FREE SAMPLE

The Bad Beginning Book Club Kit

One very unfortunate evening with the Baudelaire orphans

Free sample - two real pages from the kit: Spoiler-Free Questions 1-12 (kit p. 6) and the Character Map (kit p. 4). The full kit is 15 pages: 40 original discussion questions, a character map, a story tracker, the fairness test, a book-vs-film debate and a movie-night plan.

Print at 100% on US Letter or A4.

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Spoiler-Free Questions

Safe before the last page - questions 1-12

1. Sum the book up in one sentence - no spoilers. What is it really about?
2. The book opens on a beach with terrible news. How does the opening make you feel - and does the book ever let that feeling go?
3. Violet invents, Klaus reads, Sunny bites. Which Baudelaire's talent would you want - and which one saves them most often?
4. Count Olaf is a villain from his first page. What makes him frightening - his cruelty, his cleverness, or the fact that nobody stops him?
5. Lemony Snicket warns you this is an unhappy story. Does the warning make the sad parts easier or harder to read?
6. The orphans are children, and the adults keep failing them. Is that funny, frightening, or both - and why?
7. Mr Poe means well and gets everything wrong. Is he a good person who is bad at his job, or is meaning well not enough?
8. Justice Strauss is kind to the children. Why does kindness not save them - and what would have saved them?
9. The house Count Olaf lives in is filthy and falling apart. What does the house tell you about the man - and what does it tell you about the orphans' old home?
10. Sunny is a baby, and she barely speaks. Does she matter to the story - or is she just there to be rescued?
11. If you had to describe the book's mood in three words, what would they be?
12. Who would you recommend this book to - and who would you warn away from it?

Character Map

Fill this in as you read

Write one line for each character as you meet them - who they are, what they want, and whether they help the orphans or hurt them. The last column is the point: come back to it after the last page and see how many of your first judgements survived.

Character	Who they are	What they want	Helps or hurts?
Violet Baudelaire			
Klaus Baudelaire			
Sunny Baudelaire			
Count Olaf			
Mr Poe			
Justice Strauss			

Three questions to carry while you read

1. Which Baudelaire would you want on your side in a crisis - and why that one? 2. Count Olaf is obviously a villain. So why does nobody stop him? 3. What is the one thing the orphans have that Olaf does not - and can he ever take it from them?