

CLIL: Literature (2017-2018)

A series of Unfortunate Events

THE BAD BEGINNING

1st Experimental Middle School of Athens

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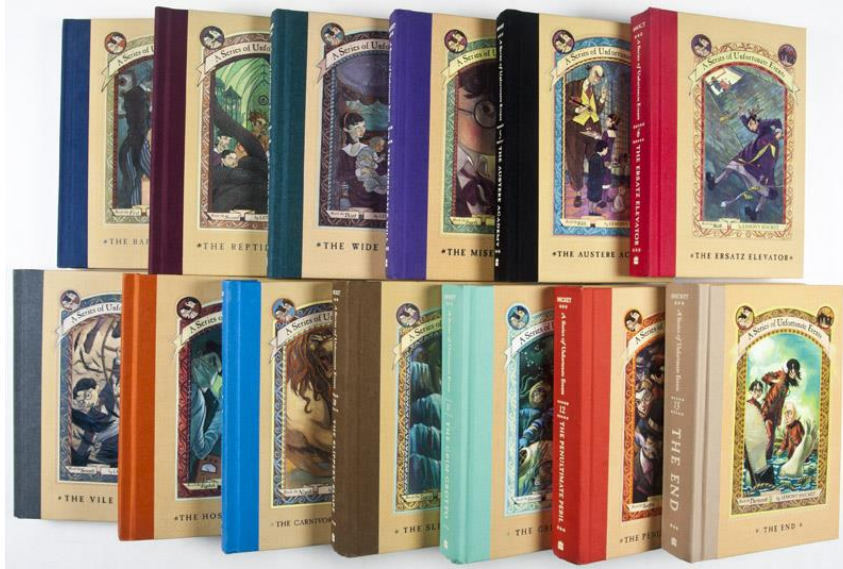
SAMPLE PAGES

Introduction

- Watch the following short video and guess what kind of book we are going to read this year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awoHKry2Poc&index=357&list=UUBTeCHmWyy8roiEkhbaXowg>

Lemony Snicket, 'A series of unfortunate events'



- A few words about the author

A literary pseudonym of the American writer and screenwriter Daniel Handler (San Francisco, 1970) for the book series "A series of unfortunate events".

On his official website, www.lemonysnicket.com, he notes: "Lemony Snicket was born in a small provincial town where the inhabitants were suspicious and prone to trouble, now living in a big city. In his spare time, he collects evidence and the authorities consider him as an expert. The book "The Bad Beginning" launched the successful series "A Series of Unfortunate Events", starring the three Baudelaire siblings, which reached 13 books, in total, and has been turned into a movie recently. "

In 2002, the humorous autobiography "Lemony Snicket: The Unauthorized Autobiography" was published in English.

Daniel Handler, who is still systematically involved in music (singing and playing the accordion), also wrote the scripts for the movies 'Rick 2003, based on Verdi's Rigoletto, and 'Kill the Poor', 2006.



If you are interested in stories with a good end, then it would be better for you to read some other book. In this book, there is not a good end, there is not a good start, but in the middle the pleasant things are too few. And that's because not many pleasant things happened in the life of the Baudelaire siblings. Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire were smart children, resourceful, very charming and with beautiful features. They were just extremely unlucky and almost everything that happened to them filled their lives with misfortunes, misery and despair.

Read the blurb below where the author warns the readers against reading the novel. Why, do you think, he does that? What does this tell you about the novel?

1st Experimental Middle School of Athens



Dear Reader,

I'm sorry to say that the book you are holding in your hands is extremely unpleasant. It tells an unhappy tale about three very unlucky children. Even though they are charming and clever, the Baudelaire children are at the beach and receive terrible news, continuing on through the entire story, disaster lurks at their heels. One might say they are magnets for misfortune.

In this short book alone, the three youngsters encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune and cold porridge for breakfast.

It is my sad duty to write down these unpleasant tales, but there is nothing stopping you from putting this book down at once and reading something happy, if you prefer that sort of thing.

With all due respect,

Lemony Snicket

Lemony Snicket

Reading a Novel

LO: Using reading skills to make predictions

What can you say about these front covers? They are both of the same book. Make notes on this sheet!



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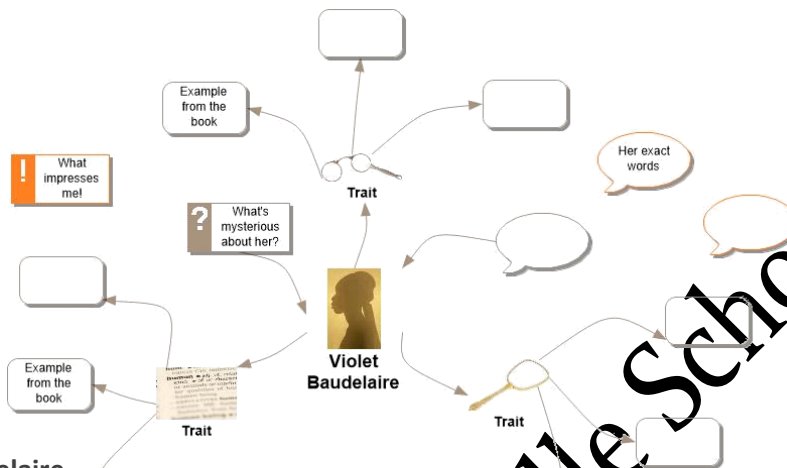
Analysing Characters

LO: To understand how important characters are in novels and why they are used

Stick me in your book

Lemony Snicket

Look at this diagram showing Violet's different personality traits. Complete the diagram while reading the novel with examples from the book. Then make similar diagrams with the other two kids' traits.



Violet Baudelaire

Explore a character's traits by expressing your ideas with symbols and text. Add subtopics to expand your thinking and make connections between ideas. Use notes to add detail, include quotes from the text and/or reference examples with page numbers. To develop your document into writing, switch to Outline View. To create a presentation, finish your work using the Presentation Manager.

A. Trait

1. Example from the book

- 2.
- 3.

B. Trait

1. Example from the book

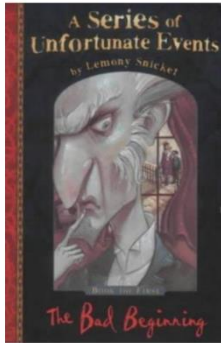
- 2.
- 3.

What's mysterious about her?

Her exact words:

What impresses me:

Introductory Presentation: Team work (with the content teacher)



Title: Reading
a Novel

**LO: Using reading
skills to make
predictions**

Starter: On your sheets,
write what you notice
about this front cover! 5
MINS

What might you look at?

- Colours
- Character – his expression
- Title
- Style
- Font
- The tone
- The mood
- The title
- The background of the picture
- What might the story be about?

**Extension: What is the
front cover used for?**

The blurb – what are the 5 W's?

Identify the 5Ws for the story from
reading this blurb

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With all due respect,

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Lemony Snicket

What genre would you say this story is?

GENRE: is the type of style of a book (so it could
be romantic, a thriller or a horror, to name a few)

Organise your thoughts in a P.E.E form...for example:

P: From reading the book blurb, I think that the book is a
romance.

E: I think this because it was words such as.....

E: These words show me that...

Put it all together...

What do you think will happen in the opening
paragraphs from what you have learned in the book
blurb, the title and the front cover?

**HOMEWORK TASK: Write the opening paragraph to
the story, "The Bad Beginning"**



Useful sites:

<https://www.audiobooks.com/audiobook/series-of-unfortunate-events-1-the-bad-beginning/212728>
(audio)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEO6EXuA6FA> (movie)

<https://www.netflix.com/gr/title/80050008> (TV series)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mudiYZLVEJg> (video game)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxTcneF74Q> (video game)

Chapter 1

Wordpool

Discuss the meaning of the following words.

be rife with

have a knack for

trivial

to squint

to engulf

slender

slimy

be distracted

unsteady

to retrieve

resourceful

misfortune

executioner

executor

enormous

tiny

smooth

Make your own word pool of any other unfamiliar words.

GLOSSARY

Briny Beach is a popular beach located just outside the limits of the City which was home to the *Baudelaire family*. **The City** is an unnamed, and probably well-populated city where most of the events in *A Series of Unfortunate Events* take place. In the film, it is claimed that the city is Boston, Massachusetts. However, this is not necessarily true for the books or TV series which keep the city unclear.

Gaius Julius Caesar (100BC-44BC), mostly known as **Julius Caesar**, was a Roman politician, general, and notable author of Latin prose. He played a critical role in the events that led to the rise of the Roman empire.

Tide pools, or rock pools, are rocky pools on the sea shore which are filled with seawater. Many of these pools exist as separate pools only at low tide.

Stone skipping (or **stone skimming**) is the art of throwing a flat stone across water in such a way that it bounces off the surface, preferably many times. The object of the game is to see how many times a stone can bounce before sinking. The Guinness World Record of 88 skips in one throw was achieved on September 6, 2013 in Pennsylvania.

Talking point: Cover



1. Why does Lemony Snicket warn readers at the beginning and several times throughout the book to put it down and read something else?
2. Why would anyone want to read a book when they have been forewarned that the likeable main characters will meet nothing but despair?
3. Are Snicket's warnings sincere?
4. What effect do they have?

Talking point: Chapter 1



The author takes time in the first chapter to give details about all three of the Baudelaire children and what their traits are.

1. What is it about the Baudelaire's traits and idiosyncrasies that makes them believable as characters, if anything?
2. Which of the characteristics makes each character believable?
3. Which of the Baudelaire children do you most identify with?
Violet? Klaus? Or Sunny?

Comprehension



1. When the story begins where are the Baudelaire children?
2. What does Violet do when she is thinking about inventions?
3. What does Sunny enjoy doing?
4. Who do the children see coming towards them?
5. Where did the children first meet Mr. Poe?
6. What does Violet begin to do when she sees the figure walking towards them on the beach?
7. What does Klaus explain it is that makes the figure look frightening?
8. What does Klaus wear that makes him look smart?

Toolkit: Character descriptions

In order to create a character an author must make sure that the descriptions of them fit their personalities.

This is even more important in stories as you can't see the characters; you have to create a picture of them in your head. Adjectives help us do this.

TASK

1. Choose the words that you think may have been used to describe the characters.
2. Once you have chosen the words, decide why the author has used these particular words.
3. How does he want the reader to picture each character?
4. Create your own 'baddy' character using a range of interesting adjectives that let the reader picture what kind of character he is.
5. See how many adjectives your partner has used. What kind of character have they created?



Homework:

1. Who is the narrator, can she or he read minds, and, more importantly, can we trust her or him?
2. Imagine you are Violet (or Klaus). Write the diary entry for the first day.

Mind the gap activity

1. Work in pairs and write down five words you would expect to read in a summary of the first chapter.
2. Read the cloze text and fill in the gaps in the text. The words you listed may help you.
3. Discuss how you worked out the correct missing words, i.e. which clues in the text you used to help you.
4. Compare your answers with the complete original text.

The Bad Beginning Chapter 1 Summary

This tale opens with a disclaimer: If you like sweet and pleasant stories with happy endings, then you'd be better off reading some other book, since this one is kind of a downer. That's probably because a whole bunch of ¹ _____ happen to the three Baudelaire children—Violet, Klaus, and Sunny.

It all starts one overcast day when the kids are hanging out at ² _____. Violet, who is fourteen years old, is ³ _____ rocks and dreaming of things she might invent one day. Klaus, who is twelve, is thinking about some of the books he's read while checking out creatures in a tide-pool. Sunny—who is just a baby—likes to ⁴ _____ things... and she also notices a mysterious figure coming toward the children on the beach.

Turns out, this weird person is just Mr. Poe, a banker who constantly ⁵ _____ and is friends with the Baudelaire family. But Mr. Poe has some horrible news: The children's parents are dead. Wow. That *is* horrible. It seems they died in a terrible fire that ⁶ _____ their whole house.

The kids are in ⁷ _____, but Mr. Poe tells them that they'll stay with him for a few days until he can get things sorted out for them. It seems that Mr. Poe is the ⁸ _____ of their parents' estate, and their parents left behind an enormous ⁹ _____ that will only pass to the children when Violet comes of age. What else can three newly minted ¹⁰ _____ do? They head off with Mr. Poe.

The Bad Beginning_Chapter One

ARMMMHRJ ICNTKLY
SEAIHVHTWHQYLOA
YSNSEXECUTOR THW
TOSFDHRJHBRVIGY
RUIOEXECUTIONER
IRORFRVJRVDWYBD
VCNTRETRIEVERSI
IEU UWMEBFGMQSMS
AFDNIZBREQDNLOT
LUGEENORMOUSEOR
FLSLIMYEAETZNTA
UNSTEADYQGWZDHC
QREMBARRASSMENT
BEEINGULFEDVSRGE
TKD VOLDEPAIRXPD

embarrassment

executioner

misfortune

unsteady

engulfed

executor

trivial

retrieve

slender

slimy

mansion

depair

resourceful

distracted

enormous

smooth

rife

tiny

Wordsearch: Answer key

The Bad Beginning_Chapter One

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

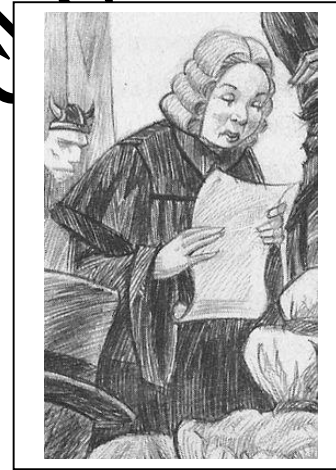
Revision chapters 1-5

Worksheet for the Greek lesson

ΛΕΜΟΝΙ ΣΝΙΚΕΤ «Η ΚΑΚΗ ΑΡΧΗ»

ΦΥΛΛΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ ΚΕΦ. 1-5 για το σπίτι

1. Γιατί ο συγγραφέας μας προειδοποιεί να μην διαβάσουμε την ιστορία του; Τι επίδραση έχει αυτό σ' εμάς τους αναγνώστες; Μπορείτε να τη δικαιολογήσετε;
2. Παρουσιάστε με συντομία τους βασικούς χαρακτήρες του πρώτου βιβλίου (παρουσιαστικό, συνήθειες, αρετές ή αδυναμίες)



- 3) Τα ορφανά συνειδητοποιούν σύντομα πως πρέπει να βασιστούν στον εαυτό τους και στην αλληλεγγύη μεταξύ για να εξουδετερώσουν τα σχέδια του κόμη Όλαφ. Να δώσετε από ένα παράδειγμα από το βιβλίο για το πώς οι ιδιαίτερες ικανότητες του καθενός και η αγάπη μεταξύ τους παίζει καθοριστικό ρόλο για την επιτυχία τους.

Team activities in class (together with the content teacher, some groups work with the Greek language and some with the English language.

CLASS GROUP WORK (units 1-5)



1. WANTED! In groups, pick a bad character from Count Olaf's troupe and make a poster with a bounty. You should include a sketch of the character based on the description of the book, a brief summary of his/her physical characteristics and crimes, an indication of when he/she was last seen, and reward information that will lead to his/her arrest.

BONUS: What's the meaning of '*in loco parentis*'? Where do we see it?

2. Time for cooking!

Flip through the cookbooks that were given to you. Suppose you are preparing a formal dinner for Count Olaf and his companion. It must include an appetizer, a main dish and a dessert. Make a card with the names of the dishes you will create and a short appetizing description of them.



3. NEGATIVE ADVERTISING

Most people will automatically do exactly the opposite of what you tell them to do. Lemon Snicket is the ultimate craftsman in this game. By imitating his style, write a negative ad for one of the following:

- a birthday invitation
- a holiday postcard
- a re-election talk for the class board
- a wish card for a relative's wedding

Note: Reread the beginning of the book and the blurb to get ideas.

All group work will be read in the classroom.

WANTED



WANTED FOR:

DESCRIPTION:



REWARD:

ΟΜΑΔΙΚΕΣ ΔΡΑΣΤΗΡΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΤΑΞΗ (κεφάλαια 1-5)



1 ΚΑΤΑΖΗΤΕΙΤΑΙ! Σε ομάδες διαλέγετε έναν κακό χαρακτήρα από τον θίασο του κόμη Όλαφ και φτιάχνετε ένα πόστερ με επικήρυξη. Θα πρέπει να συμπεριλάβετε ένα σκίτσο του χαρακτήρα βασισμένο στην περιγραφή του βιβλίου, μια μικρή σύνοψη των χαρακτηριστικών του και των εγκλημάτων του, μια αναφορά για το πότε θεάθηκε τελευταία φορά, καθώς και τις πληροφορίες για την αμοιβή που θα οδηγήσει στη σύλληψή του.

BONUS: Τι θα πει *in loco parentis*? Πού το συναντάμε στο βιβλίο;

2. Ώρα για μαγείρεμα!

Ξεφυλλίστε τα βιβλία μαγειρικής που σας δόθηκαν. Υποθέστε πως ετοιμάζετε ένα επίσημο δείπνο για τον κόμη Όλαφ και την παρέα του. Πρέπει να περιλαμβάνει ορεκτικό, κυρίως πιάτο και επιδόρπιο. Φτιάξτε μια κάρτα με τα ονόματα των πιάτων που θα δημιουργήσετε και μια σύντομη ορεκτική περιγραφή τους

3. ΑΝΑΠΟΔΕΣ ΔΙΑΦΗΜΙΣΕΙΣ

Οι περισσότεροι άνθρωποι θα κάνουν αυτόματα αυτό που τους λες να μην κάνουν. Ο Λέμονι Σνίκετ είναι ο απόλυτος μάστορας σ' αυτό το παιχνίδι. Μιμούμενοι το στιλ του, γράψτε μια ανάποδη διαφήμιση για ένα απίστευτο πράγμα κάτω:

μια πρόσκληση σε γενέθλια
μια κάρτ ποστάλ από τις διακοπές
ένας προεκλογικός λόγος για το συμβούλιο της τάξης
μια ευχητήρια κάρτα για το γάμο ενός συγγενικού προσώπου

Σημ. Ξαναδιαβάστε την άσκηση του βιβλίου και το οπισθόφυλλο για να πάρετε ιδέες.

Όλες οι εργασίες των ομάδων θα διαβαστούν στην τάξη.



ΚΑΤΑΖΗΤΕΙΤΑΙ



ΖΗΤΕΙΤΑΙ ΓΙΑ:

ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ:



ΑΜΟΙΒΗ: