

Telling Tales

EDUCATOR'S

GUIDE



THE LUNCH CLUB: IT CAME FROM THE BASEMENT

BY DOM PELLETIER

Dom Pelletier started drawing cartoons at a young age and has never put his crayons down. While working as a video game designer, Dom teamed up with Éditions Scholastic on their bestselling joke book series. Fifty very funny books later, he has translated his joke book success into this hilarious graphic novel series.

1. Dom started with hair styles when he created his characters Leo and Tia.

Q. If you were introducing a new character for the story, what one thing would you draw first? Eyes? Nose? Body? Clothes?

Activity: Describe the main features of a new character for this story. Which is their most important feature? Try drawing that feature first, followed by the rest of that character.

Reflection: Did Dom's approach to illustrating his characters help guide your imagination? Why or why not? When you started with one feature, did that make your character's personality come to life?

2. One of the main characters in Dom's story is the Alien. Dom revealed that the Alien's plan was to lay eggs that would hatch into people-eating baby Aliens.

Q. Why do you think the Aliens want to eat Earthlings? Are they just hungry or do they have a bigger plan?

Activity: Write a brief "back-story" that explains why the Aliens have invaded Earth.

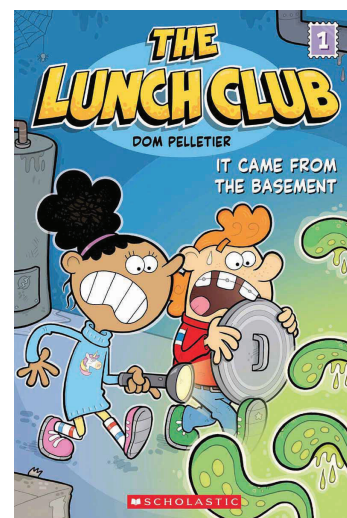
Reflection: Did you sympathize a little more with the Aliens after writing their back story? Why or why not?

3. Dom created a whole new language for the Aliens using shapes we might recognize.

Q. Can you identify those shapes? What messages do you think they represent?

Activity: Using Dom's Alien language as example, create an alphabet for the Alien language that we could translate to English or French. For example, the triangle shape = a letter in the alphabet OR it represents an entire idea (triangle shape = the letter "A" OR the phrase, "we are very hungry"). Create a secret message to send to a friend.

Reflection: Do you think your alphabet/language would be difficult to de-code? Was your friend able to figure out your secret message? What challenges did you encounter when you created your Alien language? Can you think of examples of other languages that use alphabets different from what we use for French or English?



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