

LITERATURE GUIDE QUESTIONS

DURING READING

Setting

- Where and when does the story take place?
- How does the setting contribute to the spookiness of the story?
- What words in the story give you clues as to where and when the story takes place?

Word Choice

- Identify use of similes, metaphors, or personification.
- How does the use of figurative language add to the scary mood (e.g., black as night, dead as a mummy, eerie like a ghost)?
- What are the specific words and phrases that give you goose bumps?
- Why do you think the author chose these words?

Character Descriptions

- Who is scary and why?
- What makes the villain so scary?
- How does age or gender affect the scare factor?
- How does a character's profession add to the scariness (scientist, witch, undertaker)?
- Are the characters believable? What makes them so real?

Plot

- Who tells the story? Is it first person or third person point of view? How does this affect the story?
- Is the danger a real-life situation or an imaginary adventure?
- Can you see yourself in or have you faced a similar situation?
- What information does the author reveal early or hold back to reveal later? Is there any foreshadowing or flashbacks that give hints of what is about to happen or happened before?
- What is the conflict in the story? How do the characters deal with their problems? What details and events lead up to the resolution of the problem? What is the resolution to the problem?
- Discuss how the author ends each chapter. Are there end-of-chapter cliffhangers? Why do you think an author would end chapters with suspense?

AFTER READING

- Were your predictions of the ending correct? Were you surprised? Why?
- Did plot twists cause you to change your mind about any of the characters (for instance, the villain may not be the person you originally suspected)?
- How did the characters change from the beginning to the end of the book?
- Is there an overall theme (fear, responsibility, temptation, adversity, or another message)?
- What was the scariest part of the story and why? Did the author use any literary devices to make this part especially frightening?
- How does this book compare to other scary stories you have read?