

LEVELED BOOK • 0

# A Bad Movie



Written by Larry Fleece  
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## Focus Question

Why is following the crowd not always a good idea?



We all sat wide-eyed without daring to move. We could almost feel the hot breath of the terrible four-headed serpent as it stalked its prey. I saw a couple of the other guys put their hands over their eyes. I tried to be brave and not look away.

Then, in an instant, it was over. The hero plunged his sword into the soft underbelly of the beast. With a terrible groan, the awful creature heaved and fell to the ground.



We all cheered. The serpent was slain, and the hero got the girl. As the lights went up and the final credits rolled, I scooped up the last of my popcorn.

“Awesome!” Bobby cried as we made our way up the **aisle**. “That serpent was so cool!”

“Yeah, cool,” I echoed, staying close behind him.

We’d all heard that *Attack on Venus* was a good movie, and we weren’t disappointed.



Today was special, though, because Bobby showed up. Bobby was the coolest guy in our school. He was a grade older than us. He played on a club soccer team, and he had a guitar. Everybody liked Bobby.

“You want to go eat?” I asked my friend Derek. We’d told our moms we were going to hang out at the mall after the movie, so we had some time.



"I don't know. Hey, Bobby, what do you want to do?" Derek asked.

Bobby had a **sly** look in his eye.

"You know that other movie we wanted to see, *Rodent Extreme*?" Bobby asked.

"It's perfect timing. There's a showing just starting over in theater four."

"Cool!" Derek said. "We're there!"





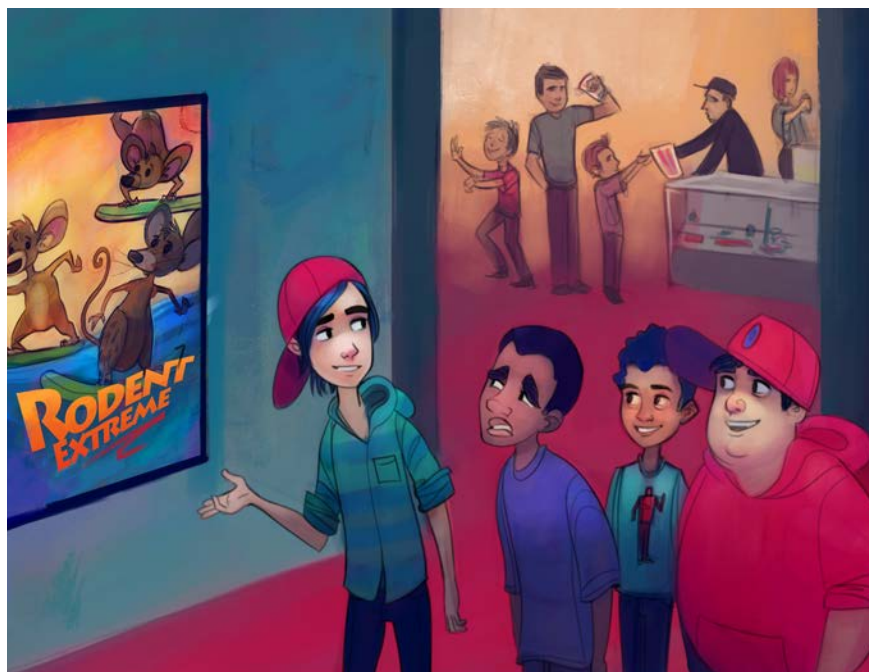
I checked the money in my pocket. After one movie and popcorn, I was running low.

“Kevin, you in?” Bobby asked.

“No, I’m broke,” I told him. “Maybe I’ll see you after.”

“Don’t have enough?” Bobby laughed.

“Who’s paying? We’re already inside the **complex**. I sneak into other movies all the time. They’re not going to catch us in the dark!”



“Come on, Kevin,” Derek **urged**. “You were just saying this morning how much you wanted to see *Rodent Extreme*.”

“Yeah, but—” I **hesitated**.

“But what? Are you chicken?” Bobby asked.

“No . . .” I felt as though everyone was staring at me.

“Then let’s go!” Bobby headed over to the theater with Derek and my other friends.





I didn't want to be left out, and I did want to see that movie. The ads showing a bunch of surfing mice looked hilarious.

Bobby said he did this all the time, so it would be okay.



“Guys, wait up!” I called and rejoined the group.

Bobby showed us the good door to go through so nobody would see us. We all hurried in and **slumped** down in our seats.

“All right! *Rodent Extreme!*” Bobby **gloated** as the lights went down.



The crazy mice were just waxing their boards when I saw the beam of a flashlight searching our theater. A theater **manager** was looking for something . . . or somebody. My friends noticed the beam, too. I looked over at Derek, and his eyes were as wide as saucers.

We heard the manager call, “Psst! Hey, you!” We didn’t dare turn to look.

“Who, me?” a voice said.



“Let me see your ticket,” the manager said.

“I, uh, I lost it,” the voice said. I turned back ever so slightly, keeping my head low.

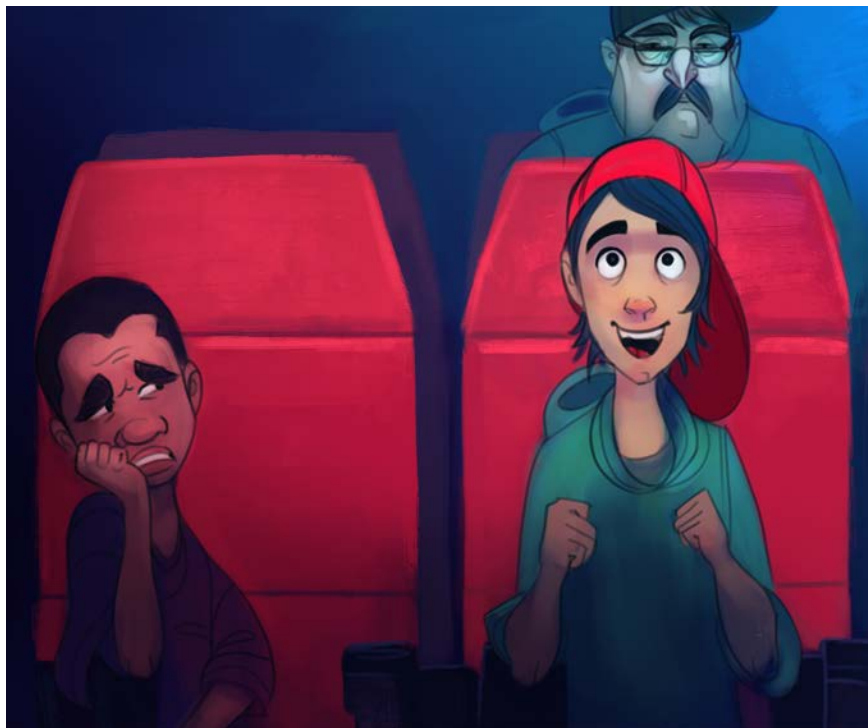
The voice came from our friend Kenny, who sat behind us. The manager was shining his flashlight on Kenny’s face.



“Lost it? I don’t think so,” the manager said. “You need to come with me.”

Kenny followed the manager out of the dark theater. My heart was pounding in my ears. I looked over at my friends, wondering if we should do something. Bobby laughed out loud.

“Busted!” Bobby hissed with a **smirk**.  
“That guy is toast.”



Derek was looking at me. My skin felt hot all over.

“He was so nailed, and the guy missed all of us!” Bobby went on. He was beaming. He sat up and looked around at us, as if he expected to be congratulated.

I didn’t know what to do. Kenny was in big trouble. Should I leave, or would I be in trouble, too? I felt terrible, but Bobby didn’t seem to care.





I can't remember the rest of *Rodent Extreme*. After the movie, Bobby bragged about how cool it was that Kenny got tossed out and we didn't.

I didn't think it was so cool. To tell the truth, I didn't think Bobby was so cool anymore, either.

## Glossary

- aisle** (*n.*) a walkway between seats, sections, or shelves (p. 4)
- complex** (*n.*) a group of buildings close to one another used for a common purpose; a large building with many rooms or separate areas (p. 7)
- gloated** (*v.*) showed in a rude or selfish way that one was pleased by one's own success or another's misfortune or failure (p. 10)
- hesitated** (*v.*) paused before doing something, especially because of uncertainty (p. 8)
- manager** (*n.*) a person who directs the work of a business, sports team, or other group (p. 11)
- slumped** (*v.*) sat, stood, or walked with a stooped or rounded posture (p. 10)
- sly** (*adj.*) clever in a sneaky way; tricky (p. 6)
- smirk** (*n.*) to smile in a mocking manner (p. 13)
- urged** (*v.*) tried to persuade someone to do something (p. 8)

## Words to Know

aisle

complex

gloated

hesitated

manager

slumped

sly

smirk

urged

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### Correlation

LEVEL O	
Fountas & Pinnell	M
Reading Recovery	20
DRA	28

# A Bad Movie

*A Reading A-Z Level O Leveled Book*

*Word Count: 760*

## Connections

### Writing

Write a letter to Kevin describing what he should do in the future if this situation happens again.

### Math

Imagine you have \$20.00 to spend at the movies. You buy a movie ticket for \$7.50, popcorn for \$4.25, and a drink for \$3.75. How much money would you have left? Would you have enough money to buy another movie ticket?



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