

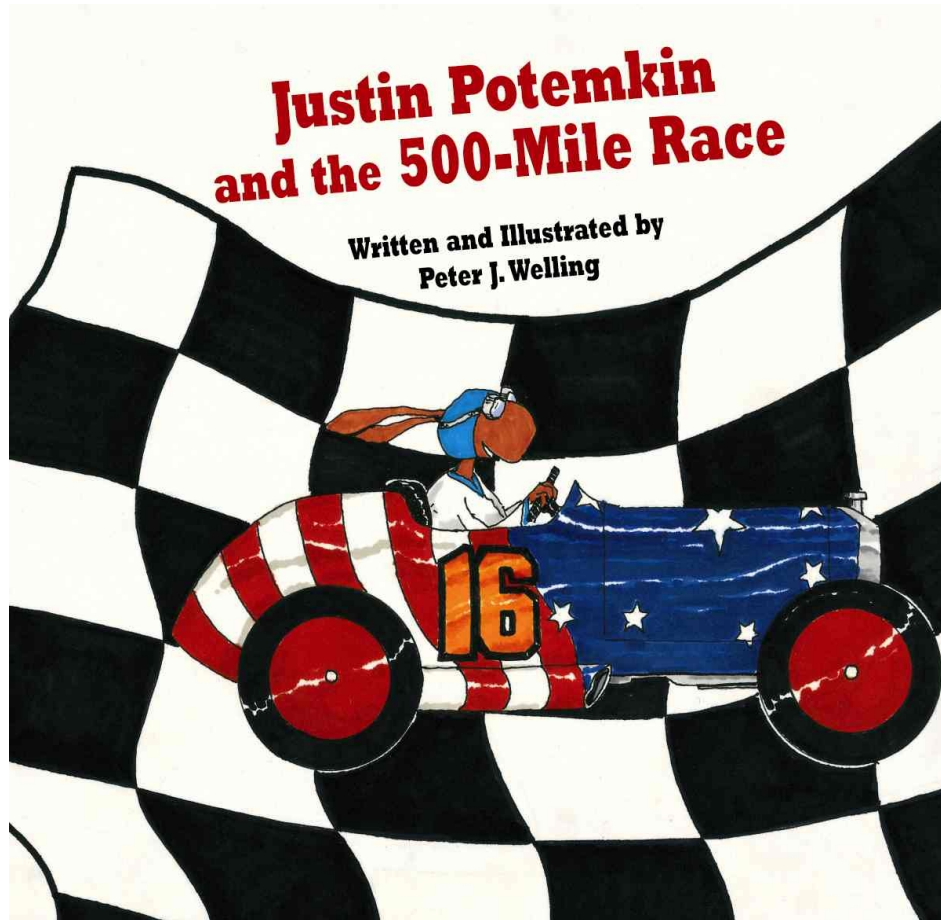


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Study Guide for



Includes:

History, Humor, and Stuff in the Pictures

Justin's Word Scramble

Justin's Word Search

Guide created by Peter J. Welling
Visit <http://www.peterjwelling.com>

History, humor, and stuff in the pictures

LOOK!



After all, a picture book is more than just words.

Page 5. The czar's name is a bovine play on the real czar (Romoonoff-Romanov). The czar-car bears the #17, the year the Russian Revolution began (1917).

Page 6. The Czarina Alexandra's close advisor is portrayed (Ratsputin-Rasputin). An angry sturgeon glares at the hamster selling caviar (sturgeon eggs). Shawn O'Hisser glides by.

Page 7. A Brer Rabbit poster is mostly hidden behind the open door. The bookshelves contain my salute to many folks who helped me in my efforts to provide tales to folks. Foreground. An empty can of borscht, a Russian beet soup, gets kicked. Some of my previous books along with obviously Russian books (*Marx-Das Kapital*) and a copy of *The Tortoise and the Hare* are scattered about. A Russian stacking doll is unstacked. Grandpa Rufus, the Hare who lost the first such race stands with his cane in the foreground.

Page 8. Saint Petersburg was founded in 1703. It was the site of The Hermitage, home to the czars. Some called it the Winter Palace. Michael Le Souffle strolls by. A Russian Musk Ox in uniform of the long past "barbarian tribes."

Page 9. Anachronisms abound in my tales. Look, overhead, a sputnik flashes by. I won't point out the obvious like the "bullhorn."

Page 10. A dinosaur whence comes oil/gas pours "petrolgrad" into the czar car. Petrolgrad, a combo of Petrol and Petrograd. Laika, the first dog in space, stares at the purple snail from the Michael Le Soufflé tale. Will we see that skunk again in a future book? Could be. And in case you missed it a few pages earlier, our tortoise is already wearing the red star of the coming revolution. Who would have imagined the tortoise was a communist?

Page 11. Andrew McGroundhog joins a gargoyle from *Michael Le Soufflé* and a Russian fairy at the start of the race. Foreshadowing of the green flag to start races.

Page 12. The Germans fail in Russia and end up in a bunker. Golf? A birdie and an eagle! Of course, Tolstoy.

Page 13. The French also fail in Russia (Car 12 for "1812"). Yuri Gagarin, first man in space shares, well, space with the first women of space, Valentina Tereshkova. In the background, a salute to that explorer and fave of pools everywhere, Marco Polo.

Page 14. Yup, that is a Volga Boatman. His boat is named Kursk in honor of the sailors lost in the submarine Kursk tragedy. The bunyip is a mythological creature from down under. Uh-oh, another sturgeon joke. And is that a fork in the road?

Page 15. The pun is in the text.

Page 16. The Peter Rabbit tale exploited here.

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History, humor, and stuff in the pictures (Cont'd)

Page 17. A reindeer is caressed by Grandfather Frost while Edmund Natterjack from *Shawn O'Hisser* cheers Justin on. The empty fuel tanks are foreshadowed by the Last Chance Gas bucket. A salute to my publisher also appears on the page.

Page 18. Voitto=victory. A few gargoyles on holiday. Checkered tablecloth foreshadows the checkered flag waved at races to signify victory.

Page 19. Bullshoi Ballet – Bolshoi Ballet. Helsinki. See, learn, and not even know it. Catherine the Great obviously was a baker before she was Czarina. The new Russian flag is displayed as a sign for Kremlin Kreme Kakes.

Page 20. A troika.

Page 21. The mysterious Anastasia, cow version? How about a Faberge egg?

Page 22. A hodge podge. Let's see...there is a salute to the IRL and to Tony Hulman of Indy 500 fame. Harroun won the first 500. Mir a reference to the Russian space effort. [Kruchshev](#) (spelled numerous ways for some reason) refers to that shoe pounding leader of the old Soviet Union. Brickyard 400 now appearing in Indy. Tony B. (Tony Bettenhausen. See dedication) Salsa? Herdez Motorsports took over the Bettenhausen team. Charlie Wiggins was banned from racing at Indy due to color so he went and became a champ on other tracks. Fisher, Allison, Newby & Wheeler formed the first Indianapolis Motor Speedway Company and built the now world-famous oval track. N875JC was the tail number of Tony's plane. The driver sign on the wall is a listing of czars—and Justin of course. Car 16 was Tony's car #.

Page 23. Lenin shows up in his soviet gear and with the “red star” car. Note that the czar car is getting old and rusty...well, except for the gold parts.

Page 24. The patriotic car is intended to represent America to the immigrant masses who helped make this country great.

Page 25. In the background is the original pagoda that was destroyed in a fire. Indiana's song being sung by the state bird (that's a cardinal!) My brother-in-law's nickname is Pucky so I thought I'd say hi. He is wearing Colt's shoes. Lenin's gas? Shell of course. The flags along the back wall are used in racing.

Page 26. Cows have long been an important part of Hoosierland and the Indy 500. 58 is the Dar-Car.

Page 27. You can read the punny humor but in case you missed it, the czar offers the first (and now the traditional) glass of milk to the winner, Justin Potemkin.

Page 28. When the track was first built, crushed stone circled the 2 ½ mile oval. Then bricks were laid. Eventually those gave the site its nickname, the brickyard. But the bricks gave way to pavement (blacktop) except for a strip of bricks at the start/finish line. The winning team gives those bricks a kiss at race's end.

Page 29. The winning team then gathers at Victory Lane.

Page 30. Just a sampling of Indiana. Pumpkins and crows, contented cows and farmers. Oh, and those pink flamingo lawn ornaments.

Justin's Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in  boxes and unscramble them for the final message

VEDRIR RAZC SUNTIJ ENNIL RAYLO

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Justin's Word Search

A	P	M	F	D	U	U	B	E	E	W	H	G	X	W
U	Q	O	H	F	C	Y	S	H	C	N	B	H	H	K
F	B	O	T	A	O	I	D	C	A	I	X	O	X	J
Q	H	P	R	A	O	N	V	N	R	K	M	J	B	X
V	N	C	M	T	M	H	O	R	I	M	O	U	Q	L
N	H	U	R	V	G	U	U	O	R	E	S	S	Z	J
K	G	O	H	H	G	S	S	Z	M	T	Q	T	D	J
Y	T	B	B	I	S	E	F	L	Y	O	F	I	Y	Z
J	E	K	X	I	C	F	U	S	J	P	R	N	S	R
W	L	Z	A	R	M	U	A	P	U	N	I	N	E	L
R	F	W	A	Z	M	Z	H	V	W	B	G	L	S	X
B	I	Z	K	X	Z	X	Y	Z	W	Y	W	I	U	R
P	C	V	I	C	T	O	R	Y	H	A	R	E	K	W
V	D	E	T	Z	S	S	T	G	Y	X	W	H	E	L
L	D	D	F	O	Y	P	P	K	J	M	M	B	P	K

BOB CAR CZAR HARE INDY JUSTIN
LENIN MOS POTAMUS POTEMKIN RACE
ROMOONOFF RUSSIA TORTOISE VICTORY

Solutions!

Justin's Scramble Solution

Driver

Czar

Justin

Lenin

Royal

Victory Lane

Justin's Word Search Solution

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+ P + F + + + + E E + + + + +
+ + O + F C Y S + C N B + + +
+ + + T A O I D + A I + O + +
+ + + R A O N + N R K M J B +
+ + + + T M + O R I M O U + +
+ + + R + + U U O + E S S + +
+ + O + + + S S + M T + T + +
+ T + + + S + + + + O + I + +
+ + + + I + + + + + P R N + +
+ + + A R + + + + + N I N E L
+ + + A + + + + + + + + + +
+ + Z + + + + + + + + + + +
+ C V I C T O R Y H A R E + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

BOB (12, 2, SE)

CZAR (2, 13, NE)

INDY (10, 5, NW)

LENIN (15, 10, W)

POTAMUS (2, 1, SE)

RACE (10, 4, N)

RUSSIA (9, 5, SW)

CAR (6, 2, SW)

HARE (10, 13, E)

JUSTIN (13, 4, S)

MOS (12, 4, S)

POTEMKIN (11, 9, N)

ROMOONOFF (12, 9, NW)

TORTOISE (2, 8, NE)

VICTORY (3, 13, E)

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JUSTIN POTEKIN AND THE 500-MILE RACE

Written and illustrated by Peter J. Welling

"The watercolor-and-ink illustrations bubble with a goofy spontaneity." --Publishers Weekly

"A few laughs to go around." --Booklist

"The real 500-Mile race was never this funny." --Jane Lichtenberg, *Indianapolis Star*

The 500-Mile Race is more than just a race for Justin Potemkin. The grandson of the losing hare in the well-known Tortoise-Hare Race years ago, Justin is the hero of this clever story about a Russian peasant who takes on the czar, Mos Romoonoff, and a tortoise named Lenin in an attempt to win back the honor of hares. After losing a clearly rigged race to the tortoise and czar, Justin and his two friends, Flamingo Joe and Bob Potamus, leave Russia and move to America, where they settle down and build a racetrack. However, something is missing for Justin Potemkin, who still has scores to settle with the tortoise and Czar Mos.

Justin's ambitious attempts to out-race those who have mocked him are inspirational for anyone who has been kept down by unfair circumstances or mean people. When the czar comes to America, he will no longer have the power to cheat and determine the outcome of the race. If Justin beats the tortoise, he will never again be teased for the shameful history of his ancestor. Will his second race against Lenin and the czar be a successful one? Will Justin save his pride and regain honor for rabbits everywhere?

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter Welling is the father of four and grandfather of three. For many years he was the art director for *Futures* magazine and continues to contribute when he has free time. He is a regular columnist for *Futures Mysterious Anthology Magazine* and teaches writing and illustration courses for Indiana and Purdue Universities' Continuing Education Program in Indianapolis. Welling was selected as a Distinguished Alumnus for the Liberal Arts and Sciences Division for 2003 by Indiana University at South Bend and is an active member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. He is the author and illustrator of four other books for young readers: *Andrew McGroundhog and His Shady Shadow* (\$15.95), *Shawn O'Hisser, the Last Snake in Ireland* (\$15.95), *Michael Le Soufflé and the April Fool* (\$15.95), and *Joe Van der Katt and the Great Picket Fence* (\$15.95), all published by Pelican. To learn more about Peter Welling, visit his Web site at www.peterjwelling.com.

JUSTIN POTEKIN AND THE 500-MILE RACE

Written and illustrated by Peter J. Welling

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