

# SERIES 3 TEACHER'S RESOURCE GUIDE

The Bad Luck Play

Breaking Point

Death Grip

Fat Boy

No Exit

No Place Like Home

The Plot

Something Dreadful  
Down Below

Sounds of Terror

The Woman Who  
Loved a Ghost



# QUICKREADS

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## TEACHER'S NOTES

At just 32 pages each, Saddleback's new QUICKREADS have been especially designed for students who don't yet equate "reading" with "enjoyment." The compelling plots and colorful young-adult characters will be highly motivating to all the students in your class. Short sentences and paragraphs, along with extensive use of dialogue, are further enticements to a surprisingly enjoyable reading experience. Before they know it, even your most reluctant readers will be finishing their first QUICKREAD and demanding another.

The handy reproducibles in this guide are the perfect accompaniment to Saddleback's new super-short, super-accessible QUICKREADS. Four activity pages correlate with each QUICKREAD title. The Pre-Reading Warm-Up exercise previews challenging vocabulary your students will meet in the story and introduces the book's major themes with intriguing questions to help students relate story situations to their personal lives. The Who, What, When, Where, Why? exercise builds a range of comprehension skills—such as character interpretation, sequence of events, cause and effect, and noting details. The Focus on Words exercise teaches and tests word analysis skills such as recognizing compound words and figurative language as well as synonyms and antonyms. As its name implies, the After-Reading Wrap-Up exercise presents guided questions to help students summarize their own responses to the story they've just read. The generic Book Report exercise on the last page can be used with all the QUICKREADS in the series.

## PRE-READING WARM-UP

Are you ready to read a good story? The following questions introduce ideas, themes, and situations you will meet in *The Bad Luck Play*. Draw on your own imagination, experiences, and opinions to write your answers.

### A. THEMES (Write your answers on the back of this sheet.)

1. Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth* about 400 years ago. But people still enjoy the play today. What makes a story so good that it stays popular for hundreds of years? In other words, what makes a *very* good story?
2. In *Macbeth*, a murderer can't sleep because he feels guilty about his crime. Do you think most criminals feel guilty about their crimes?
3. Do you think all superstitions are nonsense? Explain your thinking.
4. Do you like to act? Or, if you've never tried it, would you like to? Why do you think some people love to act?

### B. VOCABULARY

Use the definitions to help you solve the crossword puzzle. Answers are the words in the box. Check a dictionary if you need help.

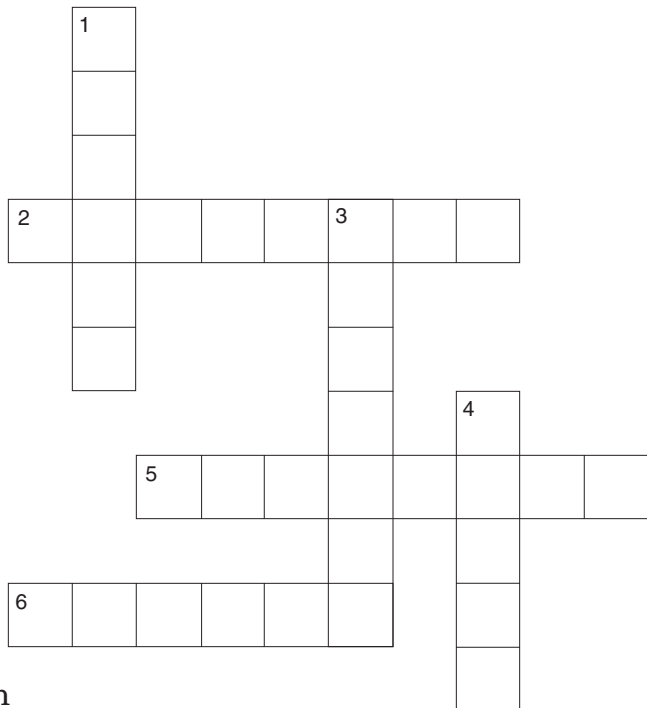
<b>donate</b>	<b>tampered</b>
<b>restore</b>	<b>sabotage</b>
<b>vague</b>	<b>relate</b>

#### ACROSS

2. interfered in an improper manner
5. deliberate destruction of property
6. to connect in thought

#### DOWN

1. to give or contribute
3. to bring back to its original condition
4. not clear or definite



## WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY?

### A. TRUE OR FALSE?

To show what each character did, write T for *true* or F for *false*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Joe's wife didn't provide Nick with any details about her husband's accident.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The bank where the robbery occurred was down the street from the theater.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Gloria, Joe, and Harry had acted in a production of *Macbeth* five years ago.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Someone sawed through one of the wooden clamps to weaken the backdrop.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ After the theater was vandalized, the volunteer workers became discouraged.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Nick got around Harry, Gloria, and Joe by taking his plans to the town council.

### B. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

Number the events to show which happened first, second, and so on.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Nick realizes that someone has tampered with the sword that injured Steve.
- \_\_\_\_\_ While reading old news stories in the library, Nick overhears Gloria talking on her cell phone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gloria, Joe, and Harry try to discourage Nick from restoring the theater.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Many people volunteer to restore the theater to its original condition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nick and the cops catch Joe, Gloria, and Harry with the stolen money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Joe, Gloria, and Harry disagree with Nick's choice of a play.

## FOCUS ON WORDS

### COMPOUND WORDS

*Compound words* are made up of one or more words. Use the words from the box to complete the compound words below. You'll be using four "stage" terms from the story. *Hint:* You'll use one word from the box twice.

tip sleep book back flash on stage paint eye under towns

1. Several people climbed on stage and \_\_\_\_\_ **toed** by them.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **light** beams cut through the darkness.
3. Nick peered through the \_\_\_\_\_ **shelves**.
4. Heavy supports held the \_\_\_\_\_ **drop** in place.
5. Too many \_\_\_\_\_ **people** were counting on it.
6. Lady Macbeth has a famous \_\_\_\_\_ **walking** scene.
7. "Somebody hand me a \_\_\_\_\_ **brush!**"
8. Nick needed \_\_\_\_\_ **hands**, lighting technicians, and others.
9. Shakespeare wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ **stand** people today.
10. She climbed \_\_\_\_\_ **stage** and began reading the script.
11. "It's an \_\_\_\_\_ **sore**, wouldn't you say?"
12. Nick and a group of students were sitting \_\_\_\_\_ **stage**.