



THE BRAVE BAUDELAIRES

In the film Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, the Baudelaire children's unfortunate events begin with the death of their parents. Violet, Klaus and Sunny become orphans when their parents are caught in a fire that destroys their mansion. Left with nowhere else to go, the children are appointed a guardian to take care of them. But Count Olaf is not the kind and caring guardian that the orphans had hoped for. He is mean, greedy and expects the children to clean and look after his disgusting house. While the children are kept busy, Count Olaf plots and schemes to find a way to get his hands on the fortune that the children have been left by their parents. The elusive author, Lemony Snicket, documents the children's misfortunes in his collection of books - 'A Series of Unfortunate Events'.



MEET THE BAUDELAIRE CHILDREN

Violet is an extremely intelligent girl with a talent for inventing. She can invent the most amazing contraptions from basic household objects. When Violet is thinking of her next invention she ties her hair up with a ribbon to help her concentrate. Lemony Snicket describes Violet's passion for inventing: 'Violet had a real knack for inventing and building strange devices, so her brain was often filled with images of pulleys, levers and gears.'

Books fascinate Klaus. He reads about any subject from snakes and reptiles to nuptial law. Klaus has a fantastic memory for facts and often remembers something that he has read to help the children out of a predicament. Lemony Snicket describes Klaus as very intelligent: 'He was intelligent. The Baudelaire parents had an enormous library in their mansion, a room filled with thousands of books on nearly every subject. Being only twelve, Klaus of course had not read all of the books in the Baudelaire library, but he had read a great many of them and had retained a lot of information from his readings.'

Sunny is the baby of the family with an exceptional ability to bite through anything. She only has four teeth, however they are extremely sharp and prove to be very useful. Lemony Snicket explains Sunny's biting ability: 'She was an infant, and very small for her age, scarcely larger than a boot. What she lacked in size, however, she made up for with the sharpness of her four teeth'.



Activity

Imagine you were a Baudelaire orphan. What would be your special skills and why?

After you have seen the film
 How do the children's special skills help them defeat Count Olaf?



LEMONY SNICKET'S
A SERIES OF
UNFORTUNATE
EVENTS



.....
CLEVER CHARACTERS
.....

The Baudelaire orphans are all very different and unique children with their own individual interests and passions, although they share a common hatred for Count Olaf!

Activity

Build up a character profile of each of the Baudelaire children.
Add the words into each section to describe their characters.

.....
VIOLET
.....



Appearance _____

Personality _____

Interests _____

Appearance _____

Personality _____

Interests _____



.....
SUNNY
.....



Appearance _____

Personality _____

Interests _____

After you have seen the film
How do the actors bring the characters from the book to life?



LEMONY SNICKET'S
—A SERIES OF—
**UNFORTUNATE
EVENTS**

DIABOLICAL DISGUISES

Count Olaf is one of the world's worst villains. He is a rude and treacherous man who treats the Baudelaire children appallingly. All Count Olaf thinks about is getting his filthy hands on the enormous Baudelaire fortune. To look at, Count Olaf is not a pretty sight! He only has one eyebrow, shiny black eyes and a hideous tattoo of an eye on his left ankle. Whenever the orphans move to a new home Count Olaf will always appear but not always as himself!



MEETING COUNT OLAF AS STEPHANO

'A very tall, thin man with a long beard and no eyebrows over his eyes was getting out of the backseat, carrying a black suitcase with a shiny silver padlock... 'Oh, hello there. I am Stephano, Dr. Montgomery's new assistant. How do you do?' 'How do you do?' Violet said, and as she approached him, there was something about his wheezy voice that seemed vaguely familiar. 'How do you do?' Klaus said, and as he looked up at Stephano, there was something about his shiny eyes that seemed quite familiar. 'Hooda!' Sunny shrieked. Stephano wasn't wearing any socks, and Sunny, crawling on the ground, could see his bare ankle between his pant cuff and his shoe. There on his ankle was something that was most familiar of all...The three children looked at Uncle Monty's new assistant from head to toe and saw that he was none other than Count Olaf.'

MEETING COUNT OLAF AS CAPTAIN SHAM

There stood a tall, thin man with a blue sailor hat on his head and a black eye patch covering his left eye. He was smiling eagerly down at Violet as if she were a brightly wrapped birthday present that he couldn't wait to rip open. His fingers were long and bony, and he was leaning awkwardly to one side, a bit like Aunt Josephine's house dangling over the hill. When Violet looked down, she saw why: there was a thick stump of wood where his left leg should have been, and like most people with peg legs, this man was leaning on his good leg, which caused him to tilt...something she had seen before - the bright, bright shine in the man's one eye, and above it, just one long eyebrow...Violet wasn't fooled for even a second as she stood staring at the man she'd walked into. She knew at once it was Count Olaf.'



Activity

Choose one of the meetings with Count Olaf. What do you think will happen next?
Re-write the encounter as a script and act out the scene to bring it to life.
Record how your scene would look on film by creating a storyboard.

After you have seen the film

Using a 'hot-seating' technique, place yourself in the role of one of Count Olaf's characters and encourage the rest of your class to ask you questions about your character. Remember that you must stay in role while sitting on the hot seat!



LEMONY SNICKET'S
A SERIES OF
**UNFORTUNATE
EVENTS**

.....
SCREEN SNAKES
.....

The orphans' Uncle Monty Montgomery has a great passion for reptiles of all shapes and sizes. He keeps specimens of each species that he has discovered in the 'Reptile Room'. When he becomes the children's guardian, Uncle Monty arranges for the orphans to join him on an expedition to Peru to find new breeds of reptiles.

Monty has a particular fascination for snakes and is always trying to find new breeds to name. But before they go to Peru the children need to put their special skills to use to prepare for their trip. Violet has to check that the snakes traps are working correctly, Klaus has to read up on the terrain of Peru to help them navigate through the jungle safely, and Sunny has to bite through an enormous length of rope to create useable pieces.

Here are some of Monty's precious creatures which he discovered on previous expeditions:



INCREDIBLY DEADLY VIPER

Although its name suggests that this snake is extremely dangerous, it is in fact one of the least dangerous reptiles in Uncle Monty's collection. It is a friendly creature whose bite is harmless and it is very affectionate to people that it likes.



MAMBA DU MAL

The Mamba du Mal is one of the deadliest snakes in the world. This snake uses its strangulating grip to catch its prey and squeeze it to death. The victim's body will turn a darker colour due to the bruising. It also injects deadly venom into its victim.

Activity

Imagine you are Uncle Monty visiting Peru to find a new species of snake. You discover a very unusual kind of snake living in a swamp but are unable to collect the creature to bring it home. You must record its features to report back to the Herpetological Society.

In your report you will need to include a description of the snake's habitat, its appearance, its size, what it eats and a map of the location where you found it.

After you have seen the film

Which was your favourite reptile from the film?

Use the Internet to investigate how the creepy creatures were created.



LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

GREAT GRAMMAR AND PERFECT PUNCTUATION

The orphans' Aunt Josephine has a passion for grammar. She has a whole library of grammar books and always notices when a person's grammar is incorrect. Aunt Josephine believes that grammar is extremely important and uses her specialist knowledge of grammar to help the children in their battle against Count Olaf. Being an avid reader himself, Klaus realises that correct grammar is very important and finds it unusual that Aunt Josephine would leave them a note containing many grammatical errors. Using his expert reading skills Klaus is able to find a secret message hidden in her letter.



Activity

Use your knowledge of grammar, spelling and punctuation to find the hidden message in the letter from Lemony Snicket telling you about his new film *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*. The message is a warning about Count Olaf's latest disguise. Write the missing letters or incorrect punctuation in the spaces below the letter to record the message.

Dear Unfortunate Viewer,

If I were you, I would pay very close attention to tis letter as it tells of the very disturbing and unneerving film of the Baudelaire's tragic lives so far. If my reports of the unfortunate serie of events to befall the orphans were not horrific enough, now the sinister Count Olaf can be viewed by all on the big screen in the film Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events. It seems the dreadful man has get his five minutes of fame after all.

The film displays the evil and canning Count Olaf doing terribly cruel acts against the poor ophans as he ries to get hold of the Baudelaire family fortun. Count Olaf can be seen in the flesh and it is not a pretty sight. In fat Olaf can be seen in many of his transparent disguises. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you avoid seaing this film. I also implore you not to visit the film's website at www.unfortunateeventsmovie.com as this has shocking contents and alarming footage from the film.

If I were you I would stay at school for the vest of your life to avoid this film. However, if you do find yourself at the cinema I would watch a film about underwater creatures or green ogres.

All due respect

Lemony Snicket

Answer: _____

After you have seen the film

How does Klaus use books in the film to help the children against the evil Count Olaf?



LEMONY SNICKET'S -A SERIES OF- UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

INGENIOUS INVENTIONS

Violet's inventive and inquisitive mind is crucial to the children's ongoing struggle against Count Olaf. When Violet ties her hair back in a ribbon she is using her intelligence to think of new inventions or to interpret the underhanded actions of Count Olaf. Here are some examples of how Violet's special skills have aided the children's plight:



ESCAPING FROM THE TOWER

To help Sunny escape from the tall tower, Violet creates a 'grappling hook' using a sturdy metal curtain rod, some picture hanging wire and some strips of material.



INVESTIGATING OBJECTS IN STEPHANO'S SUITCASE

In Stephano's suitcase Violet found a glass vial with a sealed rubber cap, a syringe with a sharp needle, a small bunch of folded papers, a laminated plastic card, a powder puff and a small hand mirror. Violet worked out that Count Olaf, disguised as Stephano, had used these items to poison Uncle Monty and planned to pretend to be Uncle Monty in order to gain the Baudelaire fortune.



ATTRACTING ATTENTION ON A SINKING BOAT

To attract attention to the orphan's sinking boat on Lake Lachrymose, Violet uses a bucket and an oar to make a loud noise, and a lens from a magnifying glass, a piece of the sail, a fishing pole and a hairnet to create a fire as a signalling device.

Activity

Imagine you are Violet and you need to create an invention to fool Count Olaf. Use the objects below to design your own invention. Don't forget to annotate the parts of your invention and explain how it would work.

Funnel, deckchair, rope, magnifying glass, candle, plant pot, paper, sweeping brush, picture frame

After you have seen the film

What inventions did Violet create in the film and how were these inventions used to help the children?



LEMONY SNICKETS
A SERIES OF
UNFORTUNATE
EVENTS



.....
MONEY MADNESS
.....

'Money is the root of all evil, or, in this case Count Olaf's'... money-minded actions are the root of the Baudelaire children's evil and unfortunate situation. All Count Olaf can think about is getting the Baudelaire fortune from the children - no matter what the consequences! Luckily for the children Mr. Poe is in charge of their inheritance and will not allow Count Olaf access to the money.

Activity

COOKING DINNER

Count Olaf has given the orphans £5 to buy the ingredients that they need to cook for his theatre troop. The children decide to cook Puttanesca sauce for pasta and chocolate pudding. They need to buy sauté olives, capers, a tin of anchovies, 1 bulb of garlic, chopped parsley, 3 tomatoes, 3 packets of spaghetti and 5 packets of chocolate pudding mix.

How much change will the children get?

Answer: _____

Sauté olives - 60p
Capers - 24p
Tin of anchovies - £1.15
Garlic bulbs - 27p each
Chocolate pudding - 32p per packet
Sprig of parsley - 11p
Tomatoes - 9p each
Spaghetti - 20p per packet

THE MARVELLOUS MARRIAGE
£5.99 for adults
£2.99 for children

THEATRE TICKETS

How much would it cost for Mr. Poe to take his wife and their two children Edgar and Albert to see 'The Marvellous Marriage'?

Answer: _____

TRAVEL TICKETS

Uncle Monty has bought tickets for himself and the orphans on the Prospero ship travelling to Peru. How much did the tickets cost Uncle Monty?

Answer: _____

Adult tickets £89.00
child tickets (5-16 years old) £56.00
infant tickets (under 5's) Free

BOAT HIRE
£2.50 per hour.

BOAT HIRE

Captain Sham hires out sailboats by the hour. How much would it cost to hire a sailboat for four and a half hours?

Answer: _____

After you have seen the film

What schemes does Count Olaf use to try to get his hands on the children's inheritance?



AN UNFORTUNATE ENDING

If you are one of the children who thinks that they have finished all their work and survived the series of unfortunate events experience then you are sadly mistaken!

Activity

Lemony Snicket has a particular writing style that likes to test children in their knowledge of vocabulary and introduce them to new and unusual words. Use the clues and the word bank to complete the crossword puzzle below:

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 10 numbered starting points for clues:

- 1: Down, 10 squares
- 2: Across, 8 squares
- 3: Down, 5 squares
- 4: Down, 4 squares
- 5: Across, 7 squares
- 6: Across, 10 squares
- 7: Down, 6 squares
- 8: Across, 8 squares
- 9: Across, 5 squares
- 10: Down, 10 squares

Clues

- Across**
- 2. throughout the whole event
 - 5. relating to marriage
 - 6. to be distant and reluctant to associate with others
 - 8. to tease someone
 - 9. dizzy and excited

- Down**
- 1. to have been killed
 - 3. a sweeping gesture
 - 4. a reward to persuade you to do something you don't want to
 - 7. bringing about
 - 10. without a mark

Word Bank

- Giddy
- Ridicule
- Duration
- Flourish
- Incurring
- Unblemished
- Standoffish
- Perished
- Nuptial
- Incentive

Film Education is the unique link between education and the UK film industry. It facilitates the study and use of film and cinema across the curriculum, creating, developing and sustaining a literate audience through the understanding and enjoyment of film.

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