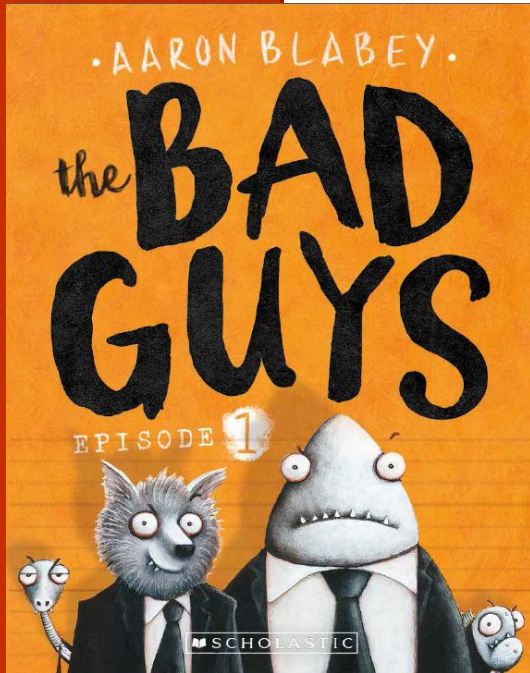


# THE BAD GUYS: EPISODE ONE

AARON BLABEY



They sound like the Bad Guys, they look like the Bad Guys . . . and they even smell like the Bad Guys. But Mr Wolf, Mr Piranha, Mr Snake and Mr Shark are about to change all of that—whether you want them to or not! Mr Wolf has a daring plan for the Bad Guys' first good mission. The gang are going to break 200 dogs out of the Maximum Security City Dog Pound. Will Operation Dog Pound go smoothly? Will the Bad Guys become the Good Guys? And will Mr Snake please stop swallowing Mr Piranha?! Buckle up for the funniest, naughtiest and coolest book you'll ever read from award-winning author Aaron Blabey!

ISBN: 9781760150426

RRP: \$9.99

## TEACHER NOTES

- Discuss the layout of **The Bad Guys**. What sort of a book would you classify it as? Is it a graphic novel/comic book? Is it illustrated fiction? Is it a long picture book? As a class, talk about the categories we generally organise books into. What are the pros and cons of categorising books? Can the definitions of each category be seen as fluid or static?
- Why do you think the book is called 'Episode 1' instead of 'Book 1'? What does the word 'episode' bring to mind? Is **The Bad Guys** told like a television cartoon episode or short film? Why do you think this is? For advanced students: Consider filming a section of **The Bad Guys**, either using live-action or animation software. Some factors you will need to consider include editing techniques and soundtrack. Does the book easily lend itself to a filmed medium?
- In many ways, **The Bad Guys** is a heist story like **Ocean's Eleven** or **Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels**. This is a common Hollywood film genre. In small groups, investigate the genre further. What are some common tropes and motifs? How does **The Bad Guys** conform to and contradict

the genre? NOTE: Teachers are advised to supervise this unit of study as many films will have mature audience classifications.

- Using Google Image Search, look at the poster art for Hollywood heist films such as **Reservoir Dogs**, **Ocean's Eleven** (both the original 1960 film and the 2002 remake) and **The Usual Suspects**. Discuss the graphic layout (eg fonts, use of colour, images) used in these posters. Now look at the layout of **The Bad Guys**. How does it mimic the film posters you have found? What effect does this have on the story? NOTE: Teachers are advised to supervise this unit of study as many films will have mature audience classifications.
- After studying some texts in the heist genre, what sort of a soundtrack does **The Bad Guys** bring to mind? Compile a class soundtrack using a musical list-building program such as Spotify to listen to while you study this book.
- Where does each of the Bad Guys come from? Reread the first few chapters of the story, paying particularly close attention to the rap sheets that introduce the four main characters. Write a paragraph detailing the backgrounds of:
  - Mr Wolf
  - Mr Snake
  - Mr Piranha
  - Mr Shark.

How has Aaron Blabey mixed popular culture (eg film), fairy tales and real-world biology in creating his four main characters?

- Why do you think the author has included rap sheets for his four main characters? To what effect are they included in the story?
- Create a fifth 'bad guy' character to include in the story and produce a rap sheet for him/her. What key role will they play in the story?
- Why do you think Mr Wolf has decided to rehabilitate the image of the Bad Guys? Imagine you are interviewing Mr Wolf for a television news program like **60 Minutes**. Write the transcript for this interview. What will you ask Mr Wolf about his motivations? What do you imagine his answers will be?
- Why do you think Mr Wolf is the main character/narrator of the story? List all the stories you can think of where the wolf is

the antagonist of the story. Why do you think wolves are such a common villain?

- Turn to the spread in Chapter 4 where Mr Wolf presents the specifications for his car. Imagine you're a new crime-fighting super hero and design your own, fully-sick vehicle, and present the specifications like Mr Wolf has done here. What will you call your new vehicle?
- The Bad Guys want to free the dogs in the dog pound. How has the author represented the pound like a real-life prison?
- Consider visiting the pound or animal shelter in your local area and talk to the administrators there about how it is really run. What animals end up at the pound? How are they cared for? What can you do to support your local pound? What are the benefits and challenges of adopting an animal from the local pound or shelter rather than buying a pet from a pet store or breeder? NOTE: Teachers are advised to deal with the subject of pounds and shelters sensitively as issues such as animal cruelty and euthanasia will be relevant.
- The very last page of **The Bad Guys** is a written teaser of sorts for Episode Two of the series. What do you think will happen in the next book based on the clues given on this page? For advanced students: Try creating a film trailer for Episode Two based on the information given on this page.