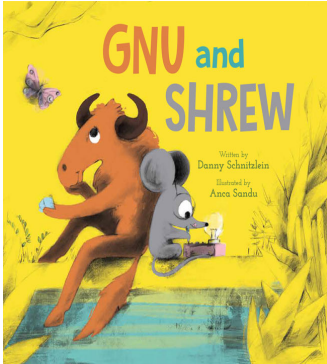




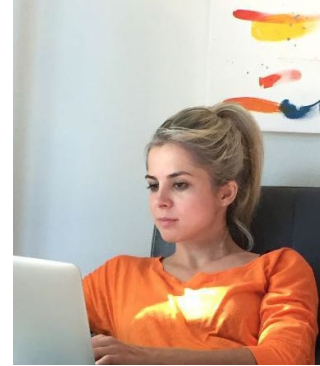
2021 – 2022  
Children's Book Award Finalist  
Elementary Grade Levels K-2



**Gnu and Shrew**  
*Peachtree Publishing  
Company*



**Danny Schnitzlein**  
*Author*



**Anca Sandu**  
*Illustrator*

### Summary

“When Gnu says that there’s a cave filled with diamonds across the river, Shrew is intrigued. But Gnu seems to be all talk, fantasizing about riches yet dismissing all of Shrew’s suggestions. As Gnu dreams his days away, tossing out one big idea after another, Shrew spends his nights trying to make those dreams a reality. Will Gnu’s big ideas ever be able to mesh with Shrew’s hard work to make something remarkable happen?” (amazon.com)

### Genre

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

### Book Conversation

After reading the story aloud, you may use the following questions to prompt a book conversation with students.

- Do Gnu and Shrew remind you of someone you know? Who are they?
- Has anyone tried to discourage you before? How do you respond?
- How does Gnu and Shrew’s friendship change by the end of the story?
- What problems did Shrew face when he was putting together his boat?

***Florida Statute 1003.42.2 requires that K-12 public school instructional staff teach specific character education, cultural, and historical topics. This book may assist teachers in partial fulfillment of that requirement.***

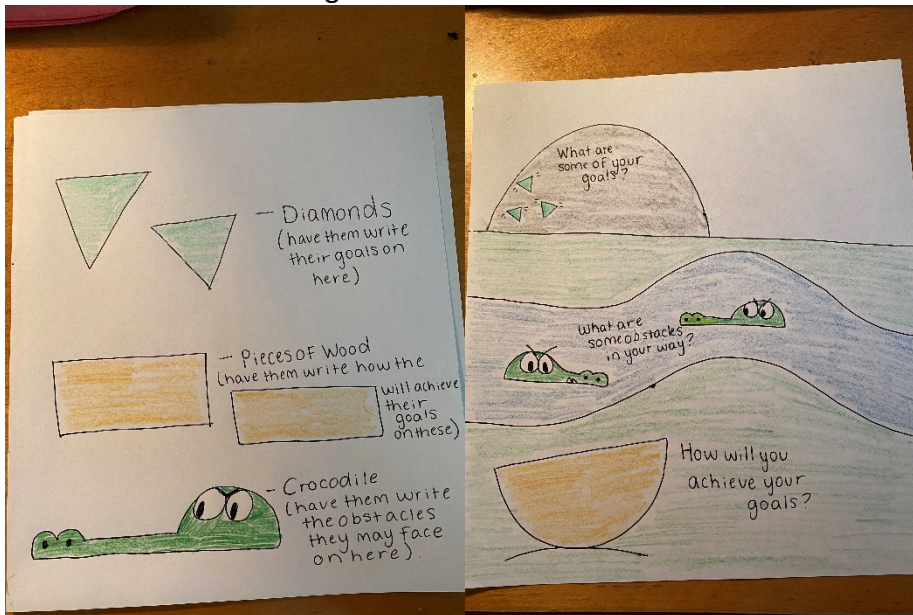
[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html)



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## Extension Activities

1. Have the class help you create a Venn Diagram comparing the two personalities of Gnu and Shrew. Ask how are they similar and different? What qualities do they share?
2. Create a poster with a cave, a boat, and a river in between. Then create slips of paper in the shapes of diamonds, pieces of wood, and crocodiles. Before reading the story, have the students write down their goals on the diamonds and tape them in the cave on the poster. Next, have them write down any obstacles they may face on the crocodiles and then tape them in the river on the poster. After reading the book, have the students write down ways they could achieve their goals on the pieces of wood and tape them to the boat. Ask them how Shrew achieved his goal.



Example of the cutouts

Example of the poster

3. Give the students a cutout of Gnu and Shrew. Have them write out the qualities that make a good friend on Shrew and the qualities that makes someone a bad friend on Gnu.

## Websites

Meet the Author- Danny Schnitzlein: <http://dannyschnitzlein.com/Danny.htm>

Meet the Illustrator: <http://www.ancasandu.com/About>

Watch a read aloud of the book: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_gji-POTvms](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gji-POTvms)

## Diversity and Multicultural Features

Illustrator: Born in Romania, female

Setting: African savannah