



## *The Map Trap*

By Andrew Clements

Grades: 3 – 7

### *Synopsis:*

Sixth-grade Alton has very few friends, unless you count maps as friends. He doesn't just love maps of places and geocaching; but he also has an obsession of making maps of people's behaviors. For example, he created a map of how many times the principal says "um" during morning announcements or a map of the heights of sixth graders; referring to the tallest girl as Mount Wilson. Unfortunately, one day his coveted maps go missing. This terrifies Alton, thinking it highly embarrassing if his maps were to be discovered by the very people's behavior he mapped. Alton gets the courage to befriend one of the most popular boys to help him find the maps. When Alton receives mysterious, anonymous notes referring to his missing maps, Alton gets suspicious that his maps were stolen. So, he takes it upon himself to confess to his teachers and peers the content of these highly personal maps . . . this comes with surprising consequences.

### *Curriculum Connections:*

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3 --Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of text.
  - How did Alton change from the beginning of the book to the end
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
  - Explore why the title Map Trap is appropriate, infer why Alton obsessed over maps
- Geography map skills (page 50) – explain how a map is a place drawn in a smaller scale
- Make a map of Alton's personality at the beginning of the book compared to the end
- On a map locate the place termed the "Four Corners" in the Western USA. (page 109)
- Use *Google Earth* to locate your house
- Ask if the students what the letters in GPS stand for and if any of the students had heard of geocaching, explain how it works (reference in book pages 26/27)
- Geocaching: <https://www.geocaching.com/play>
- Curriculum Guide includes:
  - Math, Reading, Writing and Social Studies standards  
[http://d28hgpr18am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged\\_assets/15094/the%20map%20trap\\_c.g.pdf](http://d28hgpr18am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/15094/the%20map%20trap_c.g.pdf)

*Author Website:* <http://www.andrewclements.com/>

*Suggested Companion Titles:*

Fiction:

- Andrew Clements books (see author website for complete list)
- *Geocache Surprise* Jake Maddox
- *Framed* Gordon Korman
- *El Dorado Map* – Michael O’Hearn

Nonfiction:

- *Cool Maps and Geocaching* - Katherine Hengel

*Professional Reviews and Awards:*

- *Horn book Guide* 04/01/15
- *Booklist Online* - 10/15/14
- *School Library Journal* – 10/14 – starred review for audio version
- *Volunteer State Book Award* – 2016