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## Family Reading Guide for "There's Something Odd About the Babysitter"

*Conversation starters for parents and children*

### Getting Started

#### What This Book Is About

"There's Something Odd About the Babysitter" follows Freddie, a boy with a long and disappointing history with babysitters, who meets a new one unlike any he's ever encountered. The babysitter is nervous, has terrible table manners, and serves actual garbage for dinner. But instead of rejecting this strange situation, Freddie decides to team up with the odd babysitter—and what started as a dreaded evening becomes a night he'll never forget.

#### Key Themes Your Child Will Encounter:

- **Open-mindedness:** Freddie's willingness to set aside his suspicions and give the babysitter a real chance is the decision that changes everything
- **Teamwork with unlikely partners:** The story celebrates the unexpected alliances that form when we choose curiosity over judgment
- **First impressions aren't final:** The babysitter seems wrong in every way at first—but Freddie's choice to look closer leads to something wonderful
- **Humor and strangeness:** The book embraces the idea that "odd" doesn't mean "bad"—sometimes the most unusual situations are the most memorable ones

**Tip for Parents:** This is a great book for children who approach new people or situations with suspicion—and for those who simply love silly stories with a twist. The babysitter's oddness is best left mysterious before reading, so resist explaining too much in advance. Let the strangeness unfold!

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### Discussion Questions

#### About Freddie and the Babysitter

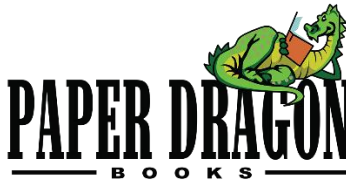
- Why does Freddie expect to dislike this babysitter before they even arrive?
- What is the first thing that seems odd about the babysitter?
- Why do you think Freddie decides to team up instead of complain?
- How does Freddie feel about the babysitter by the end of the story?

#### About First Impressions and Giving People a Chance

- Have you ever decided not to like someone before getting to know them? What happened?
- What changed Freddie's mind about the babysitter?
- Is it always fair to judge someone by their first impression? Why or why not?
- What does "odd" mean? Is it always a bad thing?

#### Fun Conversation Starters

- If a babysitter served YOU garbage for dinner, what would you do?
  - What would the WEIRDEST babysitter in the world be like?
  - If you could be any kind of babysitter—regular or very strange—what kind would you be?
  - What's the most unusual dinner you've ever eaten?
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## Discussion Activities

### Exploring Oddness With Curiosity

- After reading, discuss: What was odd about the babysitter? Did it end up mattering?
- Make a list together of things that seem strange but turn out to be wonderful
- Talk about unusual foods you've tried—were any of them unexpectedly good?
- Draw the most unusual babysitter you can imagine

### Teamwork Activities

- Play a simple cooperative game together where both players must work toward the same goal
- Do a project that requires both of you to contribute—cooking, building, drawing
- Talk about a time working with someone unexpected led to something great
- Discuss: What makes a good teammate?

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## Conversation Tips for Parents

### Talking About New People and Situations

- Validate Freddie's initial suspicion without encouraging it: "It makes sense to feel cautious about someone new."
- Explore the moment Freddie makes a choice: "What made him decide to work WITH the babysitter instead of against them?"
- Share a story from your own life about someone who surprised you
- Ask: "What's one thing you could do the next time you meet someone new that might help you get to know them better?"

### Making Space for Strangeness

- Celebrate oddness—point out that the most interesting people are often the most unusual
- Share something about yourself that is a little odd or unexpected—invite your child to do the same
- Discuss: Is it better to be predictable and expected, or a little bit surprising?

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## Questions by Age Group

### For Younger Readers (Ages 4–6)

- How many babysitters has Freddie had before this one?
- What's one thing that seems odd about the babysitter?
- What does Freddie decide to do about the strange situation?
- Does Freddie have a good night in the end?

### For Older Readers (Ages 6–8)

- Why do you think Freddie decided to give the babysitter a chance instead of just complaining?
  - What does the story say about judging people before you really know them?
  - How would the story be different if Freddie had stayed suspicious the whole time?
  - What makes this babysitter different from all the others Freddie has had?
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## Activity Ideas

### Creative Projects

- Draw the most unusual babysitter you can imagine—what do they look like, what do they serve for dinner?
- Write a "babysitter manual" for the odd babysitter: what rules should they know?
- Create a comic strip showing Freddie's change of heart across the evening
- Write the babysitter's version of the story—what were THEY thinking?

### Drama and Pretend Play

- Act out a scene where two very different characters have to work together
- Play "odd babysitter"—one person gives a very unusual instruction and the other has to decide: follow it or negotiate?
- Role-play: practice giving someone a second chance after a surprising first impression

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"There's Something Odd About the Babysitter" is a funny, surprising story about one of the most important skills a person can develop: the ability to set aside a first impression and stay curious. Freddie's choice to team up instead of give up changes his whole night—and possibly his whole understanding of what an unexpected evening can become. Let this book open a conversation in your family about the people and situations that surprised you most, and about what happens when we lead with curiosity instead of judgment.