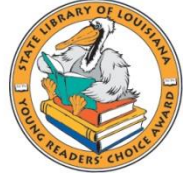




State Library  
of Louisiana



***ANYWAY\*: \*A STORY ABOUT ME WITH 138 FOOTNOTES,  
27 EXAGGERATIONS, AND 1 PLATE OF SPAGHETTI***  
by Arthur Salm

**Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Nominee 2015  
Grades 6-8**

*Submitted by Melodie Franklin, Youth Services Librarian,  
Lafayette Public Library, Lafayette, LA*

**Title:** *Anyway\*: \*A Story About Me with 138 Footnotes, 27 Exaggerations, and 1 Plate of Spaghetti*

**Author:** Arthur Salm

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster

**Pages:** 138

### **SUMMARY**

Max is a good kid, but then summer comes and his parents decide that the best way to spend their summer vacation is to go to a weeklong family summer camp in the mountains. That isn't necessarily the bad part. The worst is the 400 mile trip to the camp and enduring his mother's obsession with side trips to very un-interesting places. When they are "lucky" enough to find these places, they are never as interesting as the sign makes them sound, and most times they aren't even that "lucky."

Max spends this time thinking of a way to re-invent himself. Since he will be in another place with kids who know nothing about him, it's possible to become Mad Max...the daring, courageous, fun-loving kid! Will the other kids accept him as Mad Max? What will happen when the camp is over? Will his alter ego live on? Read it to find out, and make sure you read every footnote...they are very important to the story!

### **AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Arthur Salm is a former book review editor and columnist for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. He lives in San Diego, California, with his wife, daughter, dog, and two cats.

Biographical information taken from the author's website, <http://arthursalm.com/bio/>,  
Accessed August 13, 2014



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Author's website with author reading video <http://arthursalm.com/>

Book website [http://books.simonandschuster.com/Anyway\\*/Arthur-Salm/9781442429314](http://books.simonandschuster.com/Anyway*/Arthur-Salm/9781442429314)

## **RELATED TITLES** (Students may also enjoy these titles)

*I Funny* by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein

*Middle School Get Me Out of Here!* by James Patterson

*Mister Max: The Book of Lost Things* by Cynthia Voigt

*Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin* by Liesl Shurtliff

*Wonder* by R. J Palacio

## **CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**

### **English/Language Arts/Drama:**

Summer Vacation Themes

- Alternatives to “What I did on my Summer Vacation”  
<http://www.esl-library.com/blog/2010/08/23/back-to-school/>
- Extension activities for “How I Spent My Summer Vacation”  
<http://www.theteacherscorner.net/collaboration-projects/summer-vacation/activities.php>
- Have students make a film about their summer vacation experience  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/vocabulary-learning-filmmaking-vocabulary-30683.html>
- S is for Summer Vacation: Create an alphabet book about your summer vacation  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/bookmaking-builds-vocabulary-content-276.html>

### **Math:**

Math activities related to summer vacation.

- Students will use figures from their summer vacation for these math activities:  
<http://www.theteacherscorner.net/collaboration-projects/summer-vacation/activities.php#math>
- Practice math skills related to summer vacation activities:  
<http://www.googolpower.com/content/free-learning-resources/family-math-travel-vacation-activities>
- Track your record-breaking time while you swim, run, or skate. Plan a meal and use math to calculate what and how much you will need to buy at the grocery store. Make a map of your travels.  
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/50-ideas-summer-learning>
- Students answer these questions to plan their entire summer vacation and make connections with math and how it affects their decisions.  
[http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/view\\_lesson\\_plans?id=6189](http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/view_lesson_plans?id=6189)
- A day in your life of summer vacation. Use math to calculate how much time you spend doing everyday activities and use what you find to make a chart with Excel.  
[http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/view\\_lesson\\_plans?id=5227](http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/view_lesson_plans?id=5227)

### **Social Sciences/Electronic Media:**

- Mad Max did a lot of soul searching in the book and learned many things about himself and others. This activity will help students express what they “learned” as opposed to what “they did” during their summer vacation.  
<http://www.classroomtech.org/digitalphotography/LessonIdea2.pdf>
- Mad Max re-invented himself in this book. Here is a classroom activity that asks students to think about who they are and how they act around different groups of friends.  
<http://www.goodcharacter.com/BCBC/Values.html>
- Here is a lesson plan for teaching self-determination.  
<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/centerforhumandevelopment/selfdetermination/upload/Lesson-Plan-1-13.pdf>

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What is special about this book?
2. Who does Max become once at the camp?
3. What were the names of the three friends Max had lunch with at the mall?
4. What type of committee were Max and these three friends on?
5. What type of store did Max’s parents own?
6. Where was the family going for the summer?
7. What did Max and a friend get stuck in when they were younger?
8. What does Max’s mom like to do on road trips?
9. What are some of the activities offered by the family camp?
10. What did the camp use to signal time to wake up, breakfast, lunch and dinner?
11. What did you like about this book?

### **RELATED WEBSITES**

#### **Louisiana Roadtrip**

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/road-trips/creole-country-louisiana-road-trip/>

Some places Max might have stopped if his family drove through Louisiana.

#### **Roadside America**

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/>

Roadside attractions across the country and a map tool to locate attractions near any city.

#### **How Have You Handled Being the “New Kid”**

[http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/05/21/how-have-you-handled-being-the-new-kid/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_r=0](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/05/21/how-have-you-handled-being-the-new-kid/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0)

A reflection activity from the NY Times.