



## DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITIES TO ACCOMPANY CHAPTERS 1 & 2 OF *Baseball Bats*

Baseball Bats is the sixth in a series of novels about two pre-teen detectives who call themselves “The Bat Gang.” In this book, their teacher (and baseball coach), Mr. Chong, has been accused of robbing a jewelry store. The boys know he’s innocent and set out to prove it.

If your child is interested in reading the rest of the book, [Baseball Bats](#) and the other [Bats Mystery Novels](#) may be ordered from High Interest Publishing – [www.hip-books.com](http://www.hip-books.com).

### Some Things to Talk about...

1. Who are the characters in this section of the novel and what do you know about each one?
2. What clues are there that Sam wasn’t a good sport at the baseball game?
3. What evidence did the police have for arresting Mr. Chong? Do you think that was good enough proof? Why or why not?

### Something to try...The BAT CODE

*(Teaching students to read and write in code is not only fun, it helps their spelling, reading and general word knowledge.)*

Sam and Simon have a secret code that they use when they want to communicate with each other without anyone else knowing.

It starts with flipping the vowels:    **A    E    I    O    U    Y**  
With:                                    **Y    U    O    I    E    A**

So the word BATS would be BYTS and CODE would be CIDU.

Then the write the whole thing backwards. Now BATS is STYB and CODE is UDIC.

Have some fun reading and writing messages using the Bat Code. APPYH GNODYUR!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who Said It?

As readers, we can learn about a character from what the person says or does. Use this organizer to record who said each of the following things. Then note one clue that will help you remember each character as you continue reading.

	WHO SAID IT?	A CLUE TO REMEMBER THIS CHARACTER
"You two have solved crimes before. Maybe you should ask Mr. Chong to give you a job."		
"Ouch! That's my pitching hand!"		
"Sorry about that, boys. But it's just a game."		
"Sit down and be quiet!"		
"I think we should go after the guy who did this."		
"You're supposed to be outside."		

**CHARACTERS:** Sam, Simon, Mr. Chong, Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Wood, Mr. Davidson, Officer Brannon.

Which character is left out? \_\_\_\_\_

From what you know about the story so far, what do you think this character might say?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Who Said It?

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	WHO SAID IT?	A CLUE TO REMEMBER THIS CHARACTER
"You two have solved crimes before. Maybe you should ask Mr. Chong to give you a job."	Officer Brannan	Police officer
"Ouch! That's my pitching hand!"	Simon	-one of the Bat Gang -good pitcher
"Sorry about that, boys. But it's just a game."	Mr. Davidson	the principal
"Sit down and be quiet!"	Mrs. Polk (Puke)	substitute teacher "mean old lady with fish-eye stare"
"I think we should go after the guy who did this."	Sam	-Bat gang, Simon's friend -trouble when he thinks
"You're supposed to be outside."	Mrs. Wood	world's oldest school secretary

**CHARACTERS:** Sam, Simon, Mr. Chong, Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Wood, Mr. Davidson, Officer Brannon.

Which character is left out? Mr. Chong

From what you know about the story so far, what do you think this character might say?

varied answers... maybe "Hey, Guys, I'm in trouble. Can you help me out?"

