



# The Dunderheads Behind Bars

*Paul Fleischman , David Roberts (illustrator)*

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Everyone's favorite underdogs are back! Can they land work on a movie set - and foil a cat burglar - with their unusual and motley skills?

School is out for the summer, and the Dunderheads are finally rid of the awful Miss Breakbone. Or so they thought! Teen star Ashley Throbb-Hart is shooting a movie nearby, and who should show up as an extra but their formidable former teacher! She's not the only Breakbone on the scene, either; after a string of burglaries strikes town, Miss Breakbone steers her barrel-chested brother, Police Chief Breakbone, toward those meddling, good-for-nothing Dunderheads. And when Spider ends up in the wrong place at the wrong time, the blowhard chief has all the evidence he needs to lock him up. Can Einstein, Wheels, Nails, Spitball, Google-Eyes, Clips, Junkyard, Pencil, and Hollywood combine their talents to catch the real criminal before they join their friend behind bars? Newbery Medalist Paul Fleischman and illustrator David Roberts reunite for a delightfully triumphant sequel to *The Dunderheads*.

## The Dunderheads Behind Bars Details

Date : Published April 10th 2012 by Candlewick Press

ISBN : 9780763645434

Author : Paul Fleischman , David Roberts (illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review The Dunderheads Behind Bars for online ebook**

## **Barbara says**

Just as in the case of the previous title, The Dunderheads, this title follows the school losers as they work together to help a friend. When Spider is arrested for jewel theft, Einstein and his fellow misfits band together once again to catch the real thief and free Spider. Although there is a mishap or two, it will take the unique skills of all of the Dunderheads to do so. Savvy readers will know that the presence of teen film star Ashley Throbb-Hart has something to do with the jewelry heist. The watercolor, pen, and ink illustrations have a cartoonish look to them with panels and dark shades across the pages, highlighting the personalities and special talents of this band of friends. Young readers are likely to chuckle at the appearances of their larger-than-life former teacher Miss Breakbone and her brother who happens to be the police chief. His chest is so enormous that his shirt buttons strain at the seams, allowing glimpses of his chest to be seen. Although it is helpful to have read the previous title introducing these characters, readers will be able to figure out what's going on quickly.

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## **Fiction State Of Mind says**

I found this book at the 99 cents store! It's the second in the series but very easy to follow. The Dunderheads are a group of students whose nicknames reflect their passions : Clips loves paperclips, Hollywood loves movie , Einstein is the planner etc. The kids are enjoying summer and even sign up to be extras on a film set.

Things go bad however when Spider is arrested for theft. Now the kids come together to solve the crime and free their friend. I really enjoyed this book. The kids have great personalities and it was nice to see two racially diverse kids in the group. A fun read.

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## **Sarah says**

This doesn't have the same tension as the first Dunderhead book. Their problems are kind of strange: one of them ends up in jail for something not jail-worthy and he needs to get rescued. Then they feel compelled to solve a mystery involving theft from one of their pop star idols.

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## **Amanda Harris says**

A group of misfit kids come to the aid of their friend Spider after he is mistakenly accused of stealing jewelry. I thought this book was mediocre. It wasn't bad, but it wasn't amazing. I think it is primarily because it was a bit sporadic and the storyline wasn't that appealing to me.

I would recommend this book to 2nd-3rd graders or a 4th grade reluctant reader. I would also recommend this book to those who are just making the transition from picture books to chapter books. Those who like graphic novels may also find this book appealing. If you like the Mo Willems books, especially "Your Pal

Mo Willems presents Leonardo the Terrible Monster" or the Roscoe Riley Rules series by Katherine Applegate, then you may like this title.

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### **Den says**

Another excellent book in this series. Here we meet all the characters again and this time you can think about what they might do to help each other. This time the children are employed behind the screens on a film set but there us a thief on the loose and they get accused - can they proof their innocence?

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### **Julia Jaształ says**

(Mommy's review from 5/2/12)

We must have missed the first few books. What, exactly, IS a "dunderhead"? And why, praytell, are these kids named things like "Pencil" and "Clip" and "Hanger"? I'm not following? Am I officially old? Me think not because guess what? My 6-year-old-cool-girl-in-love-with-Justin-Bieber-daughter says the same thing. (I'm not one of those wretched parents who tries to influence their kid into thinking a certian way... not usually. Well, not about books. How about that - that's honest.)

We're in the dark here. Ashley Throbb-Hart? Ick. Double ick. Triple ick even almost.

The only thing I liked about the illustrations was the black and white & color combo. Julia's more an all-color girl so she wasn't entirely happy either.

The story was jumpy as any I've ever read. Reading it out loud is awful because you don't know who is speaking. I highly doubt we'll be doing any more "dunderhead" reading.

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### **Tiffany says**

The Dunderheads are still up against their teacher, Miss Breakbone and her sheriff brother, while acting as extras in a Hollywood movie. But this time, Spider gets accused of being a jewel thief. The gang has to get together to clear his name. All in the span of about 60 pages. This is a quick caper for children in grades 1-3 and doesn't follow a traditional picture book or chapter book or easy reader format. Rather, the Dunderheads is a category all to itself. Just a great book for early-ish readers that have a quirky streak.

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### **Katie Hall says**

Title: The Dunderheads

Author: Paul Fleischman,

Illustrator: David Roberts

Publisher: Candlewick Press

Date: June 9th 2009

Genre: Fiction

I think this book would be a great read aloud. It is a little longer. I could expand it over the length of two

days. It is about kids getting their stuff back from a mean teacher. What kid wouldn't love this?!

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**Jen says**

I loved the first Dunderheads book and was anxiously anticipating the arrival of this one. I'm afraid I'm a bit disappointed with it. I felt the story was choppy and lacked the cleverness that the first one had. I've read it to a few of my classes and they've had the same reaction.

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**Carol Scrimgeour says**

I would like Paul Fleischman to write more Dunderheads, please!

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**Stephanie says**

Readers should definitely read the first book in the series first. Students have found it confusing.

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**Linda says**

Fans of the series won't be disappointed in this sequel which finds the Dunderheads behind bars charged with theft.

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**Chris says**

Once again each classmate's unique talents are required for them to succeed. This time to solve a mystery for which one of them has been framed. Excellent art and still subversive, but I didn't find it as funny (and fun) as I did the first one. Still worth reading, though.

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**Marie Sorensen says**

I don't know what was more fascinating, the character collection or the illustrations, but it definately was a remarkable pairing of author and illustrator. Makes me want to check out more of their award winning work.

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**Marcie says**

This kind of made me think of the Stupids, but I don't think it was nearly as funny as those classics. Perhaps

by not having read the first one I missed the point. The illustrations were great and perhaps the kids will enjoy it more than I did.

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