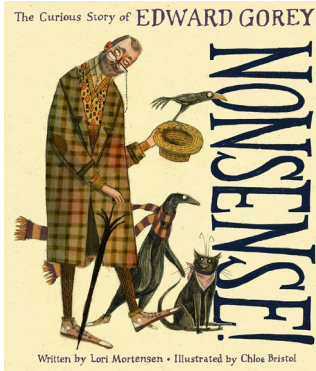




2021 – 2022
Children's Book Award Finalist
Elementary Grade Levels 3-5



**Nonsense! The Curious Story
of Edward Gorey**
Versify



Lori Mortensen
Author



Chloe Bristol
Illustrator

Summary

“Known for, among other things, wearing a large fur coat wherever he went, storyteller Edward Gorey was respected for both his brilliance and his eccentricity. As a child, he taught himself to read and skipped several grades before landing at Harvard (after a brief stint in the army). Then he built a name for himself as a popular book illustrator. After that, he went on to publish well over one hundred of his own books, stories that mingled sweetness and innocence, danger and darkness, all mixed with his own brand of silliness. Illustrated with Gorey-like humor and inspiration by Chloe Bristol, this stunning picture book biography about this beloved creator is the first for children.”
(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.

- What does illustrate mean? Have students share some of their favorite illustrators. Ask what it is about their style that they like about them?
- What was so special about the published names in Edward stories?
- How were Edwards books different from others? Are there any you can compare to today's books?
- What were some things that Edward accomplished at a young age? What did he do that helped him determine his life path? How could you connect something you like to do with determining your life path?



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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

Extension Activities

1. Since Edward came up with an author's name in a weird way, the students in the class can do the same with their names. Invite them to write a silly story using their new pen name.
2. In the stories, Edward was bullied and called names. The students will write all the names they have been called on a piece of paper and then crumble it up and throw it away.
3. Each student will have to write a spooky story and come up with illustrations to match the story line. They will also use one of the made-up names as the author.
4. There are unique drawings of people and characters in the book. The students could draw themselves as if they were a character in the book.

Websites

Author: <https://www.lorimortensen.com/>

Illustrator: www.chloebristol.com

read aloud: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_SnH18LA0

Study the top ten books by Edward Gorey: <https://www.amreading.com/2016/10/24/the-10-best-edward-gorey-books/>

Diversity and Multicultural Features

Author: female

Illustrator: female