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BIG NATE

Pitch Bible by Mitch Watson

Fourth Draft 10/25/19

THEME

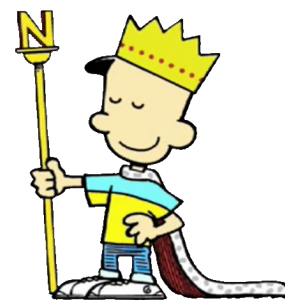
Despite the belief that he is awesome, Nate Wright finds that convincing others of this is not as easy as he hoped.

BIG NATE THE SHOW

Big Nate is a 22-minute comedy about a sixth grade boy who has a desperate desire to prove his awesomeness to the world. Tonally think JOHN HUGHES MOVIES OF THE 80'S. BIG NATE is FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF, FREAKS AND GEEKS and UNDECLARED for 6th graders.

Nate Wright – our hero and narrator – believes he is AWESOME... at least that is what he will tell you. The truth is he has his doubts, but he is not about to let the rest of the world know that. For this reason, Nate continually finds himself trying to prove his awesomeness to his schoolmates, usually resulting in some sort of disaster, detention, or both. Mostly both. But Nate doesn't care. He knows greatness is just around the corner waiting to embrace him. Sure there have been set-backs, but greatness always has setbacks. Just look at Evil Knievel. He jumped Snake River and was made into an awesome toy only after he broke every bone in his body. Or Stephen Hawking who didn't become a famous scientist until after he lost the ability to walk and speak.

Maybe those aren't the best examples.



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But it does show that greatness comes with adversity, and Nate's life is full of adversity. From his annoying sister ELLEN (Nate knows she is just jealous of him), to his academic arch-nemesis GINA (who loves trying to prove she's better than Nate even though she is sooooo not), or his pure evil social studies teacher MRS. GODFREY (the BATMAN to Nate's JOKER) Nate is no stranger to struggle. Does he let it beat him? No way. Awesomeness – as far as Nate is concerned – cannot be beaten. It cannot be stopped. It is a part of Nate as much as breathing and drawing his cartoons are.

And speaking of cartoons, this is where Nate shines. Cartoons are his super power. The way he expresses himself. How he feels. What he desires. Nate's cartoons – and the rogue's gallery of characters he has created to populate his cartoons – are a window into the real Nate Wright. On the outside he may seem confident and sure of what he is doing, but the truth of where his head is at is found in his cartoons. Unlike the real world which he can't control, cartoons obey his every whim. In a cartoon...

- Nate can show us his thoughts and dreams in a comical way.
- Nate can be the hero— always!
- Nate can reach the victorious ending he might not be able to get to in real life.

Cartoons to Nate represent the distillation of all the feelings, wants and needs, that a sixth grader might not have the maturity – or the patience – to find in the real world.

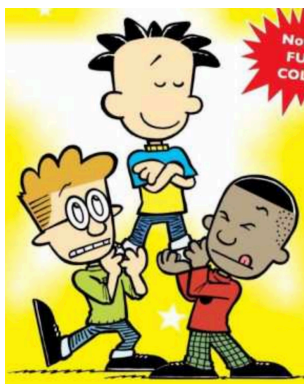
In other words, Nate's cartoons show us who he truly is: a very funny, sometimes shy, always enthusiastic (about his schemes) kid whose idea of himself doesn't always match the reality of who he is. Yes, he's not the most reliable narrator. But that's okay. He's still entertaining.

Nate doesn't want to get into trouble. Whatever shenanigans he pulls off are not malicious. He doesn't want to hurt people. The problem is Nate is MYOPIC. When Nate gets an idea, he forgets about the path that idea will take him on and all the possible trouble it could cause. He doesn't see the danger, only the prize. The outcome outweighs the trouble so why should he let it bother him.

- Yes, letting a PREGNANT LIZARD loose from the science lab may not be the best idea, but it does cause an evacuation of the school which means NO SOCIAL STUDIES TEST.
- Yes, auditioning for the school play only to find out that Gina will be his love interest is horrifying, but it does get him out of DETENTION.
- Yes, convincing his friends that he has several BLACK BELTS in KRAV MAGA does cause every bully in school to come after him, but it also finally makes his secret love JENNY notice him (even though it's only because she wants to fight him as well).

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Nate is FERRIS BUELLER crossed with INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU. Charming, mischievous, and a magnet for misadventure. Trouble is always fun when Nate is around. Just ask his friends.



NATE'S CORE GROUP OF FRIENDS

FRANCIS POPE (11)

Francis is Nate's consigliere. His voice of reason. The one who tries to keep Nate's crazy ideas in check, or at least keep Nate out of unnecessary trouble. Of all his friends, Francis is the one Nate counts on the most. Except for a few tiffs which never last more than a day, they have been inseparable since they met in kindergarten when Francis rescued Nate after Nate sealed himself in papier-mâché because he wanted to be a garden gnome. Most of the time Nate listens to Francis's sage advice, but not always, especially if Francis's sage advice will stop him from doing something awesome like digging a huge ditch in the middle of the school football field and filling it with water so the school could have a pool on hot days. Unfortunately, in the process, Nate ends up rupturing a sewage line causing every toilet in the school to explode. Francis really wishes he could have talked Nate out of that one. Fortunately, as was stated above, their disagreements rarely last long. In the end, their bond of friendship always comes out on top. One might wonder why a straight laced kid like Francis would hang out with – in the words of his parents – “a malcontent with few prospects” like Nate. But Francis doesn't see that when he looks at Nate. Truth is, Francis sees in Nate what he'd like to see in himself: fearlessness, street smarts, a wicked sense of personal hygiene, charm, and most importantly a sense that Nate likes himself. For Francis, if a little of that can wash off on him, helping Nate with his crazy adventures is definitely worth it.



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TEDDY ORTIZ (11)

Teddy was born in Arizona and moved to Maine with his mother, father, and uncle Pedro when he was five. His father is from Mexico and his mother is Puerto Rican. Both parents are math teachers, a fact not lost on Teddy who is terrible at math. Teddy met Nate his second week in town. Almost immediately upon arriving, Teddy noticed that Maine was not a bastion of Mexican culture. It's not that anyone said anything to him, but it was clear that there were not a lot of people of his "heritage". Consequently, the other kids kept their distance. But not Nate. Nate was attempting to ride his skateboard down a tree when he spotted Teddy hanging around the playground at the local park. Nate immediately enlisted Teddy to help him scale the tree for another ride. Nate had built a pulley system out of some old wire he'd found at a construction site. Problem was Nate couldn't work the pulley by himself. Teddy happily joined him and helped pull Nate up the tree over and over again, until a freak lightning storm sent a bolt of

lightning into the wire **BLOWING UP THE TREE**. Nate and Teddy were unhurt, but Teddy thought it was the most awesome thing he had ever seen and made a decision right there that Nate – the only kid who wanted to play with him -- would be his friend for life. Teddy knew that despite the fact he was different from the other kids, Nate didn't care. In fact, Nate didn't even seem to notice his "heritage".

From that day forth, Teddy became Nate's main co-conspirator. A partner in chaos always willing to go along with Nate's crazy schemes. But Teddy is no idiot. He is willing to follow Nate, but if there is a chance they will get caught, Teddy has an amazing way of disappearing. On more than one occasion Nate has been in a situation where he was sure Teddy was right behind him, only to find Teddy mysteriously **GONE** when Nate gets caught. Teddy is the Houdini of pranks. An untouchable imp. Nate is

actually jealous of this ability. Teddy is also incredibly calm. Regardless of the stakes involved, he is like ice. Whereas Francis is always a bit nervous about their

misadventures, Teddy is mellow to the point of sedation. The guy just never gets flustered. Nate attributes this to his Uncle Pedro who is a **HYPNOTIST** (as well as a **ROOFER**, **HAIR STYLIST**, **YOGA INSTRUCTOR**, **CARPENTER**, **LANDSCAPER**, **MUSICIAN**, and **MECHANIC**). When Nate first met Teddy he definitely had **ADD** (Nate likened him to a Pomeranian with a full bladder), but something happened when Teddy entered elementary school. He seriously mellowed out. Only answer Nate could come up with is that Uncle Pedro hypnotized him. Regardless, Teddy is the perfect sidekick. The Bonnie to his Clyde. The Oates to his Hall (younger readers please look this up). Along with Francis, they make up the **TRI-FECTA OF AWESOME**, and also form $\frac{3}{4}$'s of Nate's band **ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK**.



DEE DEE HOLLOWAY (11)

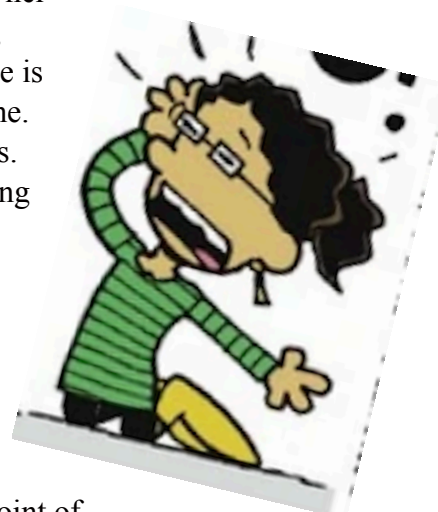
Now it may seem odd that a group of 6th grade boys would hang out with a GIRL like Dee Dee, but the truth is they didn't have a choice. Dee Dee just started hanging out with them and low-and-behold the boys discovered they really liked her. Not in a romantic way, though. They like

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Dee Dee because she is NUTS. Not “crazy” nuts, but “fun nuts” like they are. The wonderful thing about the age our heroes are at is that puberty has not kicked in yet. There is parity. Dee Dee is one of the gang. Romance of any kind with her is not a factor. She is also really smart and EXTREMELY ENTERTAINING. Dee Dee dreams of being an actress. When she was 4 her parents took her to see CATS in New York, and since then she has dreamed of essaying the role of RUMPLETEASER, the mischievous criminal cat. Dee Dee is very dramatic and loves to wear costumes and pretend to be other people. While in disguise Dee Dee is fearless. Even Nate is often in awe at what she is willing to do, and the places she is willing to sneak into. If anything, it sometimes freaks him out.

- Need to get into a locked room? No problem, Dee Dee one time played a pick-pocket in OLIVER and taught herself to pick locks.
- Need to sneak into a party you weren’t invited to? No problem, Dee Dee has a closet full of DISGUISES.
- Need to dig-up dirt on someone? Leave it to Dee Dee. She once played SHERLOCK HOLMES in an all-female musical production of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES for which she actually got a detective’s license while doing research.

Dee Dee is the gangs “multi-tool”, capable of pulling off whatever the other boys are incapable – or unwilling – to do. She also functions as the MANAGER for ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK, as well as being in charge of their touring schedule (they are technically too young to tour, but she likes to plan ahead). Dee Dee is also president of the band’s fan club, and the designer of the band logo (a clam with a guitar clutched in its clam mouth). As you can see, Dee Dee is an invaluable member of the team. Nate couldn’t imagine life without her. For her part, Dee Dee is still a little amazed she gets to hang out with Nate. You see, unlike virtually everyone else in the school, Dee Dee actually does think Nate is AWESOME. She would never tell him that, but she does think he is awesome. Sure, Dee Dee could hang out with the theater kids, or the more studious kids. That would be the obvious choice. But those kids are boring. Nate is anything but. He is exciting, and Dee Dee craves excitement almost as much as she craves drama. Life is an adventure when she is with Nate. An escape. Dee Dee never feels more like herself – more content – than when she is taking part in one of Nate’s schemes. Still, Dee Dee is no follower. She is fully capable of causing her own trouble, and making her own unwise decisions without Nate. Using THE PEANUTS characters as an analogy, Dee Dee would be PEPPERMINT PATTY to Nate’s CHARLIE BROWN. She is an individual. An independent thinker who will function as the shows female point of view. If Nate and the gang are being idiots – especially to girls – Dee Dee will call it out and make sure it stops. Likewise she will call other girls out when they are being too-- “annoyingly girlie”. Dee Dee isn’t a goody-goody. As said earlier, Dee Dee is just as crazy and as much of a trouble maker as Nate. She just doesn’t get caught as much.



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These four represent the core characters of the show. Nate – and his myopic enthusiasm – will drive the stories, and the crazy schemes he devises will serve as the ENGINE that propels everything forward while his friends support him and do their best to keep Nate out of trouble.

As the series gets further along, more of the SECONDARY CHARACTERS will begin to come forward to fill out the world adding further layers to the storytelling and allowing Nate and the core characters to grow. These characters will include both STUDENTS and TEACHERS at Nate's school. Would you like to meet them? I bet you would. Here is a small sample.

THE SUPPORTING CAST OF BIG NATE

NATE'S FAMILY

MARTIN WRIGHT (40ish)

Nate's father. Bald, overweight, and divorced, life has not gone exactly as planned for Martin. Like his son, he is somewhat clueless about who he is as opposed to how he is viewed by those around him. Being older, though, Martin has a better handle on his shortcomings. That's not to say in isn't still overconfident in his abilities. For instance, Martin believes himself to be a professional musician despite his not-so-great voice and average guitar playing. He considers himself an athlete despite never exercising. Martin fancies himself an expert golfer even when he routinely loses a half-dozen balls per game and has never actually shot par (he's been close... apparently). Character flaws aside, Martin is a great single dad. He always makes sure there is a healthy meal and snacks for his kids. He never hands out candy at Halloween, instead preferring to bestow rice cakes or prunes. The neighborhood children traditionally thank him for this by smashing the prunes between the rice cakes and hurling them at each other – or Nate's house – creating a gooey/crunchy mess. At the end of the day, though, Martin loves his son and his daughter, Nate's older sister Ellen. Things are not easy for Martin. Parenting two kids is tough when there is both a mom and a dad and he is doing it alone. But Martin doesn't complain. Well, he does complain, but not when his kids are around.



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FABULA WRIGHT (40ish)

Nate's absentee MOM and Martin's EX-WIFE. In his early, pre-dad life, Martin aspired to be a ROCK STAR. During a gig in college, his eyes fell upon a beautiful woman in the front row. That was it. Love at first site. Problem was, the beautiful woman – FABULA, or FAB for short – was really not the marrying kind. Fab was a free spirit. A wild child (think the lead female characters in ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS). She stuck around just long enough to give birth to two children, but when the realities of motherhood kicked in, she knew it wasn't for her (unless Martin suddenly became very wealthy and was able to afford nannies, maids, and flying first class which clearly didn't happen). Consequently, Nate knows very little about his mother as she left before he was even one year-old. Ellen — Nate's sister — got to know Fab a little better, but it has been over a decade since Ellen has seen her and much of what Ellen remembers has faded. Fab does occasionally call on birthdays. As for what she does for a living, years back Fab took up the odd hobby of carving FACES OUT OF APPLES which she sold at craft fairs. As the apples rotted, the faces aged, until you finally had to throw them out. Shockingly, Fab's APPLE FACES were a huge hit on QVC, and she's become wealthy because of it. Some of this money has made its way to Nate and Ellen, but mostly she spends it on traveling the world... and herself.

ELLEN WRIGHT (15)

Nate's older sister and the object of much angst for Nate. Why? Because Ellen is perfect. Just ask any of Nate's teachers who had her as a student. Ellen is hardworking and reliable; two adjectives Nate has never heard ascribed to his person. She never got detention. Not once. She actually liked her teachers. Had personal relationships with them. Engaged in conversations



with them after class not because she was in trouble but because she WANTED to talk to them. If Ellen has flaws Nate has never seen them, but he is determined to find them anyway. Nate loves to pull pranks on his sister like purposely running down the battery on her cell phone so she misses calls from her friends. Or replacing her make-up with clown paint. Or flushing the toilet while she showers to make the water cold. Nate knows under that "perfect" demeanor is a monster waiting to be unleashed, and he is determined to give that monster freedom. Ellen, for her part, is well aware of her brother's reputation and has a full proof way of dealing with his games when they are directed at her-- she tells her dad. Checkmate.

THE TEACHERS

Once upon a time, TEACHERS in animated shows were depicted as morons who were there only for ridicule and for tricks to be played upon. In BIG NATE, we will take a different tack.

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The attitude of kids toward their teachers has changed over the years and BIG NATE will stay current with that. Kids these days understand that their teachers are there to help them achieve their dreams. Teachers want the best for the students they teach. They work long, hard hours. They are woefully underfunded. If your child goes to a public school – or even a private school – fundraisers for school supplies and even to pay teachers is commonplace. Bottom line: kids these days know that teachers sacrifice so they – the students – can learn. Kids get the nobility of this. So in BIG NATE, the teachers will reflect this struggle and the kids will show their respect...

Most of the time. Let's face it, not all teachers are created equal. Some truly are evil and deserve what they get. For example:

MRS. GODFREY (45)

Affectionately called the “CREATURE TEACHER” by Nate, as the school’s SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER Mrs. Godfrey more than lives up to the name. If she ever had altruistic reasons for wanting to teach, those reasons left long ago along with her hygiene. And speaking of hygiene, Godfrey has horrible breath. The stink that comes out of Godfrey smells like a pair of crabs in a sweaty sock fighting over a wedge of goat cheese. The woman is perpetually on edge. Always waiting for someone – usually Nate – to step out of line. Mrs. Godfrey is a walking billboard for the abolishment of tenure. Maybe at one time she cared about children learning. Now every day for her is about survival. She is at war, and Nate is her chief enemy. Godfrey marked Nate as a problem the moment he showed up in her class and he has yet to do anything to make her feel different. In fact, Godfrey is pretty sure Nate is only at the school to make her life hell. For his part, Nate does not like Godfrey, but he does not go out of his way to antagonize her. In fact, he would love to do something right so she is not always on his case. Sadly, this has yet to happen. To make matters worse, Godfrey absolutely adored Nate’s older sister Ellen. Far as Nate can tell, Godfrey’s only redeeming quality is her love of STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION which is also a favorite of Nates (despite the show having gone off the air before he was even born).



MR. ROSA (38)

Nate’s favorite teacher. Mr. Rosa teaches art which is really the only thing Nate cares about. Mr. Rosa has been instrumental in furthering Nate’s cartooning career, helping Nate start his cartooning club THE DOODLERS. Mr. Rosa is a kind, if somewhat obsequious man who dreamed of once becoming a famous artist. A dream that has not died to this day (if he can just get a little time off he’d finally be able to finish the masterpiece he’s been working on since college). In the meantime, Mr. Rosa looks to his students to justify his existence. Rosa wants Nate and his friends to succeed, and he is happy when whatever scheme Nate comes up with that

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actually works out. Mr. Rosa is the only teacher Nate and his pals accept as a friend, despite the fact that 38 is OLD! If Nate or anyone else has a serious problem, Mr. Rosa is the one adult they would seek advice from. They also seek Mr. Rosa out because he is really easy to manipulate. Say Nate wants to check out a new COMIC BOOK STORE in the city. All he has to do is convince Rosa to take THE DOODLERS on a trip to the MUSEUM which happens to be a block from the store. Rosa, wanting to score points with the kids, readily obliges. There is also the fact that Rosa works part-time at the local ice cream store SWEET LICKS to make ends meet. Nate – well aware of this – always finds a reason to pop buy for some free desert.

PRINCIPAL WESLEY NICHOLS (42)

Principal Nichols is basically a good guy who struggles with being an authority figure. Nichols approach with the kids has always been to engage them as a friend with lines like “How do you do, fellow kids?” Nichols purports to be one of the gang. A confidant. Unfortunately, there is not a single kid at P.S. 38 who would ever confide in Principal Nichols. Come on, he is literally THE MAN. Doesn’t matter how nice he is, Nichols represents authority, and when you’re a kid, authority figures are “no Bueno”. Consequently, Nichols comes off as an adult who’s trying way too hard to be “relevant” and “cool”.

Because of this, he routinely leaves himself open for exploitation from Nate and the other kids. Fortunately, because he is a very affable person, Nichols rarely gets upset by this. Every encounter with the students – regardless if it results in an explosion, major injury, nuclear holocaust, etc. – is a positive. Nichols is a glass half full guy... unfortunately the glass usually has a hole in it.



MR. GALVIN (51)

Insecure and under appreciated pretty much describes Mr. Galvin, Nate’s SCIENCE TEACHER. Never married and without children, Mr. Galvin’s whole life revolves around P.S. 38. This means he is always there. Barely ever goes home except for major holidays and his weekly shower. In fact, the janitor has found him more than once spending the night in the science lab, Galvin always making the excuse he was worried about a leak in the Bunsen burners blowing up the school. Galvin is part science nerd, and part grizzled war veteran, but he legitimately wants his students to learn. Too often he feels that science is getting less and less important in society and he wants to make sure that doesn’t happen. Problem is, Galvin’s long teaching career has created a desperation in him that usually results in a very short fuse. He does not like to lose his temper, though, so instead of blowing up at the kids (like Mrs. Godfrey might do) he simply holds his breath, turns red in the face, and walks out of the room until he can calm down. This “calming

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down” period can sometimes last for the entire class. Because of this, when Nate wants out of science, he knows that all he needs to do is annoy Galvin to the point of explosion and voila, no more science class. When not in class, Galvin tends to hang out in the teachers’ lounge where he comes off as the school curmudgeon, constantly reminiscing about the good old days when children listened and actually wanted to learn. The other teachers like to remind him that this never actually happened and more than likely, he is remembering an episode of *DIFFERENT STROKES* or *SAVED BY THE BELL*.



There are many other teachers who will come in and out of stories, but for the early episodes we will focus on these four that Nate has most of his interactions with.

THE STUDENTS

ARTUR PASHKOV (11)

A very friendly, intelligent, exchange student from Belarus. He is in Nate's class and is Jenny Jenkins' boyfriend. Jenny Jenkin's also happens to be Nate's secret crush, so—awkward. Artur speaks somewhat broken English as a second language. He is very innocent, gentle, kind, and (most of the time) unassuming. Artur is extremely well liked at P.S. 38 which drives Nate a little crazy with jealousy because Artur doesn't even try to be liked (unlike Nate, who – even if he won't admit it – tries really hard to be liked). Artur regards Nate as his best friend and is generally unaware of Nate's personal jealousy of him. Artur went with his father, a college professor, to Turkey for 6 months, during which time Nate tried to start going out with Jenny. Artur is a nice boy who is trying to please Nate, including letting Nate beat him at chess at one point (Artur is a Belarusian chess master). In a strange twist of fate, Nate made Artur the lead singer in *ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK*. He'd assumed Artur would blow it, but Artur actually turned out to be quite good so Nate let him stay and become an official member of the band.



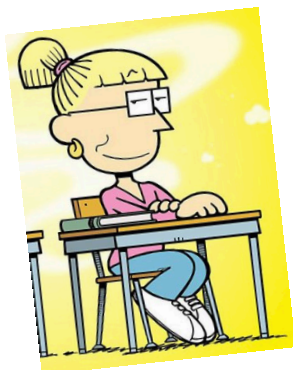
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GINA HEMPHILL-TOMS (11)

One of Nate's schoolmates and rivals. She is an enemy of Nate and likes to get him in trouble.

Gina is also a nerd, hates exercise, spend upwards of 18 hours a day studying and wears nerdy, thick glasses. Gina always gets an A-plus on her assignments, and does not like it if anyone scores better than her. Especially Nate. So, why is she such an enemy of Nates? Because, duh, she kind of likes him, but only her subconscious knows that. Her un-subconscious finds itself continually annoyed by him. Why does she care so much about what Nate is doing? He's a total subhuman not worth her time. But she can't help it, something (her subconscious) will not let her ignore Nate. Will she ever reveal her true feelings? Probably not. But her subconscious will not let this rest so when she is not trying to get Nate in trouble, she flirts with one of his friends CHAD APPLEWHITE, who has the personality and intelligence of melted cheese. Is she doing this purposely to make Nate jealous so he finally notices

her as something besides "that annoying brain with legs"? Only Gina's subconscious can answer that.



CHAD APPLEWHITE (11)

As you have already heard, Chad has the personality and intelligence of melted cheese. Chad is one of Nate's good friends. He is a chubby, sweet, and harmless kid with red hair and freckles. Nate loves Chad because – like Teddy -- Chad is willing to help Nate with all his schemes.

Unlike Teddy, Chad is not bright enough to run away when Nate's schemes go sideways. In many ways, when Chad is around he is Nate's defacto sidekick who will do whatever is asked of him. The problem is Chad almost always messes up what he's been asked to do. For example, Nate was once dared to eat a GHOST PEPPER, one of the hottest peppers on the planet. Nate made a plot with Chad to switch his pepper at the last minute. Chad made the switch, but he used an even hotter pepper – THE CAROLINA REAPER – because he thought since this was a contest to show who could eat the hottest pepper that was what he was supposed to do. Nate had butt fire for a month.

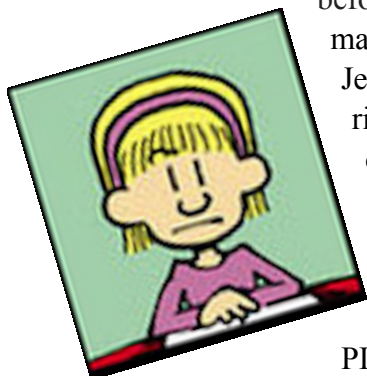


JENNY JENKINS (11)

Nate's classmate since grade one and his biggest crush. Sadly, Jenny has no feelings for Nate. Jenny is a pretty, plain girl that never reveals much of her personality so it is strange that someone like Nate would be in to her. Jenny is one of those girls who answers "uh-huh" to just about everything. It's hard to tell what her opinions are since she is pretty monosyllabic. This doesn't bother Nate. To him it makes her mysterious and exotic. He likes a girl who keeps him guessing about—well everything. Jenny is the definition of average. Average grades. Average looks. Average personality. Her inability to have much of an opinion on anything is perhaps

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what makes Artur so appealing as a boyfriend since he is kind of the same: sweet and harmless, and besides his weird accent, average. Still, Jenny has been Nate's "object of desire" since before he knew what "desire" meant. Truth is Jenny's outward expression that makes her always look like she is in a daze is not because she is stupid.

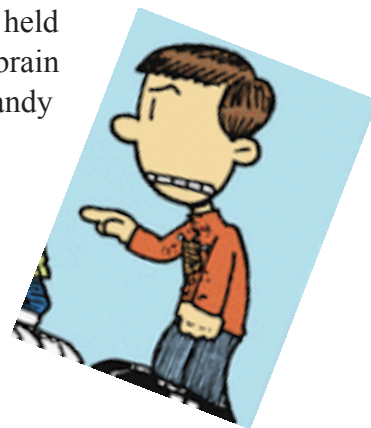


Jenny's problem is she has an amazing imagination, that in many ways rivals Nate's, and her imagination tends to dominate her waking life. Jenny doesn't have Nate's capacity for drawing, so instead she keeps all her many thoughts in her head where they swirl around and dominate her thoughts. Hence her outward dazed expression. You might be speaking right to Jenny's face about HISTORY CLASS, or GYM, but there is a good chance Jenny does not hear you because she is thinking about PILOTING BI-PLANES ACROSS CRYSTAL BLUE SKIES, or battling

rogue DINOSAURS on her BATTLE UNICORN. If Nate knew how perfectly matched they were – in terms of imagination – he would spend more time trying to woo her. Instead Nate's plan has always been to wear Jenny down no matter how long it takes until she falls for him. For Nate, it is all about the long game. If that game takes a lifetime, so be it.

RANDY BENTANCOURT (12)

Randy is Nate's chief adversary. In fact, Nate routinely refers to him as "Randy Buttancourt". Randy is taller than the other kids in 6th grade because he was held back a year due to low test scores which inaccurately stated that Randy was brain dead and had probably died years ago. This of course was wildly wrong. Randy is not dead, nor is he particularly stupid. He just spends most of his time torturing other students so he rarely studies. Nate has always been a prime target because Randy is jealous of the friendships Nate has with other students. No one likes Randy, so consequently he has no one to hang out with. Does Randy just want love? Probably, but he is such a dick no one ever gets close to giving it to him. Sorry Randy.



WHAT DO THE STORIES REVOLVE AROUND?

This will shift over time, but in general stories will revolve around typical things that would happen to a sixth grader that seem trivial to us, but are life and death to someone Nate's age. Things like...

- Hiding the worst haircut Nate has ever gotten from his friends.
- Nate not wanting to change in front of other kids in the gym locker room because he has a BIRTHMARK on his back that looks like a HIGH-HEELED PUMP DRESS SHOE.
- Nate having to admit he has a fear of cats stealing his soul through his mouth while he sleeps.

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These types of ideas will be the engines that drive the show, and they will always be initiated by Nate. By the end of each episode, the conflict will be resolved, and although Nate will learn from the experience, we will also find a way to subvert the message at the end so that episodes never come off as treacly.

UNIQUE HOOK OF SHOW

What will set this show apart – besides the fact that it is based on a NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLING BOOK SERIES – will not only be Nate and his high-energy need to convince the world of his awesomeness, but the way Nate deals with his problems by both TALKING DIRECTLY TO THE AUDIENCE and through DRAWING CARTOONS. These cartoons will function as a way of getting inside Nate's true feelings in an almost Walter Mitty-esque way. Meaning, whatever Nate is struggling with, it will manifest itself in his cartoons.

- Teacher giving him trouble? Nate will deal with it by having an alter-ego cartoon character such as DR. CESSPOOL or CLAUDE THE STUPID IDEAS FAIRY illustrate the best course of action.
- Sister driving him crazy? Nate will draw HORNS on her head IN REAL TIME then drop a CRUDELY DRAWN BOMB on her FACE. It won't have any impact in the real world, but it sure will diffuse the situation (at least for Nate).
- Something totally absurd and outrageous happens with one of his friends? Nate will talk directly to camera – breaking the fourth wall – and let us all in on the situation and how he plans on dealing with it.

The other element that will be unique to this show will be the integral use of MUSIC. We will have traditional score, but the plan is also to involve a singer/songwriter in the process early who will create song that we will then write scenes to match. Think the way music was used in RUSHMORE or GOOD WILL HUNTING. Music in these films wasn't an afterthought.

The songs served to create a mood and an aesthetic that helped define those movies. We plan on doing the same thing with BIG NATE. Audiences tuning in will come to expect that at some point an ORIGINAL SONG will play that will inform what they are watching. And since it will be one consistent singer/songwriter from episode to episode, tuning in will become more of an event.



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LOCATIONS

At least for the early episodes the show should take place primarily in the following locations:

- Nate's school P.S. 38
- Nate's home
- Various locations around Rackleff, Maine (Nate's town)

Really, though, the majority of the series will take place at Nate's school. As the series continues we will go to the homes of the Francis, Teddy, Dee Dee and others, but for the early episodes I believe we should stay around the school until things are firmly established.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY

I don't think we should saturate the show with MODERN TECHNOLOGY (cell phones, iPads, video games, etc.) or POP CULTURE REFERENCES. That said I don't believe we can completely ignore them either. Since Nate's school is 6th grade through 8th grade, I believe we should keep technology like iPhones and iPads limited to older kids. This could make for some good conflict/jealousy among Nate and his friends who covet these "older kid gadgets". We can even do a show about someone like Francis being the first in the group to get an iPhone, and Nate becoming very jealous and determined to either get his own, or get his hands on Francis' phone. I believe we should not turn our back on modern technology, but instead use it sparingly. I don't want this show to be about a bunch of kids running around texting with each other and sending inappropriate selfies.

SHOW FORMAT

Regardless of whether the shows are 11 min or 22 min, multiple story lines are key to keeping the action moving.

- (A) STORY—Set up at the top of each episode. Will revolve around something Nate becomes obsessed with and the havoc that follows.
- (B) STORY-- These stories will feature anyone besides Nate. They can be about Francis, Teddy, or Dee Dee as well as any of the secondary student characters or the adult teachers. The B story should run in tandem to the A story until both stories come together in the end for a satisfying resolution.
- (C) STORY-- I consider these to be running gags throughout the show that don't necessarily have to have anything to do with the A or B stories. These are HALF PAGE to a PAGE slice of school life SNAPSHOTS featuring secondary characters from the show doing or saying something ridiculous.

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EPISODE PREMISES

THE BIRTHDAY



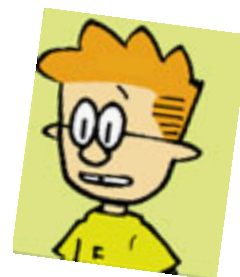
It's Nate's birthday. He's turning 12 and he wants an awesome bash. In the past his birthdays have been kind of a dud (which we will see represented by one of Nate's cartoons). Not this year. Unfortunately, his dad is swamped with work and his sister Ellen wants nothing to do with him, so Nate is left to plan the party on his own.

Fortunately, he is able to talk his dad into letting him borrow his credit card with the promise that he won't spend more than 50 bucks. Guess what happens? Yep, with Francis, Teddy, and Dee Dee helping him plot the most epic party ever, Nate ends up maxing out his father's credit card. Now Nate – who can't get the money back – must figure out a way to pay his father back THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS or Nate will not only be punished for a very long time, but there is a good chance his father won't be able to pay their rent and they will lose their house.

THE PLAGUE

A very bad flu sweeps through P.S. 38. This would normally be lousy news, but not to Nate. A bad flu means GETTING TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL. One-by-one the students drop as they are taken ill, Nate patiently waiting for his turn to come. Is that a sore throat he feels? A runny nose? An upset stomach? Francis gets sick, then Teddy, then Dee Dee. Nate knows it will be his turn soon. Just a matter of time before he's home, in bed, watching TV, and NOT HAVING TO GO TO SCHOOL. But the flu never comes. Nate – while everyone else is dropping – is ridiculously healthy. The halls are filled with coughing and sputum which Nate makes sure to get himself exposed to. BUT HE STILL DOESN'T GET SICK!

Nate is totally distraught, but what comes next is worse. As the ranks of the school thin out, only two students and one teacher are left: Nate, Gina, and Mrs. Godfrey, Nate's mortal enemies. Catching the flu just became a matter of life and death.



THE HUNT

Nate discovers that because of budget cuts, the school will be getting rid of its mascot: the P.S. 38 IGUANA. They just can't afford the flies and crickets anymore that the iguana eats, and there are concerns about "lizard pox" a rare sickness that may or may not be real (it isn't). Nate loves the iguana, as do his friends. The iguana is a symbol for school pride. It also spits at Mr. Galvin during science class which really annoys Galvin but makes Nate and his pals totally crack up. Nate is adamant that the iguana has to be saved so he sneaks in and frees the iguana into the school's air ducts before it can be taken away. Problem is Nate doesn't realize the iguana is PREGNANT, and before he can get the iguana back IT GIVES BIRTH! HUNGRY BABY IGUANA'S are now falling out of the ceiling terrifying everyone. Teacher

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and students are screaming in the halls. The Principal vows to hire the best exterminator in town: a psycho named BRETT who wields a flamethrower and has a 100% successful kill rate. Nate, who doesn't want the iguana or its babies to get hurt, must form a team to go into the school's air ducts and track down the iguana's. Like Ripley in ALIENS, Nate and his buddies race the clock, trying to gather all the iguanas they can find before Brett finds them. It looks like they might actually succeed, until they come face to face with the QUEEN IGUANA who not only doesn't want to leave, but who wants payback for Nate taking her babies.

THE CURSE OF THE NEW KID

A new kid shows up at school and someone has to show "newbie" around. No one wants to do it. History has shown that new kids are a reflection of who shows them around. Reputations can be ruined. Popularity stripped. Relationships destroyed. Nate absolutely does not want to show the new kid around... so of course he is the one chosen (the Principal promises to clear his detentions if he does it). Best as he can, Nate tries to keep himself and the newbie out of sight. All he has to do is get through the day without being spotted, and he can ditch the new kid and save his reputation. Unfortunately, while hiding the new kid during lunch break, Nate accidentally **LOSES THE NEW KID!** He told the kid to stay in the basement and now the kid is gone. Nate has to find him before school's out or he'll have detention forever. What if the kid is never found!?! They'll lock Nate up. Terrified he might be going away for a long, long time, Nate enlists the help of his friends. Fortunately, Dee Dee just got finished performing in an all-female version of SHERLOCK HOLMES THE MUSICAL. She's got the outfit and the magnifying glass ready to go. With Nate as her Dr. Watson they are sure to find the kid. What they don't count on is a MORIARTY at the school who WANTS Nate to fail. And who is this Moriarty? None other than RANDY BENTANCOURT!



THE GHOST

Nate has a big science test coming up that he desperately wants out of. It's not that he didn't want to study for it. He did. But he was distracted-- Francis got a new video game that Nate just had to play. Teddy was having meatloaf at his house and Nate loves anything "loaf" shaped. And Dee Dee needed a scene partner to help her run lines for her star turn in RAISIN IN THE SUN (Dee Dee is playing THE RAISIN in the unconventional production). Panicked because the test makes up a significant portion of his grade, Nate concocts one of his most genius plans ever: he will convince everyone at P.S. 38 that the school is haunted so he can get out of the test. The night before the exam, Nate, Francis, Teddy, Dee Dee, and Chad (who wasn't supposed to be there but somehow appeared and because he is so cute they brought him along as a good luck charm) sneak into the school to set up a bunch of HALLOWEEN



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PROPS intended to send everyone running from the school in terror. Problem is, soon after sneaking in, Nate and the others find themselves locked inside the school and unable to get out. It is then they make a horrible realization: there is someone else in the school with them, and this someone may or may not be alive. Nate and his buddies must either escape the school, or stay alive until sun-up because if they don't... failing a test will be the least of Nate's problems.

IN CONCLUSION

BIG NATE – be it a FEATURE or a TV SHOW or both – is a comedy about a kid everyone can relate to. This is not a crazy show about going to the moon, or fighting zombies, or unmasking villains of the week. This is character driven comedy about an eleven-year-old boy who is anything but average, and the friends and family who surround him.

We all have an idealized version of ourselves inside. A version that is smarter, better looking, and funnier than we actually are. That is BIG NATE. A sixth grader who isn't content to hide his awesomeness for private moments in front of the mirror. With his myopic enthusiasm Nate wants everyone to know who he is and what he is capable of. So maybe he doesn't yet have the skill set to pull that off. So what. The more fun for us. Nate is not a quitter, and he does not let defeat stop him. Big Nate knows who he is inside, and he wants everyone else to see it. That is the show we will bring to the world. A show – based on an internationally known and successful book series – that will introduce a hero who despite his flaws and shortcomings is going to show that world he is awesome.

Doubt Big Nate at your peril.

