

Stink It Up!



A Guide to
the Gross,
the Bad,
and the Smelly

Megan McDonald illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

Get Your Stink On!

Have you ever been slimed by an elephant booger the size of a basketball? Or fainted from the fumes of a 100-pound glob of whale vomit? Have you ever dined on hedgehog at a Roadkill Café or whipped up a whopping batch of reindeer poop? Sniff out all the facts here—the gross, the bad, and the smelly. All you have to do is turn the page . . . if you dare. No raincoat needed!



You've Been Skunked!

A book about stinky things has to start with the most famous smelly creature of all, don't you think? That would be—what else?—the skunk! Get a whiff of these skunk facts:

- * A bunch of skunks is called a stench. P.U.!
- * The word *skunk* comes from the Algonquian word *seganku*, which comes from the words for “to urinate” and “fox.”



DID YOU
KNOW?

The scientific name for skunk is *Mephitis mephitis*, which means "noxious gas, noxious gas." (It's so stinky, they had to say it twice!)

- * Skunks have a secret smelly weapon when they sense danger: skunk spray! The foul-smelling, stinging chemicals squirt out of scent glands on their rear end, smelling like rotten eggs, garlic, and burnt rubber.
- * Skunks eat bees! A hungry skunk will scarf down bees one by one as they come out of their hive. Yum, yum!



* Before spraying an enemy or predator, a skunk will first raise its tail as a warning. Then it will stomp its feet. The spotted skunk will even try to freak out a predator by doing a handstand. If that doesn't work, the skunk will *hiss*! If all else fails—*pppppssssshhhhh!*—you've been skunked.





Get Away from Me!

While the skunk uses spray to keep danger away, these creatures have other clever ways of saying “Back off!”

Hairy Frog or Horror Frog?

Like something out of a horror movie, the hairy frog can use its own skeleton to scare off predators. When it's under attack, this freaky frog can break its own toe bones—which then stick out of its skin like claws. Yikes!



Snap . . . Crackle . . . POP!

Look out—here comes the bombardier beetle, with its built-in stink bomb. When this beetle is threatened, it mixes two chemicals in its abdomen, which then heat up to a boil and explode with a loud *pop!* The beetle can spray twenty-nine times in a row!

It's ~~Not~~ Nice to Fool Mother Nature

The monarch butterfly feeds on poisonous plants so it will taste yucky if a predator tries to eat it.



Your Breath Is Killing Me!

Maybe you can't spray your enemies like a skunk can, but you can always try breathing on them! Meanwhile, take a breather with this quiz:

EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

These Are Other Words for Bad Breath. Or Are They? Take a Guess!

1. *Ma/odorous* means
 - a. bullfighter
 - b. Gandalf's evil cousin in Lord of the Rings
 - c. smelling very stinky
2. Halitosis is
 - a. a city in Nova Scotia
 - b. a fancy name for bad breath
 - c. a flesh-eating plant of the genus *Ha/o*
3. *Fetor ex ore* is the Latin term for
 - a. knight's code of honor
 - b. rare cheese from the Ore Valley
 - c. condition in which a person's breath stinks

4. Which of these are *NOT* real cures for bad breath?
- a. brushing your teeth
 - b. sleeping with garlic under your pillow
 - c. flossing your teeth
 - d. scraping your tongue with a spoon
 - e. singing the Alphabet Song
 - f. standing on your head
 - g. chewing gum
 - h. eating cinnamon
 - i. drinking more water
 - j. writing a letter to the Tooth Fairy
5. Which of these things are known to cause bad breath?
- a. drinking coffee
 - b. smoking
 - c. eating onions
 - d. eating garlic
 - e. gum disease
 - f. sleeping with your mouth open
 - g. skipping breakfast
 - h. all of the above



Turn to page 119 for the answers.

Full of Hot Air? Then Burp!

When you swallow food, if small amounts of air get swallowed along with it, the air will later escape through your mouth as a burp.

- * Animal burps and farts release 80 million tons of methane gas into the atmosphere each year.



- * Doctors call burping eructation.
- * An Englishman named Paul Hunn can burp a whopping 109.9 decibels. That's as loud as a chain saw. Some people claim that it's possible to burp at 170 decibels. That's as loud as a fighter jet!
- * In some places, such as Bahrain, it is polite to burp after a meal. It means you enjoyed the food!





HOW TO ANNOY YOUR SISTER IN JUST ONE BURP

Try this:

1. Stand or sit up straight (gas rises).
2. Drink a glass of carbonated water with no ice.
3. When you feel the bubbles start to rise, open wide and let 'er rip!


DID YOU KNOW?

A farp is when you burp and fart at the same time.



Excellent Expectorating!

(Expectorate is a fancy word for spit.)

- 
- * Spitting might be gross, but a hundred years ago, it was way cool. Every fancy home, including the White House, had a spittoon. Back then, lots of people chewed tobacco and needed a place to spit it out. Eeuw!



- * Your body will make 5,000 gallons of spit in your lifetime. That's enough to fill a small swimming pool!

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

A loogie
is a gross
wad of spit
mixed with
snot!



HOW TO MAKE A PERFECT SPITBALL

You will need:

- Some paper
- A straw
- Some spit



1. Tear the paper up into tiny pieces.
2. Roll the pieces into pellets no wider than a straw.
3. Wet the paper balls in your mouth.
4. Load a ball into the straw at the end near your mouth.
5. Blow the wet ball through the straw at your target. *P-tooeey!*

Tips:

- Remember not to breathe in once you've loaded the straw.
- Try not to let anyone see you do it.
- Stockpile several spitballs before you shoot.
- Do not aim for anyone's face. The back of the head works great!

Up Your Nose



Astro Boogers!

Ever been hit by a meteorite? Maybe . . . if you've ever been sneezed on! Boogers are made up of stuff we breathe in through our noses, which is anything that might be floating in the air—pollen, dust, dirt, even space dust. Think about it—the next time somebody sneezes, there just might/maybe/could be a teeny-tiny piece of meteorite in the snot that flies. Cosmic!



Big Boogies!

It's snot funny . . . An elephant booger is as big as a basketball. No lie!



Annual Booger Shootout

At the Red Lion pub in England, Gale Hollingsworth became the first woman to win the Annual Booger Shooting Contest. In a move called a farmer's blow, she held one nostril closed and blew a booger out the other nostril. It sailed clear across the room, almost 20 feet! *THWAP!* That booger stuck to the wall.



Get Out the Rain Slicker



Human sneezes exit at around 40 miles per hour. Super hachoo-er Reginald Kaulman's honkers have been clocked at an astonishing 175 miles per hour.

The Big Sneeze

Whales sneeze at 300 miles per hour—that's the power of a class-five hurricane and as fast as a tornado. *Bless you!*



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