

# DO YOU READ BAD BOOKS?

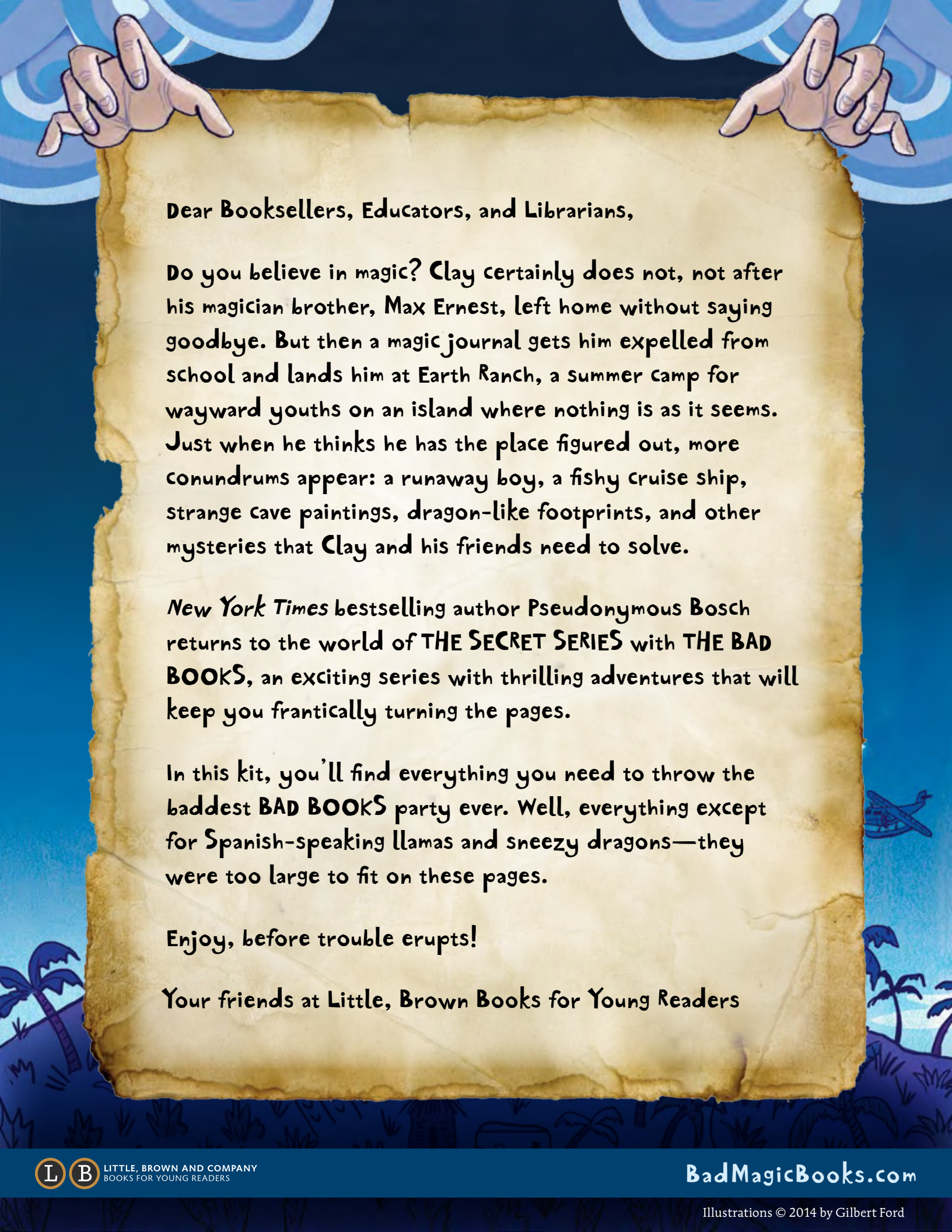
Throw a  
**BAD BOOKS**  
party with this  
very bad kit!

Text



The exciting mystery adventure series from Pseudonymous Bosch,  
*New York Times* bestselling author of **THE SECRET SERIES**.





Dear Booksellers, Educators, and Librarians,

Do you believe in magic? Clay certainly does not, not after his magician brother, Max Ernest, left home without saying goodbye. But then a magic journal gets him expelled from school and lands him at Earth Ranch, a summer camp for wayward youths on an island where nothing is as it seems. Just when he thinks he has the place figured out, more conundrums appear: a runaway boy, a fishy cruise ship, strange cave paintings, dragon-like footprints, and other mysteries that Clay and his friends need to solve.

*New York Times* bestselling author Pseudonymous Bosch returns to the world of **THE SECRET SERIES** with **THE BAD BOOKS**, an exciting series with thrilling adventures that will keep you frantically turning the pages.

In this kit, you'll find everything you need to throw the baddest **BAD BOOKS** party ever. Well, everything except for Spanish-speaking llamas and sneezy dragons—they were too large to fit on these pages.

Enjoy, before trouble erupts!

Your friends at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers





# BAD PARTY IDEAS

Suggestions and prompts to throw the baddest BAD BOOKS party ever!

## SET THE SCENE

Most of the action in *The Bad Books* takes place at Earth Ranch, so turn an area into camp!

Have the guests sit around a campfire (make a circle of stones and then use red, orange, and yellow tissue paper from your local party store to make the fire—safety first!), surround the area with greenery, and play night noises over the loudspeaker (you can find these on YouTube) to make it feel like you're outside.

To add a touch of ominousness, make a cutout of Mount Forge using a large purple poster board and hang it in the background.

If you're feeling very bad, use a fog machine to get some vog (volcanic smog) in the air. Remember, be creative and have fun!

## EARTH TO TABLE

The food at Earth Ranch is not your normal camp fare—they eat lots of fruits and vegetables!

Set up a platter of carrots, celery, and cucumbers with ranch dressing or hummus for dipping, and a platter of various fruits, including mango, Clay's favorite.

Of course, the campers don't eat healthy all the time, thanks to care packages from home. Jonah's mother sends a box of red licorice, so each guest can receive a small bag of licorice nibs for snack.

If you prefer to go the classic route, s'mores, small peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and "bug juice" (fruit punch) are sure to be a hit with your campers.





# BAD ICE BREAKERS

Use the ice breakers below to help your guests get comfortable with each other and get into the BAD BOOKS spirit!

## ACTIVITY 1: THE LAVA WALK

When you guests arrive, split them into groups and, with each group beginning at a different point, take them on a walk to reach the event area. Set up some obstacles or use red construction paper to indicate lava.

## ACTIVITY 2: "I'M GOING TO CAMP AND I'M GOING TO BRING..."

Play a cumulative memory game with the group. Tell them to think of what they would need to bring to camp, then start the chant off:

**"I'm going to camp, and I'm going to bring a (fill in the blank)."** Then choose a guest to continue by adding on a new item, **"I'm going to camp, and I'm going to bring a bathing suit and a towel."**

If someone forgets an item, or if their new item has already been mentioned, they have to sit out for the rest of the game. The game ends once everyone in the group has had a turn.

## ACTIVITY 3: TELEPHONE

Sit around the campfire and play this classic camp game! Whisper a magic word into someone's ear and go around the circle. The last person to hear the word has to say it out loud. Will it be the same one from when you started?

## ACTIVITY 4: MAGIC TRICK

Have some fun with *Bad Magic* with a little, well, bad magic!

SUPPLIES: Water

Soap

Pepper

Cup

Wet Wipes (for clean-up)

1. Fill a cup with water, then add the pepper.
2. Call up a brave volunteer to put their finger in the water to try and separate the pepper. The volunteer will be unable to do so.
3. While the volunteer is cleaning up, rub a little soap on your fingers. Make sure your guests don't see you do this!
4. Say a magic word and make a magical gesture with your hands (be as dramatic as you'd like!) and put your fingers in the water. The pepper will separate.
5. Show your guests how the trick was done and set them up with their own cups of water and pepper to attempt the trick.





# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read aloud from *The Bad Books* and then lead a discussion using the questions below.

1. Do you like magic? What is your favorite book or movie about magic? What is your favorite magic trick?
2. Clay stopped believing in magic after his older brother, Max Ernest, left home without saying goodbye. Do you have a sibling, and, if so, has he or she ever done something to make you very upset? How did you make up?
3. Clay gets in trouble at school when his teacher, Mr. Bailey, accuses him of writing on the walls. Have you ever gotten in trouble at school? Was it scary, like it was for Clay?
4. Have you ever been to summer camp or sleep away camp? Did you enjoy the experience? What was your favorite part about camp? For those who have never been to sleep away camp, would you like to go? Why or why not?
5. Clay encounters a lot of interesting characters when he arrives at Earth Ranch, including Skipper the Pilot; Como the Spanish-speaking llama; Leira the pickpocket; his bunkmates Kwan, Jonah, and Pedro; his counselor Buzz; Brett, who washed up on the beach; and his nemesis Flint. Which of the characters from Earth Ranch was your favorite or least favorite, and why?
6. In *Bad Luck*, Clay and Brett encounter a dragon in a dark cave who wakes up after a loooong nap. What's the scariest thing you've encountered in the dark?
7. The Bad Books tell Clay's story, but every now and then, the author adds his opinion in a footnote. Did you enjoy those parts of the story? How would the books have been different without the notes from the author?
8. In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges Clay faces in *The Bad Books*? What do you predict might happen to the characters after the series ends?
9. In five words, name Clay's major character traits. What are five major character traits of the narrator? Why did you choose those words?
10. How is the setting of Earth Ranch important to the story? How would the story change if the books were set on a snowy mountain or an arid desert?

Illustration © 2016 by Juan Moreno





## GRAFFITI WALL

# THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Clay is a talented graffiti artist who gets in trouble for writing **MAGIC SUCKS** on a wall at school (or did he?) in *Bad Magic*. Draw a magic word on the wall below and tag it with your name. We can't promise that it won't appear on any real-life walls!





# WORD SEARCH

## FIND THE MAGIC WORDS

F M A G I C Y A R I E L  
L A W A T B A M B O O R  
L I O T H S L H I L D D  
A C B O R S C A M P U R  
M O R R H A N A R E C A  
A L Y Q A W E N J S A O  
U E T U N R O S O I T B  
S P Y I L G Y S U Y I E  
W S B A A E T B R E T T  
C A R R H X G J N D N A  
C J D I S O O A A G H K  
L A A M A A V A L D E S

WORD BANK

BAMBOO

CLAY

LEIRA

MIRA

BRETT

DRAGON

LIBRARY

SKATEBOARD

CABIN

JOURNAL

LLAMA

VOG

CAMP

LAVA

MAGIC

(Answer key on last page.)



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY  
BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Reproducible Activity Sheet

BadMagicBooks.com

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# ABOUT THE SERIES

**WELCOME TO EARTH RANCH,**  
a camp for wayward youths.

Pay no attention to the island's active volcano, SOS signal, or abandoned library. Ignore the deadly bees. Do not believe the ghost stories. And never, ever cross the Wall of Trust...

Clay never expected to find himself at a camp for "troubled" kids. But at Earth Ranch, things can get a little *magical* (some might say strange). Is he really talking to a llama? What is the scary secret hidden in the abandoned library? Did that dragon just sneeze? Danger, adventure, mischief, mystery, hilarious footnotes, and a delightfully irreverent narrator make *The Bad Books* irresistible.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Pseudonymous Bosch** is the infamously anonymous author of the *New York Times* bestselling Secret Series. Despite rumors to the contrary, his books are not actually written by his pet rabbit, Quiche; the rabbit is merely his typist.

Before **THE BAD BOOKS**, Pseudonymous Bosch Had a **SECRET...**



The Name of This Book Is Secret  
978-0-316-11369-4



If You're Reading This, It's Too Late  
978-0-316-11368-7



This Book Is Not Good For You  
978-0-316-04085-3



This Isn't What It Looks Like  
978-0-316-07624-1



You Have To Stop This  
978-0-316-07627-2



Write This Book:  
A Do-It-Yourself Mystery  
978-0-316-20780-5

## ANSWER KEY

FIND THE MAGIC WORDS



To learn more about **The Secret Series**, visit  
**TheNameOfThisWebsiteIsSecret.com**