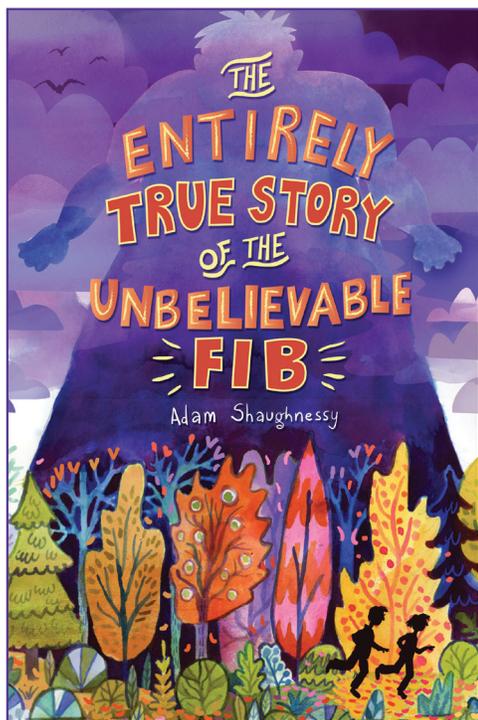


The **ENTIRELY TRUE STORY** of the **UNBELIEVABLE FIB**

by **Adam Shaughnessy**



MIDDLE-GRADE FICTION

Ages 8–12, Grades 3–7

240 pages

BOOK TALK

“What is the Unbelievable Fib?”

That’s the question eleven-year-old Prudence Potts discovers on a baffling card no one else in Middleton—except ABE, a new kid with a knack for solving riddles—seems to see. Then a mysterious man asks for ABE and Pru’s help investigating mythical beings infiltrating the town, and that’s just one of the things Pru finds hard to believe.

Soon Pru and ABE discover another world beneath the surface of their quiet town, where Viking gods lurk just out of sight. They must race to secure the Eye of Odin, source of all knowledge—and the key to stopping a war that could destroy both human and immortal realms.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adam Shaughnessy is an author and educator.

He received his BA in English from Connecticut College and is currently pursuing his MA in children’s literature from Hollins University. Adam lives in Waterford, Connecticut. *The Entirely True Story of the Unbelievable FIB* is his first novel.



Angela Chicoski

Praise for *The ENTIRELY TRUE STORY of the UNBELIEVABLE FIB*

“Shaughnessy seamlessly blends Norse and Russian mythologies with the genres of mystery, fantasy, and adventure all the while hitting upon some deeper personal issues such as loss and self-awareness . . . A book with substance—one to satisfy the cravings of more sophisticated readers looking to sink their teeth into a good folkloric story.”

—*School Library Journal*

“An action-packed story full of heart.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“This debut title introduces readers to a feisty young sleuth, fantastical realms, and warring Viking gods. [Shaughnessy’s] puzzles and plot twists will absorb and intrigue.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

The **ENTIRELY TRUE STORY** of the **UNBELIEVABLE FIB**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine you received a mysterious card, just like Pru. Do you think you would be able to see it, and why? What would you do with it if you could?
2. Pru frequently gets in trouble for taking her investigations a little too far. What does that clue tell you about the type of person she is? Do you think Mrs. Edleman was right to be upset with Pru or not?
3. In the myth Old Man Grimnir tells Pru and ABE, Odin decides to look into the future despite the consequences. Do you think Odin made a good or bad decision? Would you peek into the future if you could? What would you trade for that knowledge?
4. Which Norse mythological figure from the story would you most like to have wander into Midgard (aka the human realm), and why? Which would you least like to meet?
5. In Mister Fox's story, the witch aged one year every time she answered a villager's question. Do you think questions or answers are more valuable? When might one be more valuable than the other?
6. How would you describe Pru's relationship with her mother? Why do you think Pru takes her anger out on her mother? Have you ever been angry at someone who's trying to help you?
7. Mister Fox told Pru and ABE, "I guess you could say that the bigger the world got, the smaller the minds of the people in the village grew." Why do you think that happened? Was the same true of Pru and ABE's town? Why or why not?
8. Think of other detectives you've seen in books, movies, or TV shows. What methods do the FIBbers use that are similar to the detectives you're familiar with, and what methods differ? What makes Pru and ABE good detectives?
9. "Magic is something that seems absolutely impossible until you think about it in just the right way. Then it makes perfect sense." Based on this definition, when have you experienced magic in your own life?
10. Ratatosk is a minor character in the story, but he plays a large role in saving Pru and ABE in Asgard. How would this story change without him—not just for Pru and ABE, but also for the mythological world he inhabits?
11. The storm clouds looming over Middleton turn out to be the result of Thor's arrival from Asgard. What else do Pru and ABE encounter throughout the story that is not what it seems to be at first glance? What experiences in your life have turned out differently from what you expected?
12. Mister Fox reveals that "as you grow up, you trade possibility for certainty." Do you agree with him? What are the positive and negative qualities of each? Do you tend to be more certain or open to possibility?