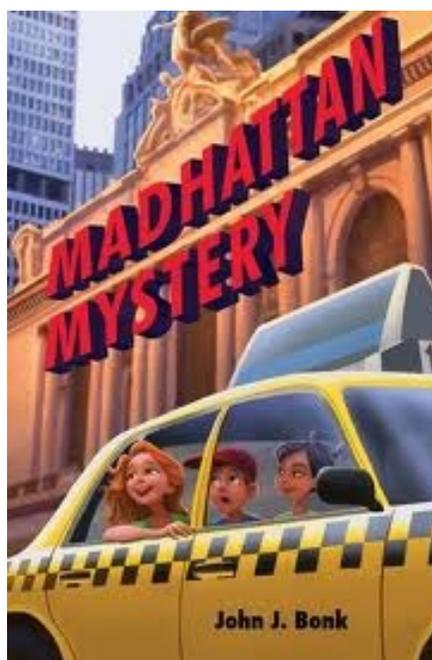


Discussion Guide - Book 8

MADHATTAN MYSTERY

By John J. Bonk



SamanthaGreenMysteries.com

A NOTE FROM



Christy Lynn Allen

AUTHOR, SAMANTHA GREEN MYSTERIES

Dear Serious Reader,

Have you ever felt as if you have been tossed off a boat without a life jacket?

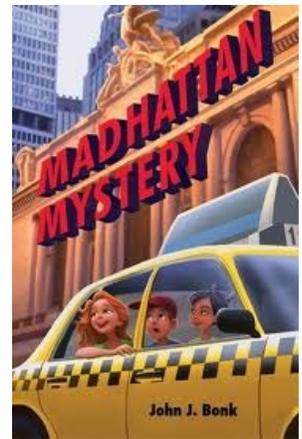
In Madhattan Mystery, Lexi is thrown into a crazy situation, with a polar opposite girl named Kim Ling, in a strange new city.

While coping with the loss of her mom, Lexi must learn to trust herself, and her new friend, if she is to survive the summer.

Dive into this fun book with me and watch how Lexi braves these new waters, one wave at a time!

MADHATTAN MYSTERY

By John J. Bonk



As always, here are some **unique activities**, probing **discussion Questions**, and expressive journal ideas!



**RATE THIS BOOK & SHARE COMMENTS
WITH OTHER SERIOUS READERS:**



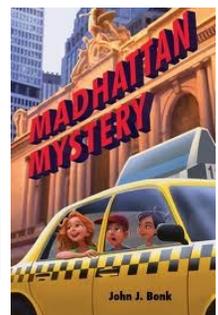
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Detective Work

MADHATTAN MYSTERY
By John J. Bonk



 Lexi overhears suspicious talk in the Whispering Gallery. Keep track of clues to solve the mystery as you read!

Clues from Chapter 1
"Whispering Gallery"



Add additional notes
as the mystery unfolds

Who does Lexi overhear talking?
Why do they need a hiding spot?

.....
.....
.....



What crime is reported in Chapter 3 that Lexi thinks is connected to what she overheard?

.....
.....
.....

What secret location do the two men discuss?

.....
.....
.....



What do Lexi and Kim Ling discover when they investigate this place in Chapter 15?

.....
.....
.....

What do the men look like?

.....
.....
.....



Who is Benjamin Deets?

.....
.....
.....

What do the men say about "an alternative"?
What "random words" does Lexi write down?

.....
.....
.....



What does Kim Ling learn when she interviews the "perp with the British accent"? (Chapter 23)

.....
.....
.....

Other Notes:

.....
.....
.....

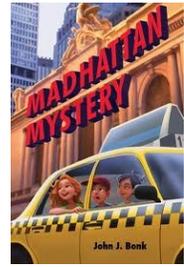
How does the date "June 10" help Lexi? (Chap 26)

.....
.....
.....

like / as

SILLY ^ SIMILES

**MADHATTAN
MYSTERY**
By John J. Bonk



Madhattan Mystery is full of **similes**, making the book super fun to read! A simile (SIM-uh-lee) is a figure of speech. It compares two very different objects, making the description stronger and more vivid.

***EXAMPLE:** Read the two sentences below.
which is more descriptive and fun to read?

1. He was usually anxious
2. "He was usually as jumpy as a hummingbird on sugar"

Excerpt from *Madhattan Mystery* by John J. Bonk

If you said #2, I agree! By comparing Lexi's brother, Kevin, to a hummingbird buzzing on sugar, the author paints us a picture of Kevin's nervous energy. That's simile!



INSTRUCTIONS - PART ONE

Draw a line between each simile and its correct meaning.
(Answer Key is at the bottom of this discussion guide's last page)

SIMILE

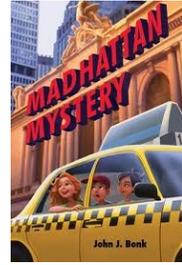
MEANING

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. "their muffled murmurs sounding like a whole summer's worth of bees trapped in a jar" | a. Mismatched; total opposites |
| 2. "... bristly pigtailed jetting out of her head like sheaves of wheat" | b. Jumped up energetically |
| 3. "Together they were like a left-to-right handshake—they just didn't fit" | c. Noise of many people talking in an enclosed space |
| 4. "All of a sudden Kim Ling sprang up like a jack-in-the-box on caffeine" | d. Stiff bundles of hair sticking out |

like / as

SILLY ^ SIMILES

MADHATTAN
MYSTERY
By John J. Bonk



Now it's time to practice writing similes!
Here's a trick! Compare two objects using the words "like" or "as"

*EXAMPLES: Here are a few common similes.

1. She ran like the wind.
2. Her voice was as sweet as sugar.
3. He slept like a log.

Many similes have become "cliché" (overused, old sayings).
Let's try writing more clever and original similes below.

INSTRUCTIONS - PART TWO

Rewrite the sentences below by creating a simile for the underlined word.

INSTEAD
OF

COMPARE
TO

REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITH A
SIMILE USING "LIKE" OR "AS"



Her dress was red.

an explosion

SAMPLE

Her dress looked like an **explosion**
of red pulp at a tomato-throwing contest.

The puppy is playful.

a tornado

The new car is shiny.

a disco ball

The traffic is noisy.

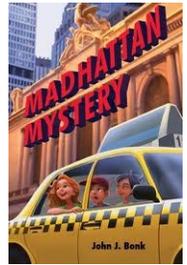
a song



Discussion Questions

MADHATTAN
MYSTERY
By John J. Bonk

Get more from your reading experience. pick a few questions, then dazzle your friends with your deep thoughts!



1. How does the Whispering Gallery change Lexi and Kevin's entire summer?

 Be sure to check out "Detective Work," a fun activity to piece together the puzzling clues of the Madhattan Mystery!

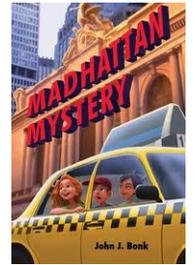
2. Describe how New York City is overwhelming for Lexi and her brother.

3. Why is meeting Kim Ling "dislike at first site" for Lexi?



Discussion Questions

MADHATTAN
MYSTERY
By John J. Bonk



4. How has the loss of her mom changed the way Lexi is with Kevin?

5. Along with being smart and witty, Kim Ling takes pride in being nosy, pushy, and outspoken. Why? How are these unpleasant qualities actually helpful?

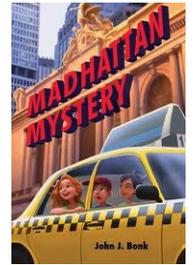
6. What is significant to Lexi about white feathers?

7. Kim Ling helps persuade Lexi to ditch City Camp and search for Cleopatra's jewels. Despite their differences, how do Kim Ling and Lexi make a great team?



Discussion Questions

MADHATTAN
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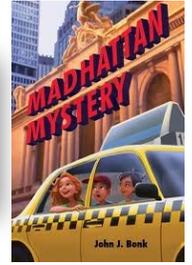
8. How does Melrose, one of the homeless "mole people," help Lexi?
How does Lexi help Melrose?

9. How do the clues "Shoot, Needle, Oval Disk, Park" mislead Lexi, Kevin, and Kim Ling? What do the clues actually refer to?

10. Throughout the story, Lexi complains about her stepmother, Clare. Why does Lexi say she doesn't like Clare? What do you think is the real reason?

11. Lexi longs to be extraordinary. By the end of Madhattan Mystery, how has she accomplished this? Name some ways she's made a difference in people's lives.

Journal Ideas



Now it's your turn to write!
Pick an idea and grab your journal.

“... what if I wind up being ordinary? *It was true that some people were late bloomers. But if something special was growing inside Lexi other than maybe a perky personality, wouldn't she at least have seen some buds by now?*”

Excerpt from *Madhattan Mystery* by John J. Bonk

 Have you ever wondered about what makes you extraordinary? Lexi doesn't see how special she is—how her personal courage, and her desire to help others, make her unique. Perhaps you aren't sure either what gifts you have to offer the world. Take some time to explore this through writing. Maybe start by writing about things you enjoy doing, things you are good at, and why people like being around you. I bet you'll soon discover several qualities that make you an amazing YOU!

.....

“*It had been so worth it. Kaitlyn acted like it was some kind of miracle. An act of God. Little did she know, it was an act of Lexi.*”

Excerpt from *Madhattan Mystery* by John J. Bonk

 Have you heard of the expression, “a random act of kindness”? A random act of kindness is when someone, like Lexi in *Madhattan Mystery*, sees an opportunity to help someone, and helps purely for the sake of being kind. Often this act of kindness is anonymous (the receiver doesn't know who the giver is). When you do something like this for another, it makes you feel wonderful. Write about a time when 1) you've helped someone and how it made you feel, or 2) someone has helped you. Finish your journal entry by making a commitment to perform a “random act of kindness” this week.

Answer Key
Silly Similes, Part 1
1. c 2. d 3. a 4. b