

**A GUIDE TO THE BERT & MAFULEE SERIES
TEACHER'S GUIDE**

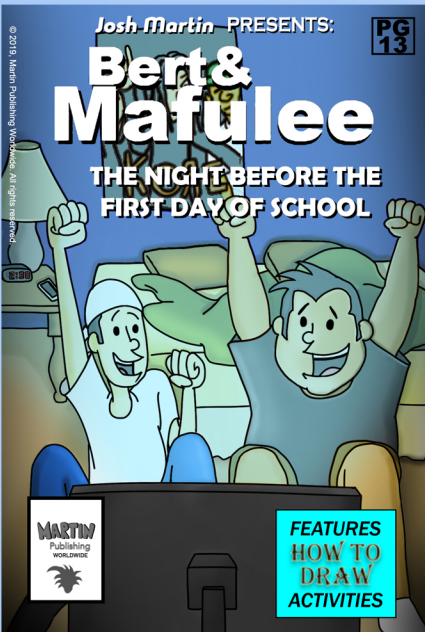
MARTIN

Bert & Mafulee

Josh Martin



Bert & Mafulee



BERT & MAFULEE THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Paperback
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BERT & MAFULEE VONLICHDIK *Coming Soon*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOSH MARTIN is the co-creator of the Bert & Mafulee characters, along with Jose Chavez. In addition to Bert & Mafulee, he is also author of the Biblical Books, *Why The Bible is True* and *Adam and Eve*. By the end of 2019, Josh Martin will be releasing two more books, *KILO* and *Adam and Eve in the Cave of Treasures*. He is the first Nicaraguan American to be both an author and an animation producer in Houston, Texas. Soon, he will be adding movies to the repertoire, as he is currently in development with a full length animated feature adaptation of his *Adam and Eve* book.

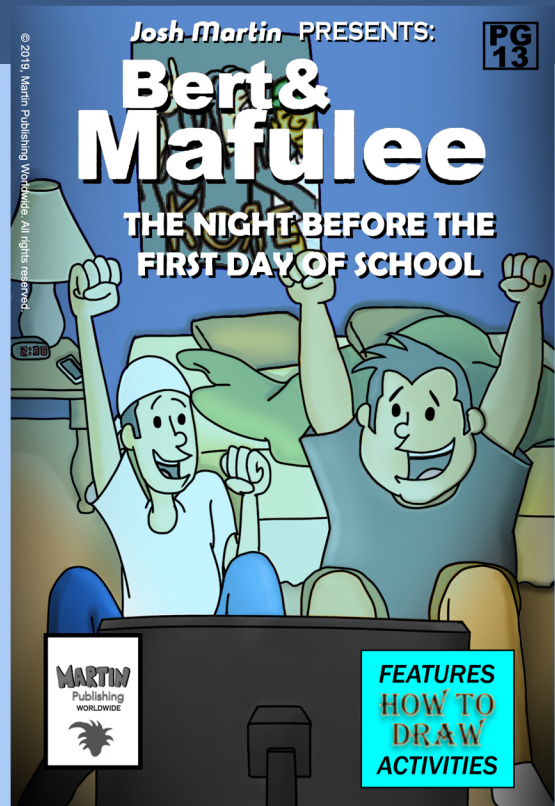


Bert & Mafulee

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

ABOUT THE BOOK

In this comedy-driven comic book, two young teens on the verge of starting their first year of high school find themselves pitted against anxiety and nerves that threaten both the future of their school years and the stability of the world outside the school walls. Two heads are better than one-as they say- as Bert, a light-skinned, thin goofball with a hat on backwards, and Mafulee, a brown-skinned, larger than life comedian, brainstorm fun activities to fill up their night with. In result, they assume the fun activities will drain their energy so that they can easily pass out. A ridiculous game-plan? Only one way to find out! This joyous comic book will be a thrill for every teen who has ever faced fears about their first day of school to the point where they considered not going. Led by gags and cunning remarks, the reader will feel like they're in the same room with Bert & Mafulee!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Discuss the character traits that set Bert & Mafulee apart. In the boys' first meeting, Bert takes an odd route to enter Mafulee's house. In your opinion, what is his reason for doing so? Can we see who is more sensible from this meeting? Use specific evidence from the book to support your opinion.

- 2 Describe Mafulee. Predict what role he will ultimately have in assisting the duo as they face future challenges.
- 3 Consider the story's setting. Does Mafulee's house seem fitting? Would the story work as well if the setting were changed? Offer an alternate setting and make a case for why that location would be appropriate for the story.
- 4 In your opinion, are there any benefits to having a best friend? If so, what might those be? Would you be interested in having Bert or Mafulee as a best friend? Why or why not?
- 5 Consider the challenges of the first day of school. Why are they so dreadful? How do they take a toll on students? In what ways can students overcome these challenges?
- 6 Martin stories are ripe with funny characters. Consider Bert. What makes him so funny? In your opinion, what are some of the reasons why the author chose to include funny characters?
- 7 Mafulee teases Bert by asking him, "How is your family dysfunctional?" Bert answers, "...we don't communicate much, I guess." Can you apply Bert's answer to your own life? Do you think Bert's answer is true about how a family can be dysfunctional?
- 8 Supply five words to describe the Bert & Mafulee: The Night Before the First Day of School comic book. Explain your choices.



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS: READING, WRITING, AND RESEARCHING

Exploring the Bert & Mafulee Series through Writing and Research

In the Bert & Mafulee comic books, the characters, their relationship, and the situations in which they find themselves provides students opportunity to dig deep in the text as they examine and answer the following writing prompt:

Consider your most special friendships. What makes these individuals so important? Compose a personal journal entry where you share your thoughts, and be sure to answer the following questions:

- Who are the individuals that mean the most to you?
- Why are these particular relationships so special?
- What's the greatest sacrifice you've made for the people you consider your closest friends?

To culminate, ask for volunteers to share their writing with the class.

High school is the backdrop for the Bert & Mafulee series. Have students research this dynamic setting to learn more about its history, being sure to consider the following about the institution:

- Founder
- Location
- Construction challenges
- Mission and philosophy
- History
- Future plans
- Roles of staff members
- Similarities and differences between high school and middle school.

After gathering information, have them create an informative presentation to be shared with their classmates.

CREATE ORIGINAL BERT & MAFULEE-INSPIRED ART

Allow students to create one of the following as a means of exploring the comic.

- Music is often used to connect people to each other and the world. Select a favorite character from the Bert & Mafulee series and create a CD with an original playlist that represents the experiences that character undergoes throughout the comic. Create original art for the jewel case and the interior, and after including appropriate artist information, offer an explanation for the selection of each song.
- Create a “Wanted” poster detailing the character you find most deserving of punishment for his transgressions from the Bert & Mafulee comic. The poster should include the following features:
 - Original “mug shot” (this can be original art or computer-generated as long as the image is similar to the character’s in the comic).
 - Detailed list of offenses
 - Reward information, if applicable
- One of the greatest strengths a writer has is their ability to offer richly descriptive scenes. In small groups, have students select a favorite scene from the Bert & Mafulee comic and create an illustrated extension for that scene. Using a digital comic strip creator (<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Comix> or <http://infinitecomic.com>, for example), have students begin by using the strips to create storyboards for their scene. Have students select original art, images, and graphics. Alternatively, students could assume the roles of the characters with each one’s personality and voice and have them interact with each other by creating an extension of a scene from the comic. As part of the evaluation component, consider panel size and number of panels, transitions and layouts, artwork, writing, and lettering.

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