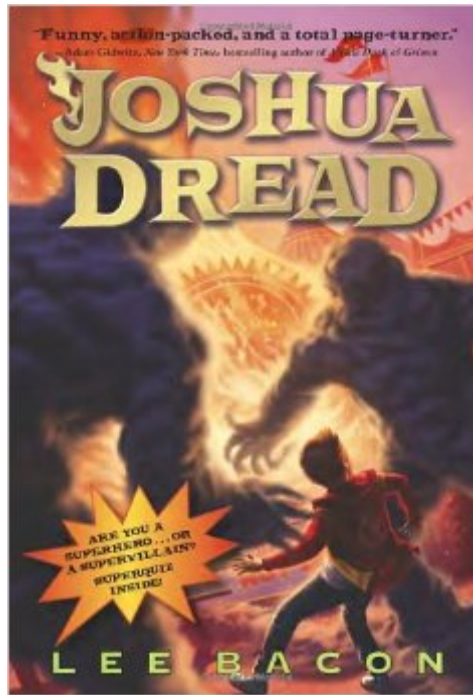


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# Joshua Dread



## Synopsis

The first book in the series! Middle school is tough alreadyâ™but when your parents are evil supervillains and youâ™ve just discovered you have powers of your own, life can be a real challenge.Â Not only do bullies pick on Joshua, but do you see those supervillains over there trying to flood the world? The ones that everyone, including his best friend Milton, are rooting for Captain Justice to take down? They're the Dread Duo, and they just happen to be his parents. As if trying to hide his identity wasn't hard enough, Joshua has started leaving a trail of exploding pencils and scorched handprints in his wake, and only Sophie, the new girl in town with a mysterious past, seems unsurprised. When a violent attack at the Vile Fair makes it clear someone is abducting supervillains, and that his parents may very well be next, Joshua must enlist both Sophie and Milton's help to save them. âœJoshua Dread is funny, action-packed, and a total page-turner. Youâ™ll want to read to the bitter endâ™unless Joshuaâ™s parents destroy the world first. Which is a distinct possibility.â•â™Adam Gidwitz, author of A Tale Dark & GrimmÂ "Villainy! Mayhem! Family! From supervillains to killer houseplants, Joshua Dread has it all. I couldn't put it down and I didn't dare, not until I'd devoured every last page!" -C. Alexander London, author of the Accidental Adventure series

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Series: Joshua Dread (Book 1)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (October 8, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307929981

ISBN-13: 978-0307929983

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #38,442 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #439 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #1730 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

## Customer Reviews

Have you ever been embarrassed by your parents? Well, imagine how you'd feel if they tried to destroy the world. This is the situation faced by Joshua Dread, a 12-year-old boy who just wants to be a regular kid. One small problem: his parents are supervillains. I was drawn to this book from the very first sentence: "Our class got out of sixth period early the day my parents tried to flood the earth." Lee Bacon immediately throws the reader into the excitement. The world is ending, Joshua's parents are to blame, and the only one who can stop them is the famed superhero Captain Justice. But as the story goes on, we come to see the characters on a deeper level. Joshua's parents aren't just stock villains. They're real, well rounded characters who actually care about their son. And Captain Justice isn't as flawless as he might look at first glance. The descriptions of Joshua's home life were creative and laugh-out-loud funny. His mom (aka, the Botanist), who has the power to control plants with her mind, keeps zombies in the basement and has invented a mutant ficus (named Micus) that seems to have a grudge against Joshua. His Dad (aka, Dr. Dread) scatters his half-finished inventions around the house and advises Joshua about how to deal with bullies. After a string of bizarre accidents (an exploding pencil, a butt-shaped burn mark in the carpet) Joshua finds out that he has a superpower, too. Of course, his parents want him to use it for evil, but Joshua's not so sure. His life is further complicated by the arrival of Sophie, the mysterious new girl at school who seems to be hiding something.

Please understand that all my reviews focus on the interests of my middle school students. I never do a full plot synopsis in a review and try to give as little away as possible. I try to read the first book in as many series of YA books as I can so that I can speak knowledgeably about the book with my seventh graders. With the huge growth in the YA category, this means I very seldom have time to read anything else and this makes me feel like I'm missing out on a lot. Then, I come across something like the *Lightning Thief*, *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp*, *Powerless*, etc., and I realize that you can only have this kind of fun with kids' books. Now, I can add Joshua Dread to that list, and I can assure you I would not have chosen to read it if I were not a middle school reading teacher trying to do his job. And you know what? My life would have had less adventure and fun in it. As the book started, I was afraid the reading level was going to be too low for me to enjoy it (the book garners only 7 AR points). But things changed fast, and I soon found myself so engrossed in the building adventure that before I knew it, I was reading the last page. This is a

debut novel? No way! But it's true; and in my opinion it ranks right up there with Rick Riordan's *The Lightning Thief* (as a debut). As a native Texan, I am proud that Lee Bacon can join Kaleb Nation in proving that Texas produces steers and great YA authors (and bulls, too). The basic premise of the plot is that the first person narrator, sixth grader Joshua Dread, is the son of supervillain parents. As the book opens, his parents are engaged in a plot to destroy the world through weather control. Fortunately, the plot is derailed by the super hero Captain Justice.

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