

SHERLOCK ROACH

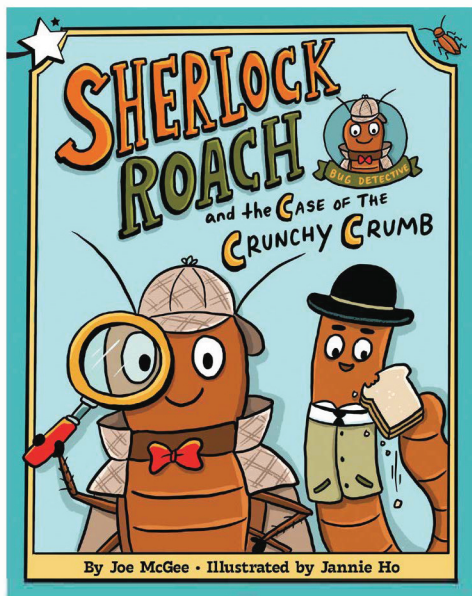


and the CASE OF THE
CRUNCHY CRUMB



EDUCATOR
GUIDE

By Joe McGee • Illustrated by Jannie Ho



Sherlock Roach and the Case of the Crunchy Crumb

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This educator guide includes:

- A short guide to visual literacy
- Discussion questions
- Vocabulary challenge
- Post-reading activity ideas

Visual Literacy: Reading Pictures and Text to Maximize Comprehension

1. Panels. Before students read the book, explain that this story is like a comic or graphic novel. Each page has either one, two, or three picture panels.



The size and layout of the panels show what is important in the story. First, we read the left page top to bottom, then we read the right page top to bottom. The spaces between the panels—the white lines or gutters—indicate a change in the story. They might show what has happened after a little time has passed or which character is talking.

2. Words. Another important feature of Star Chapter Books is how the words appear. The narration is in bold type and helps tell the story. There are also speech bubbles to show the dialogue, or what the characters say. Anytime you see one of these, you know a character is talking.



3. Pictures. Reading the pictures is just as important as reading the words. As you're reading, pay close attention to the expressions on the characters' faces, their gestures and movements, and the background in each picture.

Pre-reading Discussion Questions

Preview the title, *Sherlock Roach and the Case of the Crunchy Crumb*, and look at the picture on the front cover. Put your detective cap on and use the clues to make some predictions about the story.

1. Do you know who Sherlock is? What do you think it means for the story that the main character's name is Sherlock?
2. What is a mystery? Discuss the kind of elements a mystery story might have.

Discussion Questions

1. Who are the main characters in this story?
2. Who is narrating, or telling, the story?
3. How does Sherlock know Fast Eddie is innocent?
4. How does Sherlock know Old Twitch is innocent?
5. What do you notice about Lucille when Sherlock Roach and Wormston investigate their suspects? Do you think that detail could be important to the story?
6. Why do you think Sherlock pays Lucille compliments about her shell?
7. How does Sherlock know Lucille is hiding something?
8. Were you surprised by how this case was solved? Why or why not?

Vocabulary Challenge!

Have you ever heard of Sherlock Holmes or his assistant, Watson? They are two fictional detectives from books written a long time ago. Sherlock Roach references these characters and uses some old-fashioned detective terms. Use the pictures and dialogue like clues to figure out what the words and expressions mean.

1. What does Sherlock mean when he says, "The game is afoot!"



2. Why does Mr. Wormston tip his hat?



3. Sherlock Roach and Mr. Wormston settle into the parlor at the end of their investigation. What is a parlor?

4. What does Sherlock mean when he calls Mr. Wormston "old chap?"
Can you find other examples of old-fashioned expressions in the story?

Activities!

1. Read the insect facts at the end of the book. Choose a fact about one of the insects that you didn't know and illustrate it.



2. Readers meet a lot of interesting characters in this story. Choose one of the characters, and complete this FAST character trait map.

Sherlock Roach	Dr. Wormston	Lucille	Fast Eddie	Old Twitch	Greasy Pearl
					

FAST

- Feelings (What does the character feel?) _____
- Actions (What does the character do?) _____
- Says (What does the character say?) _____
- Thoughts (What does the character think?) _____

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