

*The Terrible Two* by Mac Barnett

Playing pranks on someone or on lots of people at once has never appealed to me, as far as I can recall. But this is the perfect book for a middle grader who might think it's cool to fool everyone. Miles Murphy has moved from his great town where he was near the ocean, had two best friends, and a reputation as the town's best prankster. Now he's in a brand new school in a sleepy town known primarily for its cows. Even worse, there appears to be a world-class prankster already in place. What is Miles to do?

Working very hard to up his game and outdo the mystery prankster, Miles is soon in head-to-head combat with prankster versus prankster, and a bully thrown into the mix. However, when the two jokers team up, they decide to pull off a prank so huge it will be historic – and not detected. I enjoyed the humor of the book, the fascination with whether their scheming will succeed, and the friendship that grows between the unlikely pair. It's even more intriguing that this book was written by a pair of writers, and that it is #1 in a series of four. Move over, Hardy Boys!