



TITLE: The bad beginning

AUTHOR: Lemony Snicket

INTEREST AGE: 9-14 Years

BOOKBAND: Dark Red

OUR REVIEW: Gothic horror, unremittingly black in tone but cult possibilities.

BEFORE READING

- Look at the front cover – what can you see? What do you think the story may be about? Why do you think these colours/pictures have been used?
- Read the blurb. Can you gain any more clues about what might happen? Make predictions.
- Write an opening paragraph to the story.

DURING READING

- After reading the first chapter compare it to your predictions – is it as you expected?
- Make a list of questions that you would like to be answered in the story. Refer back to this regularly when reading.

QUESTIONS

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

AFTER READING

- Create a character profile for one of the children.
- Make a 'Wanted' poster for Count Olaf.
- Write a letter to Lemony Snicket giving your opinions about the book and asking any questions that you would like answering.
- Re-write a scene from the book from the point of view of one of the children.
- Compare the book to the film version of the story. Which do you prefer? Why?

How many words can you make
from these letters?

**A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE
EVENTS**

The Bad Beginning is the first title in a series of 13 books.



Other books by Lemony Snicket include...

