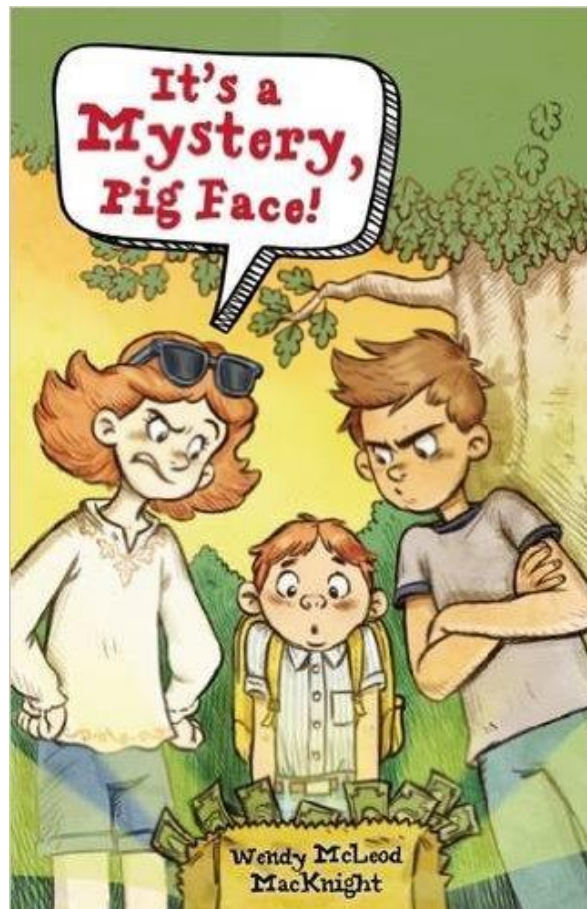


CLASSROOM GUIDE
for
IT'S A MYSTERY, PIG FACE!
By Wendy McLeod MacKnight



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About *It's a Mystery Pig Face!*

When anyone in town could be the culprit in a crime, summer will be anything but boring.

Eleven-year-old Tracy Munroe and her family have just gotten back from their family vacation—why did no one realize that her little brother, Lester, a.k.a. Pig Face, was allergic to sand, salt air, and the ocean before they decided to go to the beach?—and now she has three big goals to accomplish before she goes back to school:

1. Figure out a fantastic end of summer adventure with her best friend, Ralph, budding Michelin-star chef. (And no, Ralph, perfecting a soufflé does not count.)
2. Make sure Pig Face does not tag along.
3. Get the new boy next door, Zach, to know she even exists.

But when Tracy and Ralph discover a paper bag stuffed with money in the dugout at a baseball field, and Lester forces them to let him help, they have a mystery on their hands. Did someone lose the cash? Or, did someone steal it? St. Stephen has always seemed like a quiet place to live, but soon the town is brimming with suspects.

Now they're on a hunt to discover the truth, before the trio is accused of the crime themselves.

This Classroom Guide is designed to help teachers and students Read and Discuss *It's a Mystery, Pig Face!* through a

- **Discussion Guide**
- **Character Worksheets**

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Classroom Discussion Questions

Before you begin, Pig Face – whoops – Lester has some HELPFUL READING HINTS:

- Put sticky notes on the parts of the book you really like, have questions about, or that you want to talk about later. I prefer green sticky notes but I'll use yellow in a pinch!
- When you answer the questions in this discussion guide you probably don't have to re-read the whole chapter again to find the information you need. Tracy likes to skim (sometimes too much!) but she can usually find what she's looking for by skimming!
- Keep your eyes peeled as you read and skim. The answers are in there! You'll figure it out soon enough and then, as Ralph likes to say, you'll be ready to ELABORATE!

COVER

1. **Look at the cover – what do you see? Can you tell from the cover what the book is probably about?**

Chapter One:

2. At the very beginning of the book, Tracy calls their vacation a “Pig Face disaster”. Why does she say this? Provide evidence.
3. Can you tell how Tracy and Lester feel about each other? Provide some examples.
4. We meet Tracy’s best friend, Ralph Huffman, in this chapter. Tracy says he’s her best friend, but even if she didn’t, explain how we’d know that using examples.
5. Lester tells Ralph a story about something that really embarrasses Tracy? What does his story tell us about Tracy’s personality?

Chapter Two:

6. Antagonists are someone or something that opposes the main character. Can you identify any antagonists in the story already?
7. Tracy says that if Ralph doesn’t like Zach, then she won’t either. Later, she’s impressed when she meets Zach. Do you think she’s going to be able to keep her promise about not becoming friendly with Zach? Why or why not?

Chapter Three:

8. Tracy and Ralph disagree about what their amazing summer project should be. What do you predict will happen with Tracy and Ralph’s relationship based on this disagreement?

Chapter Four:

9. Tracy and Ralph make a big decision when they find the money. Did they make the right one – why or why not?
10. In this chapter, Tracy and Ralph are forced to make Lester part of their mystery-solving team. How do you predict Lester being part of the team will work out?

Chapter Five:

11. How does Tracy feel about having Lester work with them? Give some examples to back up what you think.

Chapter Six:

12. Is Tracy good at listening? Find one or two examples in this chapter to back up what you think

Chapter Seven:

13. Even though Tracy knows Ralph dislikes Zach, she still hangs out with him and thinks he's wonderful. Do you agree or disagree with Tracy? Why?

Chapter Eight:

14. Which member of the team wants to solve the mystery the most? Provide examples.
15. What do we learn about Tracy and Ralph by visiting their favorite stores in town?

Chapter Nine:

16. Tracy and Ralph learn some very valuable information when they visit Mr. and Mrs. Attwood. Based on what they learn, who do you think should be their number one suspect? Why?

Chapter Ten:

- 17. In this chapter, we learn a little more about Tracy and Ralph's relationship with Jasmine and the T's. Something happens that makes Tracy lose focus about the mystery. What do you think happened and were you surprised by her reaction? Why or why not?**

Chapter Eleven:

- 18. Were you surprised at how Ralph and Lester reacted to Tracy's new style? What does their reaction tell us about Ralph and Lester?**
- 19. At the end of this chapter Tracy makes a decision that changes everything. Do you think her reason was a good one? Why or why not?**

Chapter Twelve:

- 20. Tracy has some suspicions at the end of the chapter. What do you predict will happen next?**

Chapter Thirteen:

- 21. The mystery-solving team is starting to fall apart in this chapter. Why do you think that is?**
- 22. In the book, we always get Tracy's perspective on things because she's telling us the story. Do you think her point of view always reflects what's happening? Why or why not?**

Chapter Fourteen:

- 23. Lester has a bunch of things in his knapsack to help them solve the mystery. What would you take in YOUR knapsack?**
- 24. Lester suggests a couple of names for their mystery. Can you think of any others?**

Chapter Fifteen:

- 25. We meet Zach's father in this scene. Does meeting Mr. Favola give us some insight into Zach's personality?**
- 26. How does Zach make Tracy feel in this scene? Provide examples.**

Chapter Sixteen:

- 27. Describe what surprised you about Hazel's conversation with Tracy and Ralph.**

Chapter Seventeen:

- 28. How does Ralph's anger make Tracy feel? Give examples.**

Chapter Eighteen:

- 29. Tracy feels abandoned in this chapter. Give examples that support her feeling.**

Chapter Nineteen:

- 30. Why do you think Tracy wants to find Lester by herself? What does that say about how their relationship has changed?**

Chapter Twenty:

- 31. Describe how the thunderstorm in this chapter is similar to how Tracy is feeling.**

Chapter Twenty-One and Chapter Twenty-Two:

- 32. For the first time, we really see Lester and Tracy working together as a team. What do they accomplish?**

Chapter Twenty-Three and Chapter Twenty-Four:

- 33. How does the conversation Tracy has with Zach differ from their last conversation?**
- 34. They may have been separated from time to time, but at the end of this chapter, the team comes back together. What does that say to you about friendship?**

Chapter Twenty-Five:

- 35. Jasmine comes to see Tracy in this chapter. Do you think Tracy is correct in her belief as to why Jasmine has come or do you think she is letting her rivalry with Jasmine continue to blind her?**
- 36. Hazel tells Tracy what Zach's last name means. Why do you think she thinks that's an important piece of information to share?**
- 37. What do you think Tracy, Ralph and Lester learned throughout this story?**

After reading the book:

- 38. How would you describe IT'S A MYSTERY, PIG FACE! to a friend? Write a short summary that tells the most important parts!**
- 39. How do you think Tracy changed over the course of the story? What about Ralph and Lester – did they change, too? When Tracy calls Lester Pig Face at the end of the book, do you think she means it the same way as at the beginning? Do you think she'll continue to call him that?**

Character Traits

Each character in *It's a Mystery, Pig Face!* has their own traits, which make up their personality. Things they say and do help us figure out their traits.

Character (in order of appearance)	Traits (2 or 3)	Evidence from text (speech or actions)
Tracy		
Lester (a.k.a. Pig Face)		"He'd cackle as he did a fancy Chinese checkers jump." - P. 3
Ralph		
Hazel McNutt		
Jasmine		

Zach		
Trixie		
Mr. Brown		
Mrs. Attwood		
Mr. Attwood		
Joe Tunney		
Mr. Favola		

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