

Lumberjanes vol. 1 - Beware the Kitten Holy

By Grace Ellis Shannon Watters, & Noelle Stevenson, illustrated by Brooke Allen



Grade Levels: 6-9

Lexile: between 650-850

Synopsis: Five friends from the Roanoke cabin of a camp for “Hardcore Lady Types” set out to solve an unusual mystery. Mythical creatures and magical beings challenge the girls alongside their more traditional outdoor camping adventures. Jo, Molly, Mal, April, and Ripley earn ‘scout’ badges during each chapter, and begin to unravel the messages that strange magical animals are leaving behind.

Series Twitter: [@Lumberjanes](https://twitter.com/Lumberjanes)

Noelle Stevenson: <http://gingerhaze.com/>

Brooke Allen: <http://brookeallen.tumblr.com/>

Shannon Watters: <http://shanito.tumblr.com/>

Grace Ellis: <http://ohheygrace.tumblr.com>

Curricular Connections:

- Language arts: mythology, figurative language.
- Math: Fibonacci Sequence

Lesson Ideas:

- **History/Language Arts:** Have students research the women mentioned as exclamations e.g., “Oh my Bessie Coleman”, “Holy Mae Jemison!”, “Where the Phyllis Wheatley?”, “Good Juliette Gordon Low”. What do those women have in common? Why do you think the authors used these outbursts? Contrast them with the outburst of the boy’s camp leader.
- **Language Arts:** Jo recites the Lumberjanes pledge. Discuss with students the purpose of a pledge. Break down the Lumberjanes pledge and describe each line’s purpose. Have students create a pledge based on the ideals that they believe.
- **Science:** The girls encounter several booby-traps in the cave - most are triggered by one act which launches several others. Have students design a simple booby-trap to capture but not kill a small creature (mouse/hamster). Build and test it. Discuss what elements make an effective trap.
- **Additional Lesson Resources**

Several excellent lesson plans and discussion threads from *Meryl Jaffe, PhD*. are available here:
<http://cblfd.org/2016/03/using-graphic-novels-in-education-lumberjanes/>

Common Core Standards:

ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3

ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4

ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5

ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.6

- Knowledge of Language: Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
- Craft and structure: Interpreting words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings and analyzing how specific word choices shape meaning or tone; analyzing the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs and larger portions of the text relate to each other and the whole; Assessing how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4

ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7

- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

NGSS

MS-LS1-1 Planning and carrying out investigation

MS-LS1-2 Engaging in argument from evidence

MS-LS1-8 Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

MS-LS 1-1 Interdependence of engineering

Suggested Companion Titles:

- *Princess*: by Jeremy Whitley
- *Gotham Academy* by Becky Cloonan and Brenden Fletcher
- *Runaways* by Brian K. Vaughan
- *Unbeatable Squirrel Girl* by Ryan North
- Sequel: *Lumberjanes, Vol. 2: Friendship to the Max*

Professional Reviews:

- *Booklist* starred, 5/15/2015
- *Publishers Weekly Annex* starred, 4/27/2015
- *School Library Journal* starred, 2/1/2015

Awards:

ALA Great Graphic Novels for Teens - 2016

ALA Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens - 2016

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers 2016

Eisner Awards: Best New Series and Best Publication for Teens (2015)

CCBC Choices 2016