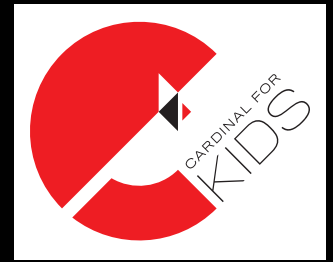


A
COMPANION
TO

The Musical Adventures
of

FLAT STANLEY



IVY TECH WALDRON
AUDITORIUM
May 10–26, 2019

PLAY BY
**Timothy Allen
McDonald**

LYRICS BY
**Timothy Allen
McDonald and
Jonathan K. Waller**

MUSIC BY
**Timothy Allen
McDonald, Jonathan
K. Waller, David
Weinstein, and
Stephen Gabriel**

BASED ON THE
BEST-SELLING
BOOK SERIES BY
Jeff Brown

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WHAT IS THE PLAY ABOUT?

At bedtime one evening, **Stanley Lambchop** talks with his little brother, Arthur, about the adventures he'd like to have. After he falls asleep, a bulletin board falls on Stanley and flattens him! His parents (**Mr. and Mrs. Lambchop**) are worried about Stanley and take him to different **doctors**. Everyone says Stanley is fine—just flat! At first, Stanley doesn't like being flat. Kids at school turn him into a kite, which isn't very fun for him. But then, a letter carrier encourages Stanley to travel the world by sending himself everywhere in an envelope. Stanley likes this idea and with his family's support, he starts his adventures by visiting a friend in **Los Angeles, California**. From there, he travels to **Paris, France**, followed by **Honolulu, Hawaii**, where he is reunited with his family.

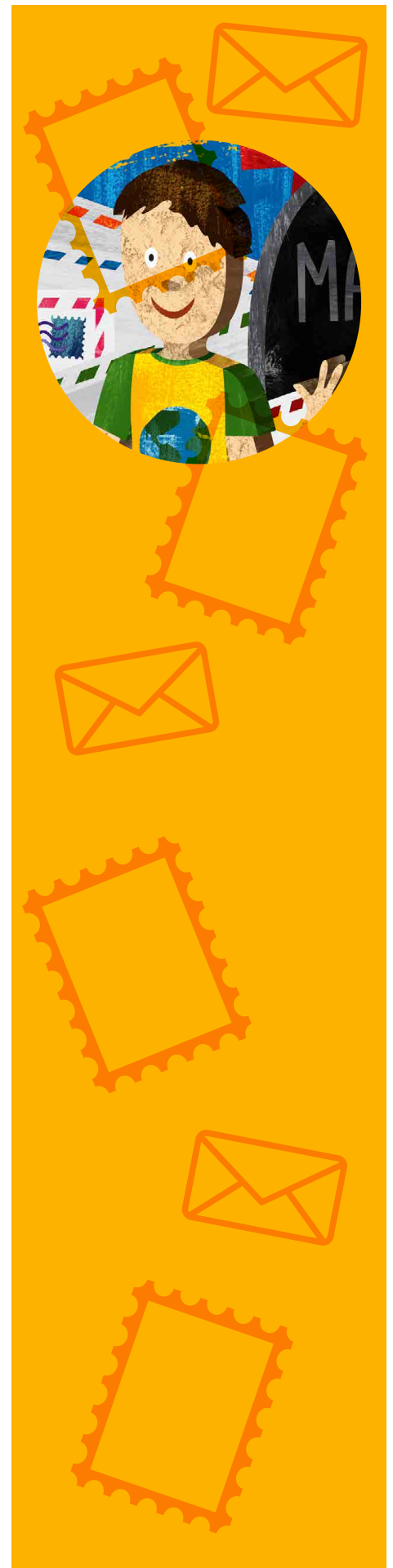
WHO CREATED THE CHARACTER FLAT STANLEY?

Author Jeff Brown had worked in Hollywood, and as an editor and writer in New York before creating Flat Stanley, a hero for young readers. The first story about Flat Stanley was published in 1964 with illustrations by Tomi Ungerer.

The idea for Stanley came to Jeff one night at bedtime when his sons J.C. and Tony were young and stalling for time. Tony asked what would happen if the big bulletin board on the wall were to fall on J.C., and Mr. Brown said he would most likely “wake up flat.” That led to imagining what such a flat life might be like. Their ideas developed into the series of popular books starring Flat Stanley, who takes advantage of his new flat appearance to do things he could never do before, such as slide under a door, and fly like a kite. Stanley's fun really begins when he “mails” himself to friends.

With the success of the first *Flat Stanley* book, Mr. Brown went on to write *Stanley and the Magic Lamp*, *Stanley in Space*, *Stanley's Christmas Adventure*, *Invisible Stanley*, and his last book, *Stanley, Flat Again!*, which was published in 2003, the year Mr. Brown died.

The original Flat Stanley tales sold nearly a million copies in the United States alone. In 2009, a series called *Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures* began, written by other authors and illustrators. You can find Flat Stanley stories at your library!



ACTIVITIES TO DO BEFORE THE SHOW

1. Use an atlas to locate the places that Stanley visits:

- Los Angeles, California
- Paris, France
- Honolulu, Hawaii

Use Google maps to learn the distance between these places. How far away are they from Indiana?

2. Read about some of the places that Stanley visits during his travels.

- The Louvre Museum website: www.louvre.fr/en
Search the site for the portrait of Mona Lisa.
- *Hollywood Trivia: What You Never Knew About Celebrity Life, Fame and Fortune* by Elizabeth Weitzman

3. Learn about the U.S. Post Office and what a letter carrier does. What are some of the different ways mail has been delivered in the past? How have the ways people communicate changed over time? Create a chart that compares and contrasts these ways based on cost, delivery time, privacy, and ease of use.

- *The U.S. Postal Service: The History of America's Mail System* by Margaret Uphall

4. Brainstorm places where students can mail a small cutout of Flat Stanley—friends in town or another state, family members, or even a school in another country? Have students mail their Flat Stanley to the locations they have identified. Make sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for Stanley to return home. Include a letter written by the students. Once your Flat Stanley is returned, chart the locations he visited on a large world map in your classroom. What was the closest place Stanley visited? What was furthest away?

5. Make a copy of Flat Stanley (a template is located at the end of this guide). Have students color their Flat Stanley and take their photo with Stanley at places around town. Ask students to bring their colored Flat Stanley to the Library and ask for a book about a place the student would like to visit or learn more about!

6. Prepare for your trip to the theater by discussing what to expect when you see a play. mcpl.info/firsttheater



ACTIVITIES TO DO AFTER THE SHOW

1. Talk about it! Discuss some of the play's themes:

- Describe what it means to have an adventure. Are all adventures fun? Why does Stanley want to have an adventure?
- The cool kids at Stanley's school turn him into a kite. Were they being nice to Stanley? Was Stanley's brother, Arthur, able to help Stanley? How did Arthur feel when Stanley got stuck in a tree? How did Stanley feel? What would you have done if you were Arthur?
- Why is it good to travel to different places? How is Stanley different after his travels? Why did Stanley want to return home? Is he happy to be back? Why?
- What does the phrase "be careful what you wish for" mean?

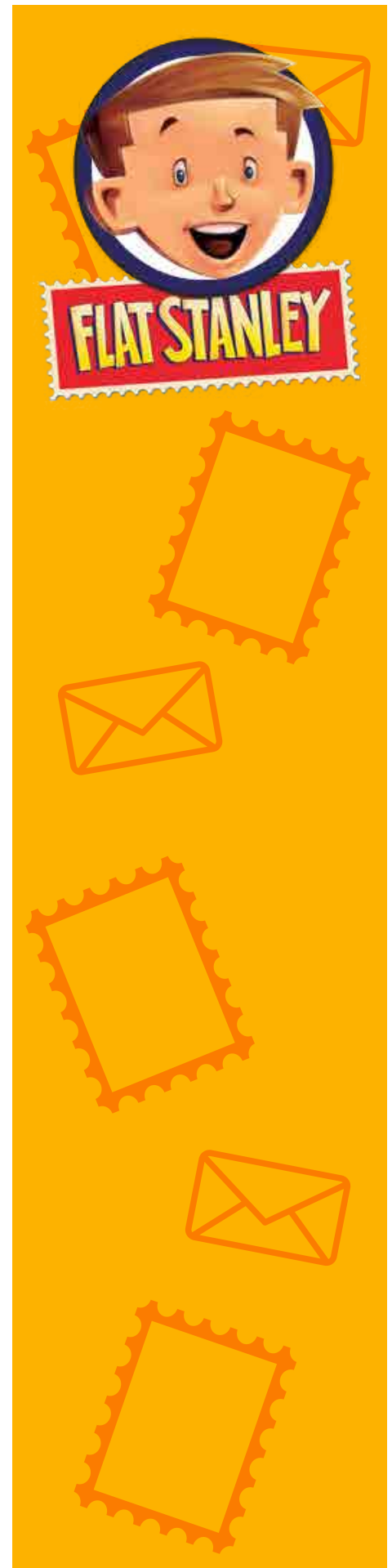
2. What are some different ways students could travel to the places Stanley visits? Use your library card to connect to World Book Online and use the "Compare Places" feature to learn differences in size and population between the states and countries Stanley visits. mcpl.info/schools

3. Ask students to make their own life-size flat persona by tracing an outline of their body onto a large sheet of paper. Students can color and cut out this flat version of themselves.

4. Ask students to write a short story about their own "Flat Self" adventure. Where would they mail themselves? What would they do there? What are the pros and cons of being flat?

5. Ask students to write a thank you letter to Cardinal Stage. What did the students like about the play? What was their favorite part? Show students how to address an envelope:

Gabe Gloden, Managing Director
Cardinal Stage
900 S. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47401



FIND MORE FLAT STANLEY GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Websites:

- FlatStanleyBooks.com
- Teacher activities:
flatstanleybooks.com/teachers/teachers-activities
- Games and activities for kids:
flatstanleybooks.com/kids/games-for-kids

Find Flat Stanley books by Jeff Brown in print, eBook, or audiobook at your library:

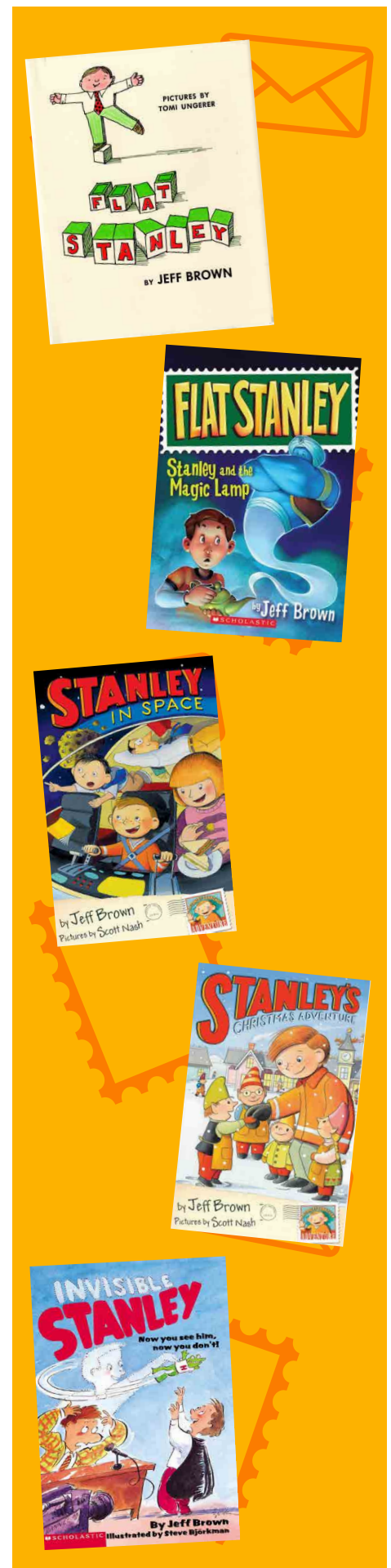
- *Flat Stanley* (1964)
- *Stanley and the Magic Lamp* (1985)
- *Stanley In Space* (1990)
- *Stanley's Christmas Adventure* (1993)
- *Invisible Stanley* (1995)
- *Stanley, Flat Again!* (2003)

See more stories about Flat Stanley in the series *Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures* written by various authors including:

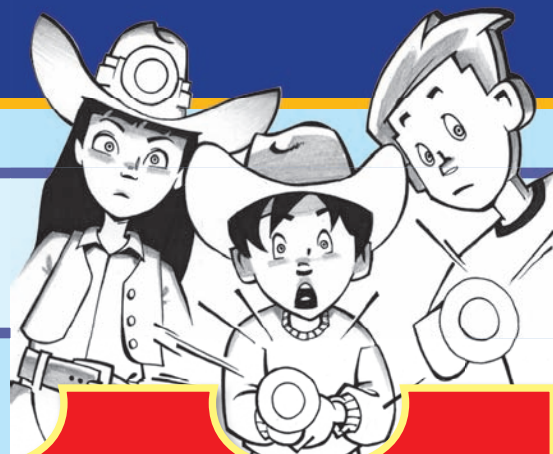
- *The Mount Rushmore Calamity* (2009) by Sara Pennypacker
- *The Amazing Mexican Secret* (2010) by Josh Greenhut
- *The African Safari Discovery* (2011) by Josh Greenhut
- *Framed in France* (2014) by Josh Greenhut
- *On a Mission for her Majesty* (2017) by Kate Egan

If you like Flat Stanley, try these other fantasy adventure stories:

- *Peter Powers and His Not-So-Super Powers* by Kent Clark
- *On the Dog* (Andrew Lost series) by Judith Greenburg
- *Captain Awesome to the Rescue!* by Stan Kirby
- *Anyone But Me* (Katie Kazoo Switcheroo series) by Nancy Krulik
- *The Mystery of the Gold Coin* (Greetings from Somewhere series) by Harper Paris
- *Dinosaurs Before Dark* (Magic Tree House series) by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye* (Geronimo Stilton series) by Geronimo Stilton
- *Mia Mayhem is a Superhero!* by Kara West



Can you find all seven continents hiding in the word search below?



Africa
Antarctica
Asia

Australia
Europe

North America
South America

N	O	R	T	H	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	Z	X	S
B	D	X	E	W	T	Y	U	W	Q	U	B	T	W	O
A	S	X	A	N	T	A	R	C	T	I	C	A	Y	U
Z	X	W	E	R	H	J	O	G	D	S	W	R	N	T
A	R	Z	W	Y	H	K	P	O	P	Q	U	B	K	H
S	A	R	T	G	H	W	E	A	N	G	Y	E	O	A
I	O	P	E	W	N	V	S	E	T	E	B	N	M	M
A	U	S	T	R	A	L	I	A	T	X	C	W	S	E
S	Q	R	T	Y	U	I	V	W	A	S	R	I	A	R
I	Z	M	E	Y	R	U	T	I	C	A	W	T	H	I
A	G	O	R	M	I	H	L	J	T	H	S	T	S	C
F	Y	R	G	E	Y	A	G	S	A	F	R	I	C	A

Travel to www.flatstanleybooks.com for games, global facts, pen pal opportunities, and more activities for kids, parents, and classrooms!

