat and Halle wrong to prank Michael?
 - c. Have you ever made or received a prank call? How did it make you feel?
4. What plan do Halle and Kat decide on regarding calling Michael?
- a. How does the plan backfire?
 - b. If you were Kat, how would you handle this new information?

Real Facts

You too can collect Snapple cap facts, just like Kat. Go to www.snapple.com/real-facts to read hundreds of them.

Choose ONE fact to research both online and in the library. Cite three different sources in support of the fact. At least one of your sources should be print, not online.

Once the information is gathered, create an illustrated poster about your chosen fact and research findings.

Present the poster to the class and hang it in the classroom.

Making Connections:

The phrase "come clean" is defined "to tell the truth about something that you have been keeping a secret." Explain what you think the title *Kat Greene Comes Clean* means.

List all the things that Kat might need to "come clean" about.

Why do you think it is important to confess the truth? Explain your answer using the following quote from *Harriet the Spy*. "People are hurt more by misunderstanding than anything else."

Chapters 23-29

1. Kat's mother decides to go on *Clean Sweep*. She thinks it might help her "channel her problem into something good." Do you think this is a good idea?
2. After the incident at the game show, Kat's mother stays in bed for the rest of the day, and the day after that. Why do you think she does this?
 - a. If you were Kat, how would you handle the situation? Would you tell Dad? Olympia?
 - b. What prompts Kat to finally ask for help?
3. What is the plan that Kat's dad and mom co-create to help Mom get better?
 - a. Why do you think it's best that Kat live with her dad during this time?
 - b. How is Kat's dad's house different from her *home-home*?
 - c. Imagine you are Kat and write an email home regarding your first night at your dad's.

Create Your Own Game Show

Game Shows have been around for almost as long as television. The first-ever TV game show, *Spelling Bee*, aired in 1938.

Some game shows ask contestants a series of trivia questions, while others use physical challenges. Some are informative, others are funny, and some are just plain weird!

Brainstorm game show ideas and create your own. Who would compete? What would they have to do? How would they win? What sort of prize would they receive?

Making Connections:

To help Kat communicate what is on her mind, Olympia introduces a jelly bean chain.

"Each jelly bean represents a thought. You'll take a jelly bean from the top, eat it, and then say the first thing that pops into your mind. You won't overthink your statement, and you won't pass judgment on it. You'll just talk. Then you'll move on to the next jelly bean."

Partner up with another student to create your own jelly bean chains. Instead of sharing feelings, however, you can share favorite characters and/or most enjoyed scenes from the book. If jelly beans are not permitted in the classroom, you may use buttons or some other item. Of course, don't eat the buttons! 😊

Chapters 30-37

1. Halle's mom winks at Kat's dad when they arrive at the apartment for Halloween. Kat wonders if Mrs. Maklansky and her dad know that Halle and Kat are fighting. Write a phone conversation between Halle's mom and Kat's dad in which they plan to get the girls together.
2. Explain the following *Harriet the Spy* quote in your own words. "There's a funny little hole in me that wasn't there before, like a splinter in your finger, but this is somewhere above my stomach."
 - a. Why do you think Kat can relate to this quote?
3. Why do you think Sam and Halle are bus partners on the field trip?
 - a. It isn't stated, but whom do you think Kat has as a bus partner? Explain your answer.
4. Kat's mother tells Bing Monroe "No, thank you" when he asks if she would like to return to *Clean Sweep*. How does Mom's answer show progress and healing?
5. What happens when Kat takes the talking stick and finally apologizes to Halle?
 - a. Why do you think Halle accepts Kat's apology this time, when she ignored her and wouldn't listen before?
6. During the Thanksgiving assembly, Kat looks out at her family in the audience and says, "And that's when I realize that The Boy with the Purple Socks isn't the only one who's changed." What do you think she means?
 - a. How have members of Kat's family changed?
7. Explain the following quote in your own words: "And maybe, just maybe, different is not so bad."
 - a. Support or oppose this quote using *Kat Greene Comes Clean*.
 - b. Support or oppose this quote using experiences from your own life.

After You Read...

Below are a few final project ideas for the conclusion of *Kat Greene Comes Clean*.

1. Revisit the cover illustration for the book. Explain the details that the artist chose to include, using textual evidence as support.

- a. Having now read the book, design your own cover illustration.
2. Several themes run through *Kat Greene Comes Clean*.

Family	Difficult Discussions
Honesty	Friendship

Choose one of these themes on which to base a 500-word essay.

What can readers take away from *Kat Greene Comes Clean* in relation to this theme?

3. Choose a character, other than Kat or someone in her family, and explore how he or she has changed from the beginning to the end.
4. Read the following summary of Louise Fitzhugh's *Harriet the Spy*:

Harriet M. Welsch is a spy. In her notebook, she writes down everything she knows about everyone, even her classmates and her best friends. Then Harriet loses track of her notebook, and it ends up in the wrong hands. Before she can stop them, her friends have read the always truthful, sometimes awful things she's written about each of them. Will Harriet find a way to put her life and her friendships back together?

Why do you think this book means so much to Kat? Can you see any similarities to her story?

5. Create a book trailer for *Kat Greene Comes Clean*. Carefully choose music, visuals, and words to create an overall feel for the book.