

**4th Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title: *The Butter Battle Book***

**Author:** Dr. Seuss

**Main characters:** Young Yook boy, his Grandfather (Grandpa Yook), Chief Yookeroo, the Boys in the Backroom, a Zook named Van Itch

**Executive summary:** A Grandfather tells his Grandson of an ongoing battle between the Yooks and the Zooks over whether it is right to eat bread with the butter side up or the butter side down. Neither the Yooks nor the Zooks respect the other’s differences. They simply find bigger, better ways to intimidate each other - and the battle continues.

**Detailed summary:** Grandpa Yook takes his Grandson to see the wall that separates the Yooks from the Zooks. There Grandpa tells the young Yook of the awful thing that the Zooks do. They eat bread with the butter side down. Grandpa reminds his grandson that the Yooks eat their bread the right way, with the butter side up. He warns the boy that you can’t trust the Zooks, who eat bread with the butter side down. And for this reason, Grandpa Yook has stood watch along the wall since he was a young Yook.

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The Zooks usually went about their business and did not come up to the wall, until one day a Zook named Van Itch came up to the wall and used a slingshot to shoot a rock at Grandpa Yook’s Snick-Berry Switch, which he carried as he stood guard along the wall. Grandpa ran to tell the Chief Yookeroo what happened. The Chief said, “These Zooks will be sorry they started this game.” And he had The Boys in the Back Room make a bigger, better slingshot called a “triple-sling jigger.” And he sent Grandpa back with a fancy suit and his new weapon.

Grandpa went back to the wall with the triple-sling jigger. He warned Van Itch that he would have “no more nonsense” from the Zooks. Van Itch ran off, but he came back with an even fancier suit and an even bigger slingshot, which he called the “Jigger-Rock Snachem.” And he warned Grandpa that the Zooks would “take no more gupp from the Yooks.”

Grandpa went back to the office of Chief Yookeroo and told him what happened. Their super slingshot failed. They needed something more powerful. The Chief had the Boys in the Back Room make a gun called a Kick-a-Poo Kid. Then they sent Grandpa back to the wall with his new weapon ready to fight for the butter side up. The Yooks cheered him on. But when he got to the wall, Van Itch had an even bigger weapon.

Once again he returned to Chief Yookeroo in defeat. The Chief told him that the Boys in the Back Room had created an even greater weapon that can fly over the wall. Grandpa flew off to the land of Zooks in his new contraption that could drop goo on the Zooks. When he got there, Van Itch had the very same flying contraption. Grandpa headed back, defeated once again. He flew past the cheerers and the band. When he arrived at the office, the Chief said “Everything is alright.” He said the Boys in the Back Room had created a bomb called the Bitsy Big-Boy Boomeroo.

Grandpa returned to the wall with the bomb. All the Yooks marched behind him and down into a hole in the ground. Grandpa saw his grandson and told him to get into the hole. But the boy didn’t go. He watched Grandpa jump up on the wall with the bomb in his hand. Grandpa threatened to destroy the Zooks who buttered their bread on the wrong side. But Van Itch jumped on the wall with a bomb too and threatened to blow up all the Yooks. So Grandpa and Van Itch stood there looking at each other with hatred and disrespect. And the boy watched and wondered who would drop the bomb first.