



Fuzzy Mud
By Louis Sachar

Grade Levels: Grades 4-7

Synopsis:

A walk home from school becomes dangerous when Marshall tries a short cut through a wooded area. Marshall is trying to avoid the class bully Chad. Friend and neighbor, Tamaya follows Marshall but they meet up with Chad and a fight begins. Tamaya intervenes by throwing mud in Chad's face. The mud is "fuzzy", and contaminated with microbes from biofuel research, that grows rapidly; a global disaster is created.

Author Website:

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Curricular Connections:

Science and Social Studies; the impact of inventions on the world and the ethics of industry manufacturers that research and create new organisms, elements, or products. Career connections with STEM, *Environmental Science, Science & Technology, Emergency Preparedness.*

Common Core:

- RL3 CCR Anchor Standard Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of text.
- RL6 CCR Anchor Standard Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Lesson Ideas:

Essential questions:

- Are all scientific discoveries always good and best for humanity?
- Do companies have a responsibilities toward care of the environment?
- Research possible STEM careers for students. Start here
<http://www.bls.gov/k12/content/students/careers/career-exploration.htm>

Suggested Companion Titles:

Fiction

- *Masterminds* Gordon Korman
- *Hoot* Carl Hiaasen
- *Mysteries of our National Parks Series* Gloria Skurzynsky
- *Something Stinks! NSTA Award Winner* Gail Hendrick

Nonfiction

- *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle*
Claire A. Nivola
- *Citizen Scientists: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard*
Loree Griffin Burns
- *A Place for Turtles* Melissa Stewart
- *When Rivers Burned: The Earth Day Story (Once, in America)* Linda Crotta
Brennan

Professional Reviews:

- *Booklist* starred (05/15/15)
- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* (09/01/15)
- *Horn Book Guide* (04/01/16)
- *Library Media Connection* starred (03/01/16)
- *Publishers Weekly* (05/18/15)
- *School Library Journal* (05/15/15)
- *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)* starred (08/01/15)