

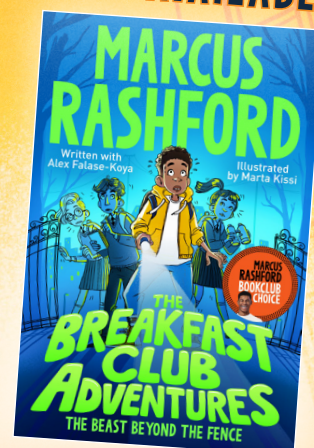
THE BREAKFAST CLUB ADVENTURES

THE GHOUL IN THE SCHOOL

Children's activity pack



ALSO AVAILABLE



This Marcus Rashford Book Club resource has been produced by the National Literacy Trust and Macmillan Children's Books


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Hi, I'm Marcus!

Today you are going to read the first chapter of my brand new book: *The Breakfast Club Adventures: The Ghoul In The School* then complete the activities in this pack. I hope you enjoy the book as much as I do!

Chapter One



'Marcus! Marcus!' A voice swam down through the haze of sleep towards Marcus's head, only fully reaching him when it was at its loudest. **'MARCUS!'**

Marcus jolted up in his bed. His mother stood over him, an annoyed look on her face. 'Finally!' she said, throwing up her hands. 'Do you know how late you are for school?'

Marcus looked at his clock and yelped.



It was already eight o'clock. He had stayed up late last night working on the case, going over and over his notes, hoping that there was something, *anything*, he'd missed. He'd even fallen asleep with his face pressed against his open notebook, which was now **stained with drool.**

‘Sorry, Mum,’ Marcus exclaimed as he jumped out of bed and began frantically packing his bag.

‘Don’t you have that thing at Breakfast Club today, with your investigator friends?’ Marcus heard his mum call as he rushed to get dressed.

‘Yes!’ Marcus shouted back. ‘That’s why I can’t be late!’ The meeting today was their last chance to solve the mystery. If they got today wrong, it would be *another* failed case.

Marcus gave his mum a kiss on the cheek and ran out of their flat, taking the stairs to the ground floor two at a time. He kept checking his watch as he sprinted out of the estate towards school.

Ten minutes later, he strode into the canteen at Rutherford Secondary School,

breathing heavily. He was immediately hit by the sounds of laughter from a crowd hovering over a game of Monopoly. For a moment he wanted to walk over and join in, but then he shook his head. He couldn’t be late for this meeting.

His two best friends, Oyin and Patrick, gave him a pair of thumbs up as he passed. Marcus grinned back at them. Of course, they knew about today – it was all Marcus had been speaking about for days.

Mr Anderson, the music teacher who was running Breakfast Club that morning, gave Marcus a friendly nod as he walked past, his blue eyes bright and alert. Marcus said, ‘Hi, sir!’ back.

He made his way over to a table near the back of the canteen, underneath the

air conditioner. It was the perfect place for private conversations – just out of the hearing of teachers, and the noise from the air conditioner meant it was hard for other kids to overhear what they were saying.

There were three others there already – Stacey, Lise and Asim, all members of **the Breakfast Club Investigators**. Marcus sat down next to Asim just as Lise pushed a plate of freshly buttered toast and a cup of orange juice across the table his way.

‘Thanks, Lise,’ Marcus said gratefully. He could see a whole stack of toast over by the kitchen where the canteen workers were getting them prepped. There was still a queue of children, laughing and chatting as they waited for their food. His friends must

have gotten here early to make sure he got his slices.

‘You’re welcome,’ Lise said, giving him her wide toothy smile. She tucked her blonde hair, which was partly shaven around the side of her head, behind her ear. Her eyes were sparkling behind her thick glasses.

‘Hey, Marcus,’ came a murmur from his left. Asim had a pair of earphones pressed deep within his ears. His dark black hair hung forward over two focused brown eyes as he stared intently at the piece of paper he was carefully sketching on.

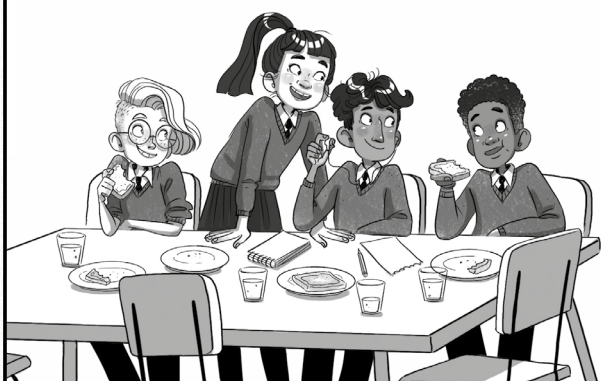
‘Not a moment too soon! I was beginning to worry you’d miss this – I wanted to run a goblin theory past you before we meet with Gabe.’ Marcus raised his eyes from his toast



to look at Stacey To, the Breakfast Club Investigators' fearless leader.

'Sorry, I'm late, I oversle—' Marcus stopped mid toast crunch. 'Wait – **goblins?**'

'Gabe's case. It *has* to be goblins,' Stacey said with a confident nod, staring impressively at her fellow investigators. 'They're *mischievous* and they like pulling **pranks**. It's got to be goblins!'



'I thought really hard about it last night but I couldn't come up with anything,' Marcus admitted. 'I think—'

He didn't get the chance to finish. Across the table from him, Stacey's eyes went **wide**. She was looking at something over Marcus's shoulder. Marcus turned to see a short boy walking across the canteen, heading right for their table. Marcus dropped the piece of toast he was holding, and his heart started to beat faster. It was Gabe, the kid who'd given them their most recent case.

'So . . .' Gabe said, sitting down next to Stacey.

'Hey, Gabe, good to see you!' Marcus replied brightly, trying to hide how nervous he felt.

'How's the case coming along?' Gabe said

with a sigh, rubbing his temples.

Marcus nervously glanced over to Stacey. They'd been working on Gabe's case for weeks, but they hadn't had any leads. They didn't want Gabe to know that, though – Marcus was sure they just needed more time.

'Well, we've been looking into it, and we're closer than we were before to discovering why the school bananas are always bruised on Thursdays. We're considering all possibilities –' Stacey paused for dramatic effect – 'even **goblins**.'

Gabe's eyebrows raised at the word 'goblin'. There was a long pause, and then he just said, 'So, you still haven't solved the case.'

Marcus and Lise exchanged an anxious glance.

'We've tried pretty hard,' Marcus said.

'Really?' Gabe huffed.

'It's true,' said Stacey quickly. 'Firstly, we snuck into the back of the canteen so we could see the bananas when they first got delivered—'

She was cut off by Asim. 'No bruises,' he said with a sigh, taking his headphones out of his ears.

'Then we built a small camera with a tracker,' Lise added, 'and put it with the bananas to see if anyone was doing anything to them. It was quite a complicated device – it took me a long time to make it, but—'

'No bruises and no bruisers,' Asim said.

They all looked at Gabe. Marcus was desperately hoping that he would understand

how hard they'd tried to solve his case.

Gabe was quiet again, for another few uncomfortable moments. 'But . . . but you're the Breakfast Club Investigators,' he said eventually. 'You solved the mystery of the **Beast Beyond the Fence**.' Gabe gazed at each of them in awe. Then his face dropped. 'I thought this would be easy for you.'

Marcus clenched his fists in frustration.

'Come on, Gabe, you know we can crack this case. We just need more time,' Stacey pleaded.

But Gabe just shook his head. 'It's been over a month! I really need to get to the bottom of this – I mean, bruised bananas are seriously **GROSS**. Sorry, guys – it's probably best that you just forget about the case. Forget I even asked you about it to begin with.'

Gabe got to his feet. 'Thank you for all your help.'

Marcus's stomach dropped. 'A-are you sure?' he said.

'Sorry,' Gabe said again. 'I think this case will have to go to the Journalism Club. Maybe they'll be able to figure it out.' And with that he walked away.

Stacey, Marcus, Asim and Lise watched him go.

Marcus groaned.

'It's not a big deal, Marcus,' said Stacey. 'There are always other cases.'

'There won't be any more cases, that's the problem!' said Marcus, annoyed. 'If people think we can't solve cases, then they won't bring us any.' *And without cases the group would drift apart, and then they wouldn't be friends any*

more. Marcus didn't say that last bit aloud. He reached out and grabbed the rest of his toast, finishing it in three huge bites. As if on cue, the moment he finished the school bell rang. Breakfast Club was over.

'We need to meet today, after school,' Stacey said thoughtfully. Marcus recognized the determined look on her face.

'At the hideout?' Marcus asked as he got to his feet.

The Investigators began to get their stuff together.

'Yep, it's an emergency meeting. You'll be there, right?' Stacey gave them all a **piercing** look. Marcus raised his eyebrows, but instead of asking what she meant, he simply said, 'Sure' before heading to class.

Throughout the school day, Marcus couldn't

stop thinking about why Stacey had called an emergency meeting. The morning passed with maths and science lessons, and at lunchtime he joined Oyin and Patrick on the football pitch. But even football couldn't help him escape the Breakfast Club Investigators' problems.

Marcus ran onto a cross from Oyin. He was basically one on one with the keeper. Marcus saw his moment and shot hard aiming for the



top corner, but the ball went high above the bar, **missing the goal**. He stood there and watched the ball roll away to the other side of the playground. He bit his lip. He wasn't used to missing.

'Are you thinking about the Breakfast Club Investigators, by any chance?' a voice called. He turned to see Patrick standing behind him.



'Huh?' Marcus replied.

'Come on. You know what he's talking about,' Oyin added as she jogged over. 'You only get that look in your eyes when you're thinking about the BCI.'

'What happened at your meeting this morning?' Patrick asked.

Marcus sighed and put his head in his hands. 'We lost another one of our cases to the Journalism Club,' he mumbled. 'That's like the third one since half-term.'

'That's frustrating, I'm sorry, Marcus.' Oyin put a hand on his shoulder. 'Have you thought about working with them? They seem pretty good at getting to the bottom of things – I mean, they must be doing something right.'

'Work *with* them?' Marcus exclaimed.

'They're **snooty people who** think they're better than us because of that monthly magazine which nobody reads. And, most importantly, they stole our cases!'

'**THE RUTHERFORD GAZETTE**. I read their magazine sometimes,' Patrick said quietly.

Marcus turned to him with a **scowl**.

'I said sometimes!' Patrick added quickly, just as the football came back over. The three of them went back to their positions on the field and Marcus tried to put the Journalism Club out of his mind as they began to play again.

Activity one: Language and Emphasis

Some words in the text are **emphasised** (given special importance). Here are some of the emphasised words from chapter one of **The Breakfast Club Adventures: The Ghoul in the School**.

Why do you think these words have been emphasised? Write your answers in the spaces.

'MARCUS!'

Marcus jolted up in his bed.



Marcus looked at his clock and **yelped**.

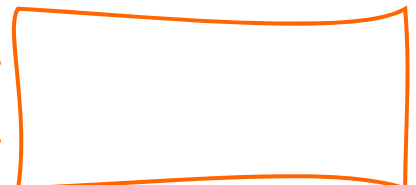
He had stayed up late last night working on the case, going over and over his notes, hoping that there was something, *anything*, he'd missed.

If they got today wrong, it would be *another* failed case.



How does Marcus feel at this point in the story?






Write a sentence with your own **emphasised** word. Use the space to illustrate your word. For example: **Marcus is DESPERATE** to get to school.



Activity two:
Senses and Summary



Complete the table to describe what Marcus would have seen, smelt, tasted, heard, and felt before, during and after breakfast club.

| SENSES | What did Marcus sense? |
|---|------------------------|
| See  | |
| Smell  | |
| Hear  | |
| Taste  | |
| Feel  | |

Summarise what happened in chapter one in five points:

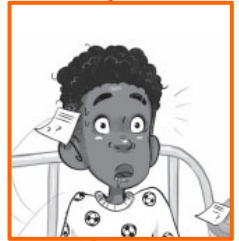
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Activity three: Writing a Diary Entry

At the end of chapter one, write a diary entry as if you are Marcus.

What has happened in the day? Why, where and when has it happened? Who was involved? How has it made you feel?

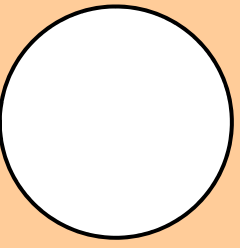
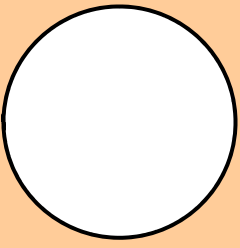
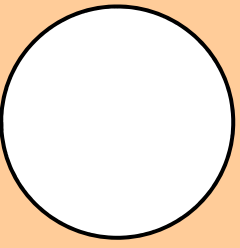
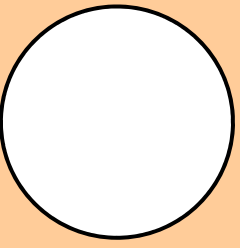
Use your ideas from the previous activity to help write your diary entry.



Activity four: Inference and Prediction

Draw an emoji to show how Marcus feels at each point of the story.

Under your emoji, write the word that describes the emotion. You may wish to emphasise it just like Marcus, Alex and Marta do throughout the book.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Marcus wakes up late and rushes to school. | Marcus sees his best friends Oyin and Patrick. | Gabe leaves the table, taking the case away from them. | Patrick mentions that he reads <i>The Rutherford Gazette</i> . |
|  |  |  |  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

If you could interview the Breakfast Club Investigators, what would you ask them? **Write three questions below.**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Write a prediction for what you think may happen later in the story?

Use evidence to support your point.

| |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |







Activity five: Investigator Quiz

Complete the quiz below and acquire the skills to become a **BREAKFAST CLUB INVESTIGATOR**

Challenge one: who said that?

Draw a line from the correct name to the correct speech and character. You will need to use information from chapter one to find the answers.

| Character | Who said that? | Picture |
|---------------|--|---|
| Marcus | “I wanted to run a goblin theory past you before we meet with Gabe.” |  |
| Stacey | “And, most importantly, they stole our cases!” |  |
| Lise | “Yep, it’s an emergency meeting. You’ll be there, right?” |  |
| Asim | “Then we built a small camera with a tracker,” |  |

How do you (the reader) know what Lise looks like?

Can you write a sentence describing Marcus?



Challenge two: true or false?

Is this statement true or false? ✓ the correct box.

| Statement | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Marcus overslept as he stayed up trying to solve the case. | | |
| Oyin and Patrick are no longer Marcus' friends. | | |
| Gabe is a part of the Breakfast Club Investigators. | | |
| The back of the canteen was the perfect place to go for private conversations. | | |
| Asim thinks goblins are the reason for the bruised bananas. | | |
| Marcus think those who write for The Rutherford Gazette are snooty people. | | |
| Gabe has given the Breakfast Club Investigators more time to solve the case. | | |
| Goblins are the reason for the bruised bananas. | | |

Challenge three: fill in the gaps

Using your investigative skills to find clues throughout chapter one, and fill in the gaps.

| |
|--|
| Marcus looked at his clock and _____. |
| Marcus has stayed up late last night working on the _____, going _____ his notes. |
| The meeting today was Marcus and his friends last chance to solve the _____. If they got today wrong, it would be _____ failed case. |
| Marcus' best friends _____ and _____ gave him a pair of thumbs up as he passed them in the canteen. |
| _____ gave Marcus a friendly nod as he walked past. |
| Throughout the school day, Marcus couldn't _____. |
| Marcus believes the Journalism club to be _____. |
| Marcus turned to Patrick with a _____ when he spoke about the journalism club. |

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------|------|-------------|---------------|
| Mr Anderson | mystery | case | concentrate | snooty people |
| Patrick | another | Oyin | yelped | over and over |
| | | | | scowl |