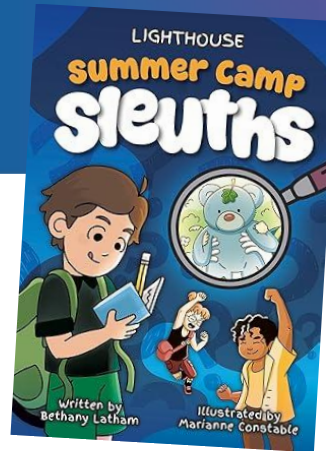


Summer Camp Sleuths Discussion Guide

Author: Bethany Latham

Illustrator: Marianne Constable

Themes: Summer, Mystery, Friendship



Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Ask, “Have you ever solved a mystery or figured something out? What happened?”
- Discuss what makes a strong detective.
- Purpose for reading: “As we read, pay attention to what Dan and his friends do when problems come up and how things start to change when they work together.”

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Day 1: Where is Dan going? What is he hoping to do this summer?
- Day 2: Describe Dan and his new friends. What things do they have in common?
- Day 8-9: How did Dan and his friends solve their first cases?
- Day 12-17: How do you think Dan is feeling watching his friends solve cases?
- Day 18-21: Why are Dan and his friends feeling disappointed? What do you think will happen next?
- Day 22: Who do the friends think took their stuff? Why? What happens when the friends meet another group of “detectives”?
- End: How do they work together to solve the case?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask, “How do Dan and his friends work together to solve cases? What changes when they meet the other group of kids?”
- **Solve a mystery!** Have students become detectives to solve a classroom mystery. After introducing the mystery, place students in small groups and have them work together to ask questions, gather and discuss clues, and decide what they think happened. Encourage groups to explain their thinking using evidence from the clues. At the end, each group shares their best guess and reasoning, reinforcing how collaboration and careful thinking help solve problems.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.