

# LEMONY SNICKET'S —A SERIES OF— UNFORTUNATE EVENTS™

If you are interested in reading a play filled with singing bunnies, speeding cars, or happy children, you are reading the wrong play entirely. This play is filled with misery and woe, involving three clever youngsters, a terrible fire, a refrigerator, and man-eating leeches. We're sorry to tell you that it's based on the new movie *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, which is based on the books *The Bad Beginning*, *The Reptile Room*, and *The Wide Window*, by Mr. Snicket.

IN THEATERS DECEMBER 17  
Adapted for *Scope* by Jonathan Blum

## CHARACTERS

Write your initials next to the character you're going to read.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| — *Lemony Snicket 1, a mysterious narrator   | — *Mr. Poe, a banker                               |
| — *Lemony Snicket 2, a suspicious narrator   | — *Count Olaf, a bad actor and worse villain       |
| — *Lemony Snicket 3, a shadowy narrator  | — *Uncle Monty, a distant Baudelaire relative      |
| — *Lemony Snicket 4, a secretive narrator  | — Stephano, someone disguised as a snake assistant |
| — *Violet Baudelaire, the oldest Baudelaire sibling                                  | — *Aunt Josephine, a distant Baudelaire relative   |
| — *Klaus Baudelaire, Violet's younger brother  | — Captain Sham, someone disguised as a fisherman   |
| — Sunny Baudelaire, Violet and Klaus's baby sister                                   |  |
| — Sunny's Translator (since Sunny is so young, no one understands what she's saying) |  |

\*Starred characters are major roles.

### SCENE THE FIRST

**SNICKET 1:** The play you are about to read is very unpleasant. It has no happy ending, no happy beginning, and very few happy things in the middle.

**SNICKET 2:** That is because not many happy things occurred in the lives of the three Baudelaire children. Violet, the oldest, was one of the finest 14-year-old inventors the world has



Klaus, Violet, and Baby Sunny get ready to hear some bad news.

ever known.

**VIOLET:** When I tie my hair up with a ribbon, it means I'm thinking of a new invention.

**SNICKET 3:** Her younger brother, Klaus, had read more books than most librarians.

**KLAUS:** Never **underestimate** the power of research.

**SNICKET 4:** And Sunny, the baby, liked to bite things with her four sharp teeth.

**SNICKET 1:** One day, the children were playing on the beach, when Sunny said something that stills makes me weep uncontrollably.

**SAY IT!** **underestimate** — uhn-der-ESS-tuh-MATE

**Most Unfortunate:** Count Olaf (Jim Carrey) is a fake, an imposter, and a fraud who's after the Baudelaire orphans' money.



ADAPTED FROM THE PARAMOUNT PICTURES/DREAMWORKS PICTURES FILM. SCREENPLAY BY ROBERT GORDON BASED ON THE BOOKS "THE BAD BEGINNING," "THE REPTILE ROOM," AND "THE WIDE WINDOW" BY LEMONY SNICKET.

### VOCABULARY PREVIEW

As you read, look for context clues to learn these words:

dastardly • device • foiled  
guardian • inheritance  
rickety • scoundrel  
underestimate • vile • villainous



**SUNNY:** Gack!

**SUNNY'S TRANSLATOR:** ... which meant, "Look at that mysterious figure emerging from the fog."

**KLAUS:** Mr. Poe? From the bank?

**MR. POE:** I'm afraid I must inform you of ... an extremely unfortunate event. Your parents have perished in a fire that destroyed your home.

**SNICKET 2:** And just like that, the Baudelaire children became the Baudelaire orphans.

**MR. POE:** "Perished" means "died."

**KLAUS:** We know what "perished" means.

**MR. POE:** The bank will manage your **inheritance** until you come of age. In the meantime, you will be sent to live with your closest relative, Count Olaf, just 37 blocks away.

**KLAUS:** I don't think that's what "closest" is supposed to mean.

**VIOLET:** We don't know any "Count Olaf."

**MR. POE:** Consider yourselves lucky. Count Olaf was the first to call when he heard about the fire, and he offered to become your **guardian** on the spot! AND he's an actor.

## SCENE THE SECOND

**SNICKET 3:** The Baudelaires arrived at a run-down house with a mysterious tower that had an eye-shaped window.

**COUNT OLAF:** Enter!

**SNICKET 4:** If only the children had run away that instant.

### Unfortunate Fact:

The deadliest snake in the world is the Australian Fierce Snake. The venom from just one of its bites could kill 100 people or 250,000 mice.

Klaus (Liam Aiken) and Violet (Emily Browning) meet Monty's pet snake.

Unfortunately, they did the polite thing and went inside.

**COUNT OLAF:** I am your beloved Count Olaf. I must say, you are a gloomy bunch. Why so bummed?

**KLAUS:** Our parents just died.

**COUNT OLAF:** Oh yes. How VERY awful. Well, as long as you're staying with me, you'll do whatever I ask while I enjoy the enormous fortune your parents left behind. You will all sleep in one bed.

**VIOLET (to Klaus):** Maybe it's not as bad as it seems.

**SNICKET 1:** It was as bad as it seemed. Count Olaf was **vile** and cruel, and each morning he ordered the children to do dangerous chores, including ladderless ceiling repair, toxic waste disposal, and dish-washing, until ...

**COUNT OLAF (sweetly):** Good morning, orphans! Let's take our first Sunday drive as a family!

**SNICKET 2:** On the way, Count Olaf stopped for treats and left the

children in his car.

**KLAUS:** Violet, where did the locks go?

**SNICKET 3:** If you have ever been locked inside a car parked on train tracks, you know it is not a very pleasant place to be.

**SUNNY:** Uhoh!

**SUNNY'S TRANSLATOR:**

Especially when a train is approaching!

**VIOLET:** Klaus, please tell me you've read something about trains.

**KLAUS:** We need to switch the tracks. Look—there's the switcher!

**VIOLET:** I'd better tie my hair up.

**SNICKET 4:** In seconds, Violet had invented a **device** that shot out the car window and hit the track switcher ...

**SUNNY:** Eyebulls!

**SUNNY'S TRANSLATOR:** Bullseye!

**SNICKET 1:** The train that was about to hit them switched tracks, and the Baudelaires were saved. Moments later, Mr. Poe arrived.

**MR. POE:** Count Olaf, I just found Sunny in the driver's seat of your car. Allowing an infant to drive is not good parenting. I'm sending the Baudelaires to live with a more suitable guardian.

**COUNT OLAF (to the children):** No matter where you go, I'll find you. I'm going to get my hands on your fortune if it's the last thing I do!

## SCENE THE THIRD

**SNICKET 2:** The Baudelaires' new guardian, Dr. Montgomery Montgomery, was a herpetologist ...

**SNICKET 3:** ... a word which here

means "an expert in the study of snakes and reptiles."

**UNCLE MONTY:** Come in, Baudelaires! Welcome! Quickly, you must see my latest discovery!

**SNICKET 4:** Uncle Monty led the children to his Reptile Room, where he kept all of his snakes, reptiles ...

**SUNNY:** Ribbit!

**SUNNY'S TRANSLATOR:** ... and three-eyed frogs.

**UNCLE MONTY:** Here it is. The Incredibly Deadly Viper!

**KLAUS:** Don't let Sunny get too close!

**UNCLE MONTY:** Don't worry, Klaus. Incredibly Deadly Viper is a misnomer—or a "wrong name." This snake is actually one of the friendliest creatures in the animal kingdom.

**SUNNY:** Slickit!

**SUNNY'S TRANSLATOR:** ... which meant, "It doesn't even hurt when she bites me!"

**UNCLE MONTY:** You're safe now, children. We have so much in common. I know what it's like to lose those you love in a terrible fire. We'll have a wonderful time together.

## SCENE THE FOURTH

**SNICKET 1:** It seemed like everything might be better for the Baudelaires. Uncle Monty was a very kind guardian. But then the bell tolled ...

**SNICKET 2:** ... an expression which here means "the doorbell rang, and it was a person whom the children recognized right away, even though he was in disguise."

**STEPHANO:** My name is Stephano. I

am here to assist Dr.

Montgomery in his work.

**KLAUS:** You're Count Olaf!

**STEPHANO:** I don't know of any such incredibly handsome person.

**UNCLE MONTY:** Children, who is it? My new assistant, Stephano!

Thank goodness you've arrived!

**VIOLET:** Uncle Monty, psssttt!

**SNICKET 3:** The children tried to tell Uncle Monty that Stephano was an impostor.

**UNCLE MONTY (whispering):** I know, he's a spy here to steal my discovery. We'll talk tomorrow.

**SNICKET 4:** But sometimes even the most learned grown-ups are not very smart. By the next morning, it was too late.

**STEPHANO:** Children, how terrible. Your uncle was killed by the Incredibly Deadly Viper, one of the deadliest snakes in the world. I should know. I



**Unfortunate Event:** America's worst hurricane hit Galveston Island, Texas, in 1900. It killed more than 6,000 people, and was the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

discovered it.

**KLAUS:** That's a lie! The Incredibly Deadly Viper isn't dangerous at all. You must have killed Uncle Monty!

**SNICKET 1:** Mr. Poe arrived at Uncle Monty's.

**STEPHANO:** These children are in shock. But I'd still be happy to be their guardian.

**VIOLET:** He's Count Olaf!

**MR. POE:** Nonsense. He doesn't look anything like Count Olaf. Mr. Stephano has a mustache.

**SNICKET 2:** Suddenly, there was a scream so horrible it still gives me nightmares to imagine it.

**SUNNY:** AAAHHHHHH!!!!

**TRANSLATOR:** AAAHHHHHHHH!!!!

**MR. POE:** The Incredibly Deadly Viper is attacking Sunny!

**SNICKET 3:** But then Sunny began to giggle. She and the snake rolled on the floor playfully.

**MR. POE:** That snake is harmless.

**STEPHANO:** Egad. It appears my plot has been **foiled** ... by the baby!

**SNICKET 4:** Unfortunately, by the time Mr. Poe turned around, Stephano had already escaped.

## SCENE THE FIFTH

**SNICKET 1:** The children's next guardian, Aunt Josephine, lived in a house held up by **rickety** stilts on the side of a cliff overlooking Lake Lachrymose ...

**SNICKET 2:** ... a complicated description which here means "not a very good idea, because it would

soon be hit by a hurricane."

**AUNT JOSEPHINE:**

Baudelaires, is that you? Come in! But don't use the door-knobs, they might explode! And don't go near the refrigerator, it could fall and crush you!

**SNICKET 3:** I'm sorry to tell you that Aunt Josephine was terrified of nearly everything—except grammar.

**AUNT JOSEPHINE:** Grammar is the greatest joy in life, don't you find? I've been so lonely since

**SAY IT!** **inheritance** — in-HERR-i-tuhns • **guardian** — GAR-dee-uhn • **vile** — VILE • **device** — dih-VICE

**SAY IT!** **foiled** — FOYLD • **rickety** — RICK-uh-tee



my husband, Ike, was killed ...

**KLAUS:** Was it a fire?

**AUNT JOSEPHINE:** Oh, no. He was eaten by the Lachrymose Leeches while swimming.

**SNICKET 4:** The next day the children were shopping with Aunt Josephine when Violet confronted her own worst fear ...

**VIOLET:** Umph!

**SNICKET 1:** ... an expression which here means, "Count Olaf dressed as a peg-legged fisherman."

**CAPTAIN SHAM** (to Josephine): Forgive me for bumping into your sister.

**AUNT JOSEPHINE:** Sister? I'm her guardian.

**CAPTAIN SHAM:** But you're so young! Captain Sham, at your service.

**SNICKET 2:** Like liver-flavored ice cream, Captain Sham pretending to be nice could make you want to throw up.

**VIOLET:** But he's not—

**AUNT JOSEPHINE:** Children, I'm inviting Captain Sham home for dinner.

**KLAUS:** It's Count Olaf!

**AUNT JOSEPHINE:**

Don't be rude to our guest! Captain Sham and I will meet you at home.

#### SCENE THE SIXTH

**SNICKET 3:** When they got back, the children found nothing but a broken window, a sinking feeling, and a very upsetting note.

**KLAUS:** It says she's jumped out the

window, and she willed us to Captain Sham! But it's filled with grammatical errors.

**VIOLET:** Aunt Josephine would never make mistakes like that.

**KLAUS:** Wait—it's a code. She's hiding in Curdled Cave!

**SNICKET 4:** This is the part of the play where a hurricane hits Aunt Josephine's house, and you should probably stop reading.

**SNICKET 1:** Unless you want to know about the beam that snapped ...

**VIOLET:** Run for it!

**SNICKET 2:** ... the refrigerator that fell ...

**KLAUS:** Violet, look out!

**SNICKET 3:** ... or the doorknobs that exploded.

**VIOLET:** No way!

**SNICKET 4:** Helped by another clever invention of Violet's, the children barely escaped before the house fell off the cliff.

**SUNNY:** Phew!

**SUNNY'S TRANSLATOR:** ... which meant, "That was close! Now let's find Aunt Josephine."

Aunt Josephine (Meryl Streep) can't see through Captain Sham.

#### Unfortunate Fact:

Jawed leeches have many small teeth that they use like tiny saws to cut into skin.

**KLAUS:** I've read a few books on sailing.

#### SCENE THE SEVENTH

**SNICKET 1:** As you probably know, children should never sail alone through hurricanes. But these were special circumstances.

**AUNT JOSEPHINE:** Children, you found me! I knew you'd figure out my code. Olaf forced me to write that note!

**SNICKET 2:** Sailing back to town with Aunt Josephine seemed like a good idea ...

**SNICKET 3:** ... until the flesh-eating Lachrymose Leeches attacked.

**AUNT JOSEPHINE:** We're doomed!

**VIOLET:** Wait—there's a boat in the distance.

**COUNT OLAF** (on the boat): Hello, Baudelaires! Looks like you need help!

**KLAUS:** Olaf! You're the one who's going to need help when Aunt Josephine tells everyone what you did.

**COUNT OLAF:** Oh, really?

**SNICKET 4:** I'm sorry to tell you that Count Olaf grabbed the children and left Aunt Josephine to the mercy of the leeches.

**SNICKET 1:** Are you sure you want to continue reading this play?

**SNICKET 2:** Very well. Suddenly, another boat appeared.

**MR. POE:** Children, is that you?

**COUNT OLAF:** I saved them from the leeches!

**MR. POE:** I was wrong about you,

Olaf. You've proven yourself. If it wasn't for you ...

**COUNT OLAF:** Don't say it! Even their enormous inheritance would be a constant reminder of my heartache.

**MR. POE:** Oh, you wouldn't get the fortune if anything happened to the children.

That only applies to blood relatives and married couples.

**COUNT OLAF** (quietly): I think I have an idea for a play ...

#### SCENE THE EIGHTH

**SNICKET 3:** The *Marvelous Marriage* starred Count Olaf and Violet Baudelaire.

**KLAUS:** It says in this law book that Olaf will get our fortune if he marries you.

**VIOLET:** But Klaus, this is just a play in Olaf's backyard!

**COUNT OLAF:** Except that Justice Strauss from the City High Court is playing the justice of the peace.

**KLAUS:** But Violet's only 14. She can't get married!

**COUNT OLAF:** She can if she has the permission of her guardian. And who's that? Me!

**VIOLET:** I'll never say "I do!"

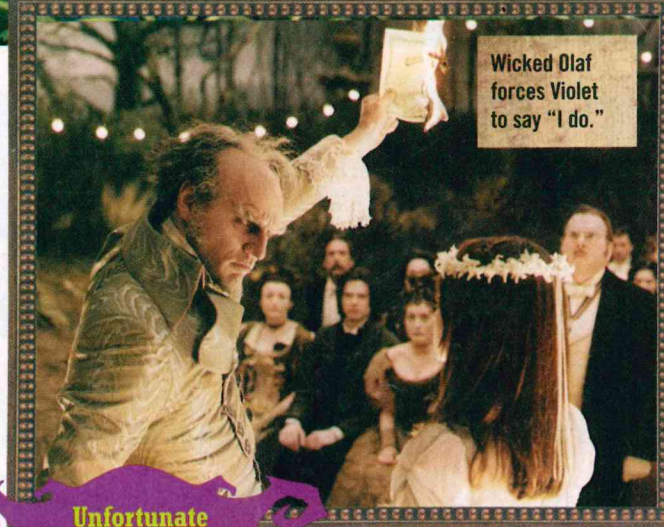
**COUNT OLAF:** Really? (into a walkie talkie) Drop her.

**SNICKET 4:** Count Olaf had hatched his most **dastardly** scheme yet ...

**SNICKET 1:** ... a phrase which here means "he was holding baby Sunny in a cage hung from the top of his tower."

**VIOLET:** No! Please! I'll do it!

**KLAUS** (sneaking away): I have



#### Unfortunate Fact:

Paper bursts into flame when it reaches a temperature of 451 degrees Fahrenheit.

to stop this ... What would Violet do?

**SNICKET 2:** Fortunately, Klaus invented a large hook using an old umbrella and climbed

Olaf's tower to save his baby sister while the play went on.

**SNICKET 3:** Unfortunately, one of Count Olaf's henchmen was waiting for him at the top.

**SNICKET 4:** Fortunately, Klaus was victorious, a word which here means "the henchman fell out the window."

**SNICKET 1:** Unfortunately, it was too late. Onstage, Violet had already said "I do" and signed the marriage certificate.

**COUNT OLAF:** Fortunately, that concludes our play.

**VIOLET:** Stop! It wasn't a play! Count Olaf was going to drop Sunny if I didn't go through with the wedding!

**SNICKET 2:** The crowd gasped in horror, just as you are probably doing right now.

**MR. POE:** You monster!

**SNICKET 3:** Up in the tower, Klaus realized that the eye-shaped

Wicked Olaf forces Violet to say "I do."

window was a giant magnifying glass for focusing the sun and burning things.

**SNICKET 4:** He turned it on the marriage certificate, which burst into flames.

**COUNT OLAF:** Wha—? No!!!

**SNICKET 1:** Count Olaf's plot was undone, but you probably shouldn't get your hopes up.

**COUNT OLAF:** You think it's over? It's not!

**SNICKET 2:** Olaf's henchmen pulled him up by wires attached to his costume, and he escaped by floating high above the audience's heads.

**MR. POE:** I'm sure he'll never bother you again.

**SUNNY:** Yeahrite!

**SUNNY'S TRANSLATOR:** ...which meant, "I'm not so sure about that."

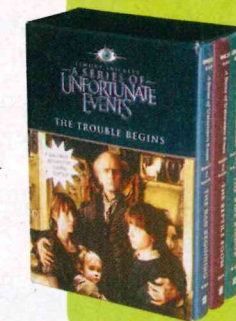
**VIOLET:** Me neither.

**KLAUS:** Me neither.

**SNICKET 3:** I'm sorry to tell you that the Baudelaires' lives would continue unhappily, filled with unfit guardians, **villainous scoundrels**, and bad classroom plays.

**SNICKET 4:** Wouldn't you rather read something else? ■

**Unfortunate Events:** Lemony Snicket has written 11 books about the Baudelaire orphans. The most recent is *The Grim Grotto*. He does not recommend that you read it.



We're sure you won't want to find out what happens in the rest of this series. It is all very unpleasant and there will be no happy endings. So please don't read the other eight books in the Lemony Snicket series!

**SAY IT!** **dastardly** — DASS-terd-lee • **villainous** — VILL-uh-nuss • **scoundrel** — SKOUN-druhl





# PLAY SKILLS

How well did you understand the play? Put your knowledge to the test with these exercises.

## NO-SWEAT TEST PREP

STRATEGY: Notice which *type of question* is asked (see parentheses)—so you'll be ready to tackle all of them on the big tests!

- 1 Which word best sums up this play? (*summarizing*)
  - A "Awful," a word which here describes three spoiled brats who torment their relatives.
  - B "Miserable," a word which here describes a baby with a speech problem.
  - C "Unfortunate," a word which here describes three orphans struggling to escape the clutches of a terrible villain.
  - D "Sad," a word which here describes leeches who almost get to eat three children.
- 2 Why does Lemony Snicket warn readers that his stories are not very pleasant? (*author's purpose*)
  - A His stories are filled with foul-smelling cheeses.
  - B He likes really unpleasant things.
  - C He hopes his warning will make readers curious.
  - D He wishes you would go watch television.
- 3 Why does Count Olaf want to adopt the children? (*understanding character motivation*)
  - A He simply adores children, especially babies with sharp teeth.
  - B He was assigned to be the children's guardian in their parents' will.
  - C He wants to get his filthy hands on their money.
  - D He loves to hit children with hurricanes and trains.
- 4 What is the *most important* difference between Uncle Monty and Aunt Josephine? (*compare & contrast*)
  - A Aunt Josephine is very cautious, but Uncle Monty takes risks.
  - B Aunt Josephine is taller than Uncle Monty.
  - C Monty likes horses, but Josephine likes snakes such as Captain Sham.
  - D Aunt Josephine loves the children, but Uncle Monty despises them.
- 5 What do you think happens to the Baudelaire children next? (*making predictions*)
  - A They live happily ever after with Count Olaf, singing songs, giggling, and skipping.
  - B They face more misfortune, but they overcome their problems with quick thinking.
  - C They grow up to be suspicious people like your teacher.
  - D They all die.

## WORD WORKOUT

Did you learn the words in **red**? Test yourself here!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. <b>underestimate</b> | a. cowardly, mean                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. <b>inheritance</b>   | b. tool, invention                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. <b>guardian</b>      | c. stopped                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. <b>vile</b>          | d. protector, keeper                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. <b>device</b>        | e. wealth gained at a relative's death |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. <b>foiled</b>        | f. shaky, ready to break               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. <b>rickety</b>       | g. liar, cheater                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. <b>dastardly</b>     | h. give too little value to            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. <b>villainous</b>    | i. disgusting, sickening               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. <b>scoundrel</b>    | j. wicked, evil                        |

## SUMMARIZING

### LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS™

To write our play, we summarized the movie *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*. **Summarized** is a word which here means we took only the most important characters, events, and ideas from the movie. We left out lots of details, like the part about pasta puttanesca, which only would have upset you anyway. Read the play over again, and jot down the main characters, events, and ideas in this chart. We've written in some examples for you. Continue your chart on a separate sheet of paper, then write your own play summary.

Main characters	Main events	Main ideas
Violet Baudelaire	Parents die	the orphans are brave

## SUMMARY WRITING TIP

Imagine you are on the phone with a friend telling him or her what happens in the play. Practice weeping.

## WRITE NOW

What *does* happen to Violet, Klaus, and Sunny next? You probably won't enjoy imagining you are Lemony Snicket, and describing in depressing detail the next alarming episode in the lives of the Baudelaire children—so you may instead choose to write about something more pleasant, like the brown stuff being served for lunch today in the cafeteria.



## GRAMMAR UNDER THE 'SCOPE: End-of-sentence punctuation

What's the right way to end a sentence? With a punctuation mark, of course! A period, question mark, or exclamation point lets you know both that a sentence is done and how to read it. Review the rules and examples below, then practice ending your sentences correctly.

**RULE 1:** Use a **period** at the end of statements.

**EXAMPLE #1:** Never underestimate the power of research. ←

**RULE 2:** Use a **question** mark at the end of sentences that ask questions.

**EXAMPLE #2:** Are you sure you want to continue reading this play? ←

**RULE 3:** Use an **exclamation point** at the end of sentences with strong, excited feelings.

**EXAMPLE #3:** Count Olaf was going to drop Sunny if I didn't go through with the wedding! ←

**YOUR TURN:** Now find **THREE MORE** examples (one for each rule) from the play, and write the sentences on a separate sheet of paper. Then write a short, original paragraph that uses all three kinds of punctuation.

See the Teacher's Edition for more end-punctuation practice.