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 **Prestwick House**
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Scorpions
BY WALTER DEAN MYERS



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Researching the Author**

Objective: Understanding how an author's previous writings may predict potential themes of a book
Understanding how an author often draws from life experiences to develop potential themes a book

Activity 1

Walter Dean Myers has written many books using teenagers as the main characters. Look up information about four other fiction books Myers has written. List the titles of each book and a summary of the themes in each.

Title	Summary

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 12

Character Trait Comparison

Objective: Inferring character traits based on the action of the story

Activity 1

A. Place a check mark in front of the adjectives that you think describe Jamal.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> independent | <input type="checkbox"/> lonely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hopeful | <input type="checkbox"/> intelligent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> persecuted | <input type="checkbox"/> unloved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> afraid | <input type="checkbox"/> understanding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> creative | <input type="checkbox"/> sad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trustworthy | <input type="checkbox"/> compassionate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clever | <input type="checkbox"/> self-reliant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> naïve | <input type="checkbox"/> popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> thoughtful | <input type="checkbox"/> reliable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> honest | <input type="checkbox"/> greedy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dishonest | <input type="checkbox"/> gullible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> weak | <input type="checkbox"/> bully |

B. Place a check mark in front of the adjectives that you think describe Mack.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> independent | <input type="checkbox"/> lonely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hopeful | <input type="checkbox"/> intelligent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> persecuted | <input type="checkbox"/> unloved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> afraid | <input type="checkbox"/> understanding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> creative | <input type="checkbox"/> insecure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trustworthy | <input type="checkbox"/> compassionate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clever | <input type="checkbox"/> self-reliant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> naïve | <input type="checkbox"/> popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> thoughtful | <input type="checkbox"/> reliable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> honest | <input type="checkbox"/> greedy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dishonest | <input type="checkbox"/> gullible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> weak | <input type="checkbox"/> bully |

C. Write a short paragraph answering the following questions:

- What traits do Jamal and Mack have in common?
- In what ways do they demonstrate these traits?
- Why do you think that Jamal listens to Mack?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter 19**Letter Writing****Objective:** Writing a letter to relate events and to express opinions or feelings**Activity**

After turning over the leadership of the Scorpions to Mack, Jamal goes to church with Mama and Sassy. Pretend that you are Jamal, and write a letter to Randy in prison explaining what happened to the Scorpions and why you didn't want to be the leader. Be sure to include your feelings about how Randy's involvement with the Scorpions and the robbery has affected your whole family.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-up

Creating a Book Summary

Objective: Summarizing and illustrating a scene from a book

Activity

Working with a partner, design and illustrate a book cover that shows your favorite scene in the book. You may use magazine pictures, computer-generated illustrations, or your own drawings. For the inside of the cover, write a short summary of the book including a description of the scene you have illustrated on the cover.