Books by Neil Gaiman A Selected Bibliography



The Graveyard Book

With illustrations by Dave McKean

Tr 978-0-06-053092-1 • \$17.99 (\$19.50) Lb 978-0-06-053093-8 • \$18.89 (\$20.89) CD 978-0-06-155189-5 • \$29.95 (\$31.95)

"The Graveyard Book is endlessly inventive, masterfully told and, like Bod himself, too clever to fit into only one place. This is a book for everyone. You will love it to death."

-Holly Black, cocreator of The Spiderwick Chronicles



Coraline

With illustrations by Dave McKean

Tr 978-0-380-97778-9 • \$15.99 (\$17.25) Lb 978-0-06-623744-2 • \$17.89 (\$22.89) Pb 978-0-380-80734-5 • \$6.99 (\$7.50) Pb Rack 978-0-06-057591-5 • \$6.99 (\$8.75) CD 978-0-06-051048-0 • \$22.00 (\$26.00)

"One of the most frightening books ever written."

—NewYork Times Book Review

Bram Stoker Award • Hugo Award • ALA Notable Children's Book • ALA Best Book for Young Adults • ALA Popular Paperback for Young Adults • IRA/CBC Children's Choice • New York Times Bestseller • Amazon.com Editors' Pick • Book Sense Pick • Bulletin Blue Ribbon • Child Magazine Best Book • Publishers Weekly Best Book • School Library Journal Best Book



Coraline Graphic Novel

Adapted and illustrated by P. Craig Russell Tr 978-0-06-082543-0 • \$18.99 (\$20.50) Lb 978-0-06-082544-7 • \$19.89 (\$21.89)

★ "A deliciously dark graphic adaptation of Gaiman's modern classic . . . sure to delight established fans and to mesmerize newcomers."

-Kirkus Reviews (starred review)



InterWorld

Coauthored by Michael Reaves

Tr 978-0-06-123896-3 • \$16.99 (\$21.50) Lb 978-0-06-123897-0 • \$17.89 (\$18.89) Pb 978-0-06-123898-7 • \$6.99 (\$8.75) CD 978-0-06-125460-4 • \$19.95 (\$23.50)

★ "This paean to Robert A. Heinlein's juvenilia is a vocabulary and mind-stretching ride for which all tweens and teens (and many adults) will be grateful."

— FOM (starred review)

NewYork Times Bestseller



M Is for Magic

Tr 978-0-06-118642-4 • \$16.99 (\$21.50) Lb 978-0-06-118645-5 • \$17.89 (\$20.89) Pb 978-0-06-118647-9 • \$6.99 (\$8.75) CD 978-0-06-125459-8 • \$25.95 (\$29.95)

★ "The tales vary from scary to funny to melancholy, but they are all beautiful, with just enough story to satisfy and be complete while still leaving room for imagination to wander."

---VOYA (starred review)



About the Author

Neil Gaiman is the author of nationally bestselling children's books, graphic novels, and novels and story collections for adults. He has also written the scripts for movies, including *MirrorMask* and *Beowulf*. Among his many awards are the World Fantasy Award, the Hugo Award, the Nebula Award, and the Bram Stoker Award. Please visit him online at **www.mousecircus.com.**

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Guide prepared by Jonathan Hunt, library media teacher at three elementary schools in Modesto, California. 9/08

Reading Group Guide

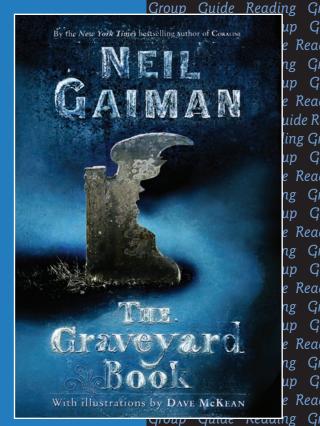
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The Graveyard Book

by Neil Gaiman with illustrations by Dave McKean

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About the Book

When his family is murdered one night by the man Jack, an infant boy toddles unnoticed up the street to the graveyard, where he is taken in and raised by its denizens—ghosts, ghouls, vampires, and werewolves. Such an unusual upbringing affords young Nobody Owens (Bod, for short) just about everything he could wish for, but he still longs for human companionship, news of his family's murderer, and life beyond the graveyard. Bod's pursuit of these things increasingly places him in danger, because the man Jack is still looking for him . . . waiting to finish the job he started.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean are frequent collaborators. How do McKean's illustrations contribute to your reading of the story?
- 2. There is a rich tradition of orphans in children's literature, as well as a tradition of child-of-destiny themes in fantasy literature. Discuss how Bod fits squarely into both categories.
- 3. The graveyard is populated with characters we typically think of as evil. How does Gaiman play with this idea, particularly in the characters of Silas, Miss Lupescu, and Eliza Hempstock? What do these characterizations suggest about human nature?
- 4. From the opening lines, Gaiman is able to hook readers with a distinct narrative voice and a vivid setting. Discuss how both of these elements serve the story.
- 5. If you are familiar with Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, discuss how *The Graveyard Book* is reminiscent of Kipling's classic tale. How does a familiarity with *The Jungle Book* enhance the reading of Gaiman's story?
- 6. At the close of the novel, Mrs. Owens sings about embracing the human experience: "Face your life / Its pain, its pleasure, / Leave no path untaken" (p.306). How does this theme resonate throughout the novel?

- 7. "A graveyard is not normally a democracy, and yet death is the great democracy" (p. 29). How is death the great democracy? How does Gaiman explore the relationship between the dead and the living?
- 8. It is often said that it takes a village to raise a child. How does the graveyard come together to raise this particular child? Describe the special mentoring relationships that Bod has with Silas and Miss Lupescu.
- 9. Boundaries—between the living and the dead, the graveyard and the world—are an important part of the novel. How does Bod test these boundaries? What are the consequences of Bod's actions?
- 10. Bod's human interactions are limited to a short-lived friendship with Scarlett and a brief stint at school. Discuss how these experiences change Bod. How do our friendships and associations with others affect us?
- 11. What do you think of the advice that Bod receives from Nehemiah Trot, the dead poet: "Do not take revenge in the heat of the moment. Instead, wait until the hour is propitious" (p. 233)?
- 12. How does *The Graveyard Book* compare to Gaiman's first novel for young readers, *Coraline*? Much of *Coraline*'s success can be attributed to its strong and diverse following. What are some of the characteristics of Gaiman's writing that allow for a crossover appeal?
- 13. Like much of Gaiman's work, *The Graveyard Book* manages to fuse elements of humor, horror, fantasy, and mystery into a single story. Identify examples of these elements and discuss how they work together. How might the story read differently if one or more of these elements were removed?

Extension Activities

- 1. **Gravestone Rubbing**. Scarlett first meets Mr. Frost in the graveyard when he is rubbing gravestones, a hobby that many people enjoy. Visit a cemetery with paper and crayons to rub some gravestones of your own. Play the part of a detective and see what you can infer about those buried there based on their gravestones.
- 2. Epitaph Poems. Various dead characters in the novel are introduced with their epitaphs. An epitaph is the inscription found on a tombstone that summarizes and memorializes the deceased. An epitaph poem, therefore, is a very short (and often witty) poem about the deceased. Write epitaph poems for Bod, Silas, Jack, and Miss Lupescu, or for yourself, or for a friend.
- 3. **Book Trailer**. The short previews of coming attractions (known as trailers in the movie industry) are a great way to entice an audience. Design a trailer for *The Graveyard Book* and be as creative as possible. Think about incorporating a script, costumes, props, sound effects, software applications (such as PowerPoint), and a video camera.
- 4. **Monster Trivia**. Research some of the monsters featured in the book, such as werewolves, witches, vampires, ghosts, and ghouls, and write trivia questions about them. Some questions should be based on this particular book, while others may draw from popular culture in general.
- 5. **Supernatural Powers**. Bod has several supernatural powers: the Slide, the Fade, and the Dreamwalk. Invent a fourth supernatural power for Bod, draw a picture of him, and label his four special abilities with captions.

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