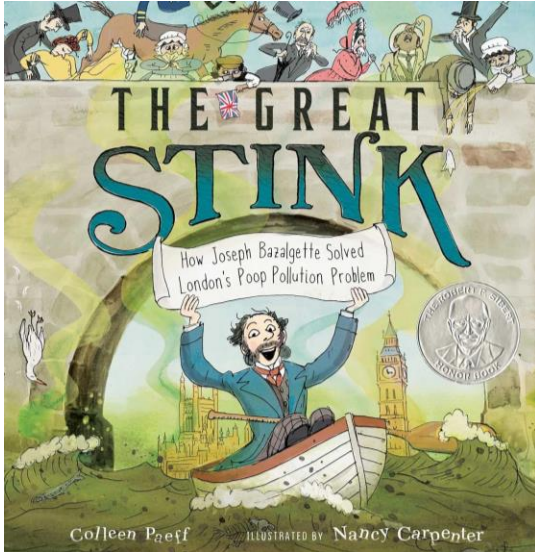


Discussion Guide for Families



The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem

Author: Colleen Paeff

Illustrator: Nancy Carpenter

Themes: Environment and Sustainability

Book Brief: In 1858, London's River Thames reeked of sewage, leading to deadly cholera outbreaks and inspiring engineer Joseph Bazalgette to design a revolutionary sewer system that transformed public health. This fascinating story highlights the impact of innovation and offers tips for preventing pollution to create a cleaner, healthier planet.

READ ALOUD

Before Reading: Build Background

- Ask your child "What do you think it means to persevere through challenges? Can you think of a time when someone worked hard to solve a big problem?"

While Reading: Make Connections

- What do you think the author means when she says, "But luckily for London, he does"? How does this hint at Joseph's role in the story?
- Why do you think Joseph is celebrating the upcoming cholera outbreak? How does it connect to his work on the sewer system?
- How was Joseph able to create his sewage system despite the challenges he faced? What skills or traits helped him succeed?

After Reading: Ask Questions

- What character traits do you think helped Joseph Bazalgette succeed, and how can those traits inspire us to solve problems today? If you could design a system to solve an environmental problem, what would it look like?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

If your child enjoyed this book, consider:

- Encourage them to talk about it during other conversations.
- Check out RIF's [Sustainable Futures](#) center to learn more about sustainability with related books and resources.