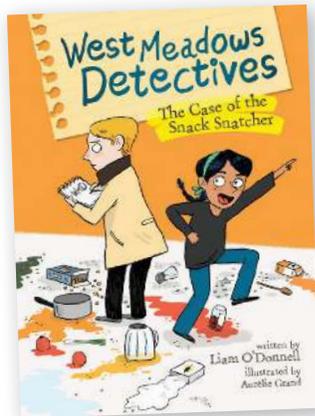


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West Meadows Detectives: The Case of the Snack Snatcher

Author letter and discussion prompts



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Grades 1–5

Reading levels Fountas & Pinnell: O
Lexile® Measure: 490L

Curriculum links **Language arts:** skills and strategies; early reading

“Perfect for a burgeoning reader.”

– SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

*“His atypical brain helps an aspiring, autistic sleuth crack a case...
An optimistic series beginning for young mystery fans.”*

– KIRKUS

Dear Reader,

I'm thrilled you are about to meet Myron, Hajrah, and their friends in our brand-new series, West Meadows Detectives.

It is my hope that the characters in this story are seen for the amazing kids they are and not just for the fact that their brains work differently than most of the people around them. This “neurodiversity” does play a role in how they act, but the same could be said for each of us. Defining normal is a difficult thing. For Myron and his detective partners, having minds that function differently can be challenging, but it can also be empowering, leading them to crack the case when their neurotypical friends and teachers are struggling to keep up.

As an educator who works with neurodiverse children, it is this empowering effect that I have tried to capture in this series. Hopefully, through this story—and Myron and Hajrah's many upcoming adventures—readers will think about how changing our world to celebrate diversity is more equitable than trying to change a person to fit an accepted idea of “normal.” A big idea for a little book about missing lunches!

Ultimately, I just want young readers to enjoy a good story and welcome Myron and Hajrah into their lives. So, push aside all the eduspeak, sit back, and enjoy *The Case of the Snack Snatcher*!

Liam O'Donnell
Toronto, Canada
April 2015



Classroom Discussion Prompts

1. Myron does not like new things, like his new school, new class and new baby sister. Why do you think Myron doesn't like anything new? Do you like new things? Why or why not?
2. At first Myron is upset to have Hajrah as a detective partner. Does he stay upset with her for the whole story? What clues does the author give to show Myron's feelings toward Hajrah are changing?
3. Glitch becomes the very first suspect because she has taken things from people in the past. Is it fair for Myron and Hajrah to suspect Glitch because of something she did the year before? Why or why not?
4. Smasher McGintley was very upset when Principal Rainer said she had "a good heart." What do you think having "a good heart" means and why was Smasher so upset about it?
5. Myron works on his Mytery-o-Pedia to relax after school. Write about something you like to do for fun at the end of a long day. What do you like best about it? Do you think Myron would enjoy it? Why or why not?