



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

SCORPIONS

BY WALTER DEAN MYERS



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Item No. 301623
Written by Marie Y. Smith

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Why Read This Book?

Objective: Establishing a purpose for reading

Activity

Read several reviews of *Scorpions* on Amazon.com or BN.com. Complete the first two columns of the chart below. (Leave the third column blank.)

Question	Initial response	Final response
What two things did the reviewers like most about the book?		
What didn't the reviewers like about the book?		
Based on the reviews, what interests you the most about the story?		
Do you think the book will be interesting to read as a class? Why or why not?		

Name: _____

Date: _____

As You Read**Comprehension****Objective:** Understanding the sequence of the plot**Activity**

Some fiction books have titles for each chapter that can help you predict what's going to happen in that chapter. Walter Dean Myers did not give each chapter of *Scorpions* a title. As you read each chapter, use the following chart to note significant facts that you think will affect the plot. When you finish the chapter, create a title that you think will help other readers know what to expect in that chapter. The first chapter has been completed for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1-2**Setting**

Objectives: Inferring story elements from descriptive phrases
Understanding the importance of setting

Activity 1

Chapters 1 and 2 do not specifically say where Jamal and his family live. However, many of the descriptive phrases in this chapter give you an idea of the setting. Complete the chart below listing phrases in the chapter that help identify the setting and what information the phrase provides.

Page Reference	Phrase	Setting information

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1–4**Point of View****Objective:** Identifying different points of view**Activity**

At home, Jamal and Sassy often fight—who does which chores, who is going to tell Mama something, who is the smartest, etc. In each of these scenes, you read about these arguments from Jamal's point of view, identifying his feelings of frustration with his annoying little sister.

One way that people express their feelings is to write in a journal or diary. Assume the role of Sassy in one of these scenes, and write a diary entry about her discussions with her big brother, Jamal.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 2–5**Conflict****Objective:** Understanding conflict as a part of plot**Activity**

Mack and Tito have very different opinions on Jamal becoming the leader of the Scorpions. Mack wants Jamal to take over leadership of the Scorpions, but Tito doesn't think Jamal should have anything to do with either Mack or the Scorpions. Jamal is undecided about his decision.

- If your group has the role of Mack, prepare an argument explaining why Jamal should lead the Scorpions. Consider what questions Jamal might ask after you present your argument and how you would respond to Tito's argument against leading the Scorpions.
- If your group has the role of Tito, prepare an argument explaining why Jamal should stay away from the Scorpions. Consider what questions Jamal might ask after you present your argument and how you would respond to Mack's argument for leading the Scorpions.
- If your group has the role of Jamal, prepare your own list of reasons for and against leading the Scorpions. Prepare a list of questions for Mack and Tito to follow up their arguments.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 9**Conflict**

Objective: Identifying passages in the text that create conflict within a character's life

Activity

In chapter 9, Jamal faces two difficult situations—dinner with his father and verbal threats from Dwayne. Both of these events affect Jamal's decision whether or not to join the Scorpions. Often, when we have to make an important decision, we think about the pros and cons of each outcome.

List specific comments and actions of Jamal's father and Dwayne (including page references) that affect Jamal's decision about joining the Scorpions. Then write a monologue that portrays Jamal talking to himself as he tries to decide whether or not to accept Mack's offer to be the leader of the Scorpions. Include references to things that his father had said to make him upset, as well as references to Dwayne's taunts.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 14

Character Development

Objective: Understanding the importance of minor characters

Activity

In many books, some characters that never actually appear in the book have a significant impact on the storyline and other characters. In *Scorpions*, Randy is only talked about and remembered; he is never present in the story, however, his role in the story is significant. Review the following scenes to identify qualities about Randy that have an impact on the story, and write a paragraph about your impression of Randy. Include specific adjectives that you think accurately describe Randy.

- Chapter 1—Jamal and Sassy wait for Mama to return from her visit with Randy.
- Chapter 2—Mama and Jamal talk about needing to find money for Randy's appeal.
- Chapter 5—Jamal and Tito meet with Mack about Jamal leading the Scorpions.
- Chapter 8—Mack takes Jamal and Tito to the Scorpions' meeting.
- Chapter 9—Jevon, Mama, Sissy, and Jamal talk about money for Randy's appeal.
- Chapter 11—Jamal's flashback recalls the police breaking into their apartment and arresting Randy.
- Chapter 14—Mama talks with Jamal and Sissy about Randy getting stabbed in prison.

Select one of these scenes. Rewrite it using Randy as a character with a speaking part.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 1–18**Comprehension**

Objective: Understanding story details by playing *Scorpion Jeopardy*

Activity

You will be playing against the other two teams in a game of *Scorpion Jeopardy*. Select a spokesperson for your team; this is the only person who can signal and respond to the clue. If you know the correct response, quickly tell your spokesperson who will then signal the teacher. The rules are the same as *Jeopardy* on television:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 16

Prediction

Objective: Improving ability to predict future events in the story

Activity

Before movie directors actually begin to shoot a movie, they prepare a storyboard, which is a rough sketch of the action of each scene. It includes the background, props, and sketches of each character in a series of drawings to show the sequence of the scene.

By the end of Chapter 16, you know that Jamal's brother, Randy, has been stabbed in prison and may die. Jamal and Tito have decided to tell Indian that Randy wants Indian to be the leader of the Scorpions and that the Scorpions should give Jamal the money for Randy's appeal. Jamal agrees to meet Indian at Marcus Garvey Park the next night to tell all the Scorpions in person that Indian is the new leader.

As a group, decide what you think will happen next in the story. For example, will Jamal meet Indian alone? Will Jamal and Tito meet Indian? Will they get Mack to join them? Will they decide not to go to the park at all? Sketch a storyboard of what you think will happen in the next chapter. You should have a minimum of six individual sketches to show the sequence of the events.