

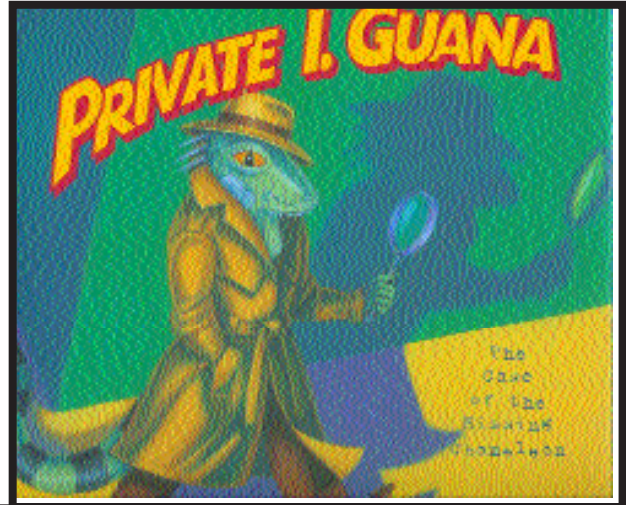
BOOKPALS STORYLINE PRESENTS:

"PRIVATE I. GUANA"

By *Nina Laden*

Watch online video of actor *Esai Morales* reading this story at <http://www.storylineonline.net>

Leon the chameleon is missing! But Ace detective Private I. Guana is on the case. When Private I. Guana takes "the case of the missing chameleon," the fun begins. Filled with humorous wordplay and visual puns, this engaging adventure, inspired by the detective films of the 1940s, will tickle any reader's funny bone.



RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. List the characters in the book. Now, describe in words (orally or in writing) what each of these characters look like. Make illustrations to go with your descriptions.

2. Make a list of the tools used by a private eye in doing investigative work. Discuss your list with a friend.

- What tools would you have if you were doing private eye work?

3. In this book, the author, Nina Laden, uses many examples of play on words. For example, "jumping to conclusions."

- Make a list of these play on words.

- Draw illustrations to go with your list.

- Discuss them with a friend.

4. It is interesting how the names of the characters in this book match the creatures. For example, Officer Croaker is a frog. Make a list of the characters. Tell, write or discuss how their names match the creature.

Other books you might enjoy if you liked "Private I. Guana":

Nate the Great series
by Marjorie Sharmat

Young Cam Jansen series
by David Adler

Cam Jansen series
by David Adler

The Zack Files series
By Dan Greenburg

A to Z Mysteries series
By Ron Roy

MORE ACTIVITIES

1. List 4 animals from a totally different habitat and write a creative story about them.
2. Create a recipe for "Cricket Stew." Include the amount of each ingredient and directions for making your stew.
3. Private I. Guana made a pile of posters to help in his work. What would you have done to help your search? If you chose to make posters what would your posters look like? Draw examples. Discuss them with a friend.

4. Here's a "super challenge" assignment:

Choose one of the following creatures.

- Salamander
- Chameleon
- Firefly
- Iguana

Think about the creature's natural habitat. Now, write a story about the creature you chose in the same humorous style as Nina Laden used in "Private I. Guana." Remember to describe the habitat.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nina Laden grew up in the New York City area. As a child she drew on every available surface and made up stories. She has worked as a freelance illustrator since 1984. All this time, she wondered just what dogs do at night. Finally she found the answer, wrote this book, and illustrated it. Now that she knows the answer to that question, she's trying to figure out where socks disappear to.

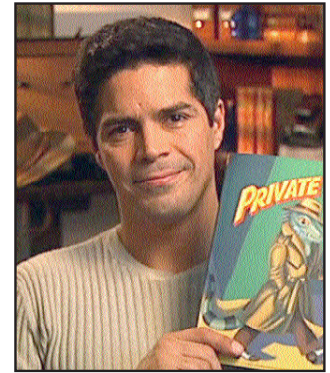
Other books by Nina Laden:

- "When Pigasso Met Mootisse"
- "Clowns on Vacation"
- "Roberto, The Insect Architect"
- "Peek-A-Who"
- "Bad Dog"
- "Ready-Set-Go"
- "The Night I Followed the Dog"
- "My Family Tree: A Bird's Eye View"

ABOUT THE READER

Esai Morales

Celebrated for his work as Lt. Tony Rodriguez in the highly-acclaimed ABC drama series *NYPD Blue*, Esai Morales is also known for his recurring role on the PBS broadcast *American Family*, his commanding turn as Joseph



Adama on *Caprica* and his work on the series *Jericho*. Equally familiar to audiences of the big screen, his film work includes such distinguished productions as *Bad Boys*, *La Bamba*, *Mi Familia* and *The Disappearance of Garcia Lorca*. Mr. Morales co-founded the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, created to advance the presence and quality of Latinos in media, telecommunications and entertainment. He is also a founding board member of ECO, (Earth Communications Office), a global clearinghouse for environmental information.

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