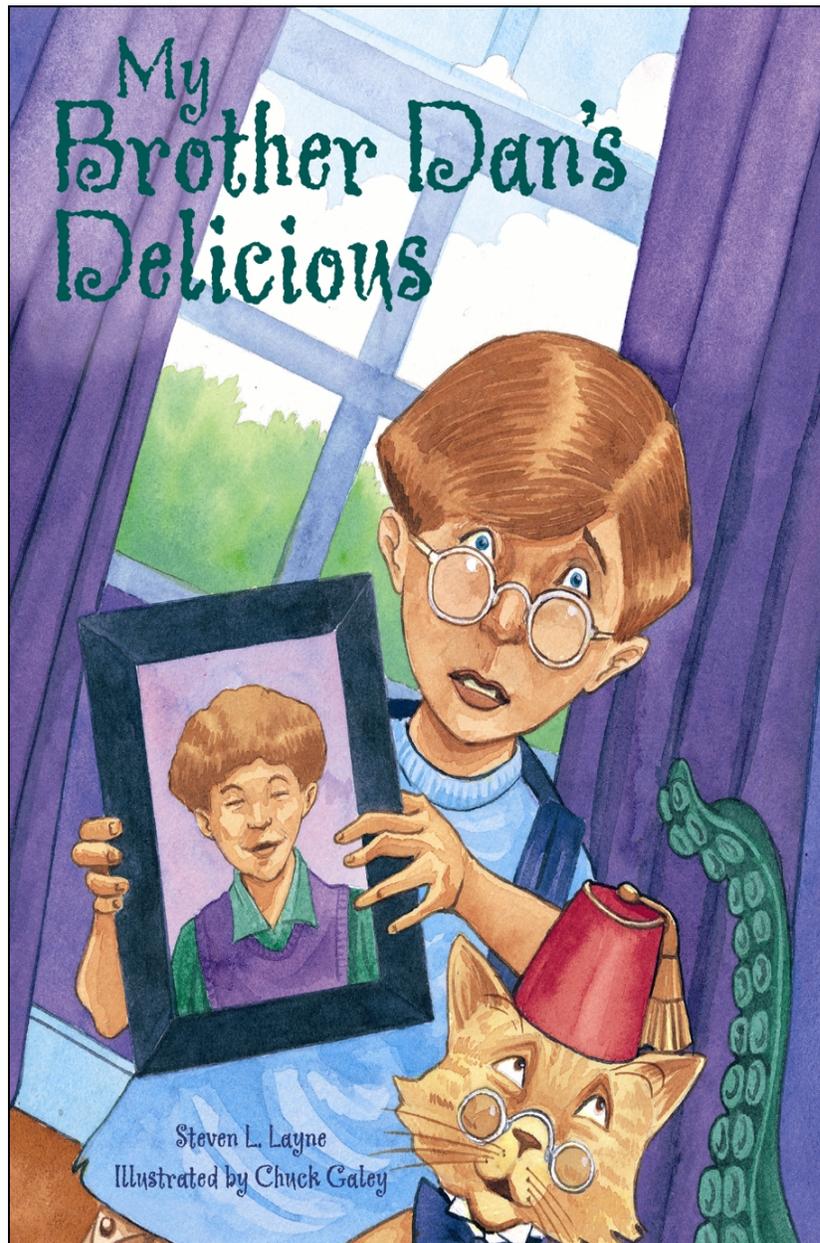




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### **This Study Guide Includes:**

- \* Writing and Reading Workshop \* Word Sort \*
- \*Persuasive Writing Graphic Organizer \* Monster Art \*
- \*The Apostrophe Connection\*

### **Thematic Connection**

Explore the thematic connection between Steven L. Layne's book, *My Brother Dan's Delicious* and Chris Van Allsburg's *Zathura*

Study guide created  
by  
Jill Cole, Ed.D



## WRITING WORKSHOP

1. Joey's mom writes him a note that gives him important information. You can also write notes to say "Thank You" or "Happy Birthday" or "Get Well" or simply "I'm Thinking of You." Write a note to someone and mail it.
2. Joey says that when he was 8½ life threw him a "curve." What does that mean? Write about a time when life threw you a curve. How did the situation work out?
3. What would you say to one of your friends who believed in monsters? What would you do to make him or her feel calm and safe?
4. Do you believe in monsters? Draw a line down the center of a piece of paper. Write YES at the top of one side and NO at the top of the other side. List reasons under each side that support that point of view. Review the evidence and express your opinion on the question.
5. At the end of ***My Brother Dan's Delicious***, Joey tells us that his brother Dan is a hero. Do you have a hero? Tell about him or her. Make a list of some things you could do to become a hero for someone else.

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## READING WORKSHOP 1

Even though the monster in *My Brother Dan's Delicious* turns out to be in Joey's imagination, it still plays an important role in the book. Find lots of books about monsters. Get together with some friends and compare the books.

- Do all the monsters look like?
- What are some common characteristics of all of the monsters?
- List the things the monsters do in each book.
- What kind of voice do you think each monster has?
- Rank the monsters from gentlest to scariest.
- Describe each monster's personality.
- Draw your favorite monster and write a story about his or her adventures.

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*A Collection of Monster Books:*



***Beast*** by Susan Meddaugh  
***My Mama Says There Aren't Any Zombies, Ghosts, Vampires, Creatures, Demons,***

***Monsters, Fiends, Goblins, or Things***

by Judith Viorst

***Shrek*** by William Steig  
***There's a Nightmare in My Closet***

by Mercer Mayer

***There's Something in My Attic***

by Mercer Mayer

***Where the Wild Things Are***

by Maurice Sendak





## READING WORKSHOP 2



Do you think Dan would really have tasted delicious to a monster? Find lots of books about kinds of food YOU think are delicious. Get together with some friends and compare the books.



- Which are fiction and which are nonfiction?
- Write a list of all the foods mentioned in the books. How many did you find?
- Who does the eating in each book?
- Do any of the books make you hungry?
- Why is food important in each book?
- Rank the foods starting with your favorite and ending with your least favorite. Compare your list with those of your friends.
- Write a story about a “Magic Meal” of your favorite foods.

*A Collection of Books About Food:*

***Blueberries for Sal*** by Robert McCloskey

***The Doorbell Rang*** by Pat Hutchins

***The Pizza Book*** by Stephen Krensky, Illustrated by R.W. Alley

***The Popcorn Book*** by Tomie de Paola

***Possum Magic*** by Mem Fox

***Reece’s Pieces Count by Fives*** by Jerry Pallotta, Illustrated by Rob Bolster

***The Spider and the Fly*** by Tony DiTerlizzi

***Strega Nona*** by Tomie de Paola

***Thunder Cake*** by Patricia Polacco

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## ***The Apostrophe Connection***

Notice the apostrophe in the title of Steven Layne's book: ***My Brother Dan's Delicious.***

What does that apostrophe mean?

Complete these sentences. Don't forget to make your sentences creative or crazy!

Sample: The unexpected note's hanging willy-nilly on the door.

The smart monster's \_\_\_\_\_

The weird casserole's \_\_\_\_\_

The villainous creature's \_\_\_\_\_

The growling stomach's \_\_\_\_\_

The stuffed turkey's \_\_\_\_\_

The costume party's \_\_\_\_\_

The coat closet's \_\_\_\_\_

The mouthwatering meal's \_\_\_\_\_



# Sort It Out

Cut out the following words to make a set of cards. Sort the words into two groups. How did you decide on these two categories? Did you have any “oddballs” that don’t fit your categories? What categories did your friends have? How about your teacher?

Weird

Appetizer

Innocent

Crust

Pot Roast

Creatures

Pan-fried

Saliva

Dinner

Monster

Appetizing

Bedroom

Delicious

Banquet

Basement

Sibling

Divine

Turkey

Magnificent

Delectable

Messages

Broccoli

Delightful

King-Sized

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## **MONSTER ART**



Look through ***My Brother Dan's Delicious*** and find as many monsters as you can on each page. They are hiding everywhere! How many did you find in all? How do they look each time -- the same or different?

Draw the complete monster you think the illustrator, Chuck Galey, had in mind.



**Now draw your own picture of a monster that would scare even YOU!**



***MONSTROUS HUMOR***



Find the page in the book that you think is the funniest. Share it with a friend and talk about what's humorous about the illustration and what's humorous about the text.

Find one sentence in the book that you think is the funniest and write it here.

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Why is it funny? Explain.

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# THE THESAURUS

A thesaurus is a book of synonyms, or words that have the same meaning. It is usually in dictionary form. For example, you can look up the word *run* and find many other words that mean the same thing as run.

A thesaurus is a wonderful tool for authors. An author can use it to find many creative words to put in his or her writing. You can find interesting words in the thesaurus, too!

Look on page 30 of ***My Brother Dan's Delicious***. Write down all the words on that page that mean the same as *delicious*. Now look in a thesaurus and find some more. How many did you find in all? Can you use some of them in your writing?

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## THEMATIC CONNECTION

A theme is a big idea developed in a story. *My Brother Dan's Delicious* contains the theme of brotherly antagonism changing to brotherly warmth. Another book with a similar theme is *Zathura*, the sequel to *Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg. Read both books and compare and contrast. Why do the brothers' feelings change in each book?

## **PERSUASIVE OUTLINE**

### **REASON #1**

#### **More Food**

\* \_\_\_\_\_

Persuasive Quote:

“A monster who planned well could probably get at least three good meals out of Dan.”

### **REASON #2**

\_\_\_\_\_

\* Dan eats all his vegetables.

Persuasive Quote:

“He’s like a Thanksgiving turkey already stuffed for the platter.”

## **PERSUASIVE POSITION**

**My brother Dan would make a better meal than I would.**

### **REASON #3**

#### **Easy to Capture**

\* \_\_\_\_\_

Persuasive Quote:

“I can simply tell Dan it’s a costume party and dress him as a pot roast.”

### **REASON #4**

#### **Exceptional Taste**

\*Joey speaks from experience.

Persuasive Quote:

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

**GRAPHIC ORGANIZER – Teacher’s Key**

**PERSUASIVE OUTLINE**

**REASON #1**

**More Food**

\*Dan is bigger.

Persuasive Statement:

“A monster who planned well could probably get at least three good meals out of Dan.”

**REASON #2**

***Quality Meal***

\*Dan eats all his vegetables.

Persuasive Statement:

“He’s like a Thanksgiving turkey already stuffed for the platter.”

**PERSUASIVE POSITION**

**My brother Dan would make a better meal than I would.**

**REASON #3**

**Easy to Capture**

\*Dan’s not too smart

Persuasive Quote:

“I can simply tell Dan it’s a costume party and dress him as a pot roast.”

**REASON #4**

**Exceptional Taste**

\*Joey speaks from experience.

Persuasive Quote:

“Dan’s nothing less than a thirteen-year-old, mouthwatering flavor factory.”

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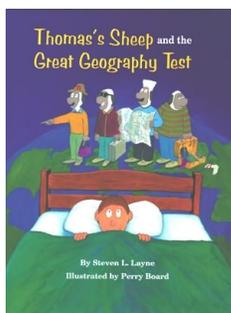
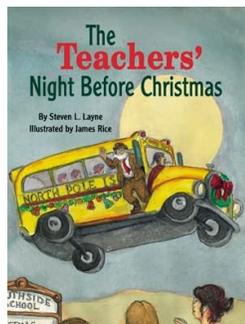
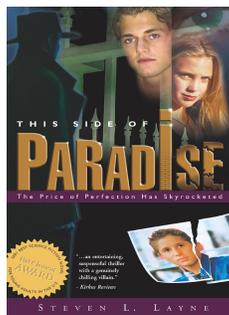
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## About the Author

Dr. Steven L. Layne has taught at both the elementary and jr. high levels for more than a decade, as well as instructing at various colleges and universities in the Northern Illinois area. Currently, Dr. Layne teaches at Department of Education at Judson College in Elgin, IL, where he teaches courses in both literature and pedagogy, and he serves as a national literacy consultant, keynote speaker, and featured author across the country. His published writings – including dramatic monologues, prose, poetry, feature articles, textbook chapters, and children's book reviews – have appeared in journals such as The Reading Teacher, The Middle School Journal, Contemporary Education and many more.

His picture books include the popular ABC book, *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test*, the best-selling *Teachers' Night Before Christmas*, which was named an IRA/CBC Children's Choice Title, and *My Brother Dan's Delicious*. Drawing on his considerable experience working with teenagers, Steve penned his first thriller, the young adult novel *This Side of Paradise*, with reluctant readers in mind. This cautionary tale about the dangers of Utopian societies received the Hal Clement Award for Best Science Fiction Novel for Young Adults published in the U.S. in 2001.

In October of 2001, Steve was surprised at an all-school assembly where he was honored with a National Milken Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. He was also named to the 2001 All-Teacher Team by *USA Today* newspaper and was chosen as the Edwin A. Hoey Award winner for U.S. Outstanding Teacher at the junior high level by NCTE in 2001. Steve was the 2000 ICARE for Reading Award winner based on his efforts in fostering the love of reading in children. He was also the 1999 Junior High Level Reading Teacher of the Year in Illinois.

Steve serves on several state-level literacy committees throughout Illinois. He is past president of the Northern Illinois Reading Council and is an active member of the DuPage Literacy Leadership Roundtable. He has served on the Board of Directors of Literacy Volunteers of America for the Fox Valley Region of Illinois and has read for the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Award Committee. Steve resides in St. Charles, Illinois, with his wife Debbie and his children. He can be contacted at [www.stevelayne.com](http://www.stevelayne.com).

## About the illustrator, Chuck Galey

Chuck Galey grew up in Greenwood, Mississippi. Although he has loved art all his life, there was a time when he thought he would not make a living at it. So, he did the next best thing for a young boy living in a farming community, he set out to become an oceanographer. He attended Mississippi College and Mississippi State University where he majored in physics. After two summers of working at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, and several bouts with seasickness, he returned to his lifelong love of art and not being seasick. Switching his major to Graphic Design, he graduated with honors from MSU.

Chuck worked for several advertising agencies and public relations firms before opening his own illustration studio in 1985. He has illustrated over 40 books for educational publishers. His picture books include *Jazz Cats* by David Davis, which was named an IRA/CBC Children's Choice Title in 2002, *SantaSaurus* by Delano Holmquist, and *My Brother Dan's Delicious* by Steven L. Layne. He is a regular contributor of Hidden Pictures to Highlights magazine for children. His other work to date includes cover art for Beverly Cleary's, *Ribsey*, and *Heny Huggins*, and R.L. Stines's *Fear Street* series for recorded books.

## About our study guide developer, Dr. Jill Cole

Dr. Jill Cole taught at Henry-Senachwine Grade School in Henry, IL, for 22 years. She has taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade literacy. In 2002, she moved to Dover, DE, to teach at Wesley College in the Education Department. Her passion is motivating students of all ages to read and enjoy great literature.

To date, Dr. Cole has developed four study guides for Pelican, *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test*, *The Teachers' Night Before Christmas*, *This Side of Paradise* and *My Brother Dan's Delicious*

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