

LEVELED BOOK • P

The Other Book of World Records



**Multi
level
J•M•P**

Written by Torran Anderson
Illustrated by Jeff Ebbeler

www.readinga-z.com

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Focus Question

How did Shorty get into "The Other Book of World Records"?



Ruby and Shorty bolted down the steps of their apartment building.

“I jumped on my **pogo stick** for two hours yesterday,” Shorty said.

“Maybe I can get into the Guinness book of world **records**.”

“No, you can’t,” Ruby said. “Not unless you jump for seven-plus hours. Today you’re getting into ‘The Other Book of World Records.’”

“What’s that?” Shorty asked.

Ruby held up a pad of paper. “It’s the record book I’m working on. The *other* book,” she said.

Outside, Ruby scribbled on her pad, “WORLD RECORD IN PROGRESS.” She set up the pad beside the crowded basketball court.

“I don’t have my pogo stick,” Shorty said.

“You don’t need it,” Ruby said. “Stand on one leg and recite the ABCs.”

“All right, I’ll try it,” Shorty said. He stood on one leg and began the alphabet: “A–B–C–D–E–”

The kids playing basketball stopped their game to stare at Shorty.



A kid named Ben called over and gave Shorty a **sarcastic** smile. “ABCs, huh?” he said. “What are you in—kindergarten?”

“He’s setting a record, and he needs to concentrate,” Ruby said.

Ben turned to look at Ruby. “He’s setting a record,” Ben said. “So what’s your job?”

“I’m the officiator,” Ruby said.

“The what?” Ben asked.

“The witness, to prove he really did it,” Ruby said. She grabbed up her pad, flipped several pages, and rattled off a list. “I offer a number of services related to record-setting, actually. They include record **consultancy**, record training, record-breaking **memorabilia**, and certificates of participation.”



“Not interested,” Ben said, “and here’s a news flash: anyone could do what he’s doing.”

“Oh, yeah?” Ruby said. “Well, my brother is going to do it while chewing bubble gum.”

Ruby pulled out a piece of gum and tossed it to her brother. Shorty popped the gum in his mouth and continued the alphabet, though it was harder to make out the letters: “F–G–H–I–J–K–L–M–N–O–P–”

“Aw, that’s nothing,” Ben said. “You oughta blow bubbles instead. If you want to set a real record, let me get my pogo stick.”

Ben dashed into the building. Shorty winked at Ruby—Ben didn’t know that Shorty was a pogo stick master.

By the time Ben came back with his pogo stick, a small crowd had gathered around Shorty and Ruby.

“Try jumping with one leg,” Ben said.

Shorty picked up the pogo stick and began bouncing. Once he got going, he started jumping on one leg.

“See this, everybody, my brother is setting a record,” Ruby announced.

“Shorty is blowing bubbles, on one leg, jumping on a pogo stick.”



Everyone from the playground came to see what was happening.

“Aw, that’s not so hard,” Ben said.

“Let’s see him jump through a human maze.”

“There’s no such thing as a human maze,” Ruby said.

“Sure there is,” Ben said. “It’s a maze made out of people.”

Shorty bounced on the pogo stick.

“Can I switch legs?” he asked.

Ben and Ruby both shook their heads.

“Call everybody you know,” Ruby announced. “My brother is going to set a new world record while jumping through a human maze.”



“Tell them to come quick!” Shorty yelled.

Some people pulled out their phones and started calling their friends. Others ran into the building to invite their families. Ben raced to the tennis courts and recruited more kids for the maze. One by one, Ben found a place for everyone in the maze.

“Hurry up!” Shorty screamed.
“I’m getting tired.”

Shorty was sweating on the pogo stick. Still jumping, he started to move through the human maze. People cheered him on as he blew his biggest bubble, bouncing all the while.



Shorty turned a corner in the maze. The pogo stick wobbled, but Shorty did not fall off. At the end of the maze, he leapt off the pogo stick and collapsed on the ground.

“A new world record!” Ruby yelled.





Everyone cheered and rushed to give Shorty high fives.

“Not bad, Shorty,” Ben said.

Shorty lay on the ground. He reached up his hand to give high fives to everybody who had come to watch him. Ruby wanted to write that up as a new record, too.

“Hold on,” said Ben. He did some quick research on his phone. “There are a lot of high-five records out there. Most high fives in a minute wearing a banana costume. Loudest high five. Most in a rainy parking lot. But I don’t see any with one person on his back.”

“You’ve got potential,” Ruby said.

“I could use someone like you to help me invent new records.

Want to be my assistant?”

“First, though,” Shorty said to Ben, “it’s your turn.”



Ben high-fived him.

“No,” Shorty said. “Your turn to get into ‘The Other Book of World Records.’”

Ben looked shocked. “Me?” he gasped. “No! I don’t—”

Ruby winked at Shorty. “Step right up!” she yelled. “We’ve got a new world record in the **making!**”



Glossary

- consultancy** (n.) a company that provides advice or services for a fee (p. 6)
- making** (n.) the act of forming or coming into being (p. 15)
- memorabilia** (n.) things collected because they are related to a special event, person, or interest (p. 6)
- pogo stick** (n.) a pole with handles at the top, a spring at the bottom, and two footrests on which a person stands to bounce up and down (p. 3)
- records** (n.) events or achievements that have never been exceeded (p. 3)
- sarcastic** (adj.) of or relating to words or gestures that mean the opposite of what they seem and are intended to make fun of something (p. 5)

Words to Know

consultancy
making
memorabilia

pogo stick
records
sarcastic

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Correlation

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The Other Book of World Records

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Connections

Writing and Art

What do you think Ben will do to set his own world record? Add a new page to the story that shows what happens next with Ben.

Social Studies

Choose five records from *Guinness World Records*. For each one, label on a map the country and city where the record was set. Compare your map with a partner's.



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