

GUYSiREAD

TERRIFYING TALES

DISCUSSION GUIDE



VOLUME **6**

IN THE GUYS READ LIBRARY OF GREAT READING

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Guys Read Library of Great Reading features brand new, original short stories from some of the biggest names in children's literature. Jon Scieszka started the series as a way to connect young guys with books and authors they love, and *Guys Read: Terrifying Tales* delivers ten new bone-chilling scary stories.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MR. SHOCKY by Michael Buckley

- Why does Tyler agree to go to Dr. Rosen's treatment center even though he knows he didn't do anything wrong?
 - Why do the imaginary friends become violent when they are set free?
-

LICORICE NEEDLES by Nikki Loftin

- How does Jeremiah come to learn the truth about Mrs. Carlson's crazy lessons?
 - What is the significance of the title "Licorice Needles?" How does it become real by the story's end?
-

THE BLUE-BEARDED BIRD-MAN by Adam Gidwitz

- How does the author's commentary enhance the effectiveness of the story?
 - The author calls this story a fairy tale, yet it doesn't end with a happily ever after. Should all fairy tales have happy endings? Why or why not?
-

DON'T EAT THE BABY by Kelly Barnhill

- How does this story illustrate the classic adage, "Be careful what you wish for"?
- Did the narrator and his friend Jamal do the right thing with the brother at the end of the story? Why or why not?



MY GHOST STORY by Dav Pilkey

- Compare and contrast a story told in prose versus a story told in comic form. How does each method of writing create a cohesive story?
 - How do the illustrations add depth to the narrative?
-

MARCOS AT THE RIVER by Daniel José Older

- Why do spirits haunt Marcos and his abuela?
 - What ultimately pushes Marcos to find his voice and come to terms with the events of the night his father died?
-

COCONUT HEADS by Rita Williams-Garcia

- Why doesn't Winston want to go to Jamaica with his mother?
 - Why is Winston afraid of the coconut heads?
-

MANIFEST by Adele Griffin and Lisa Brown

- Why does the narrator think he's the curse of the Charming Molly?
 - How does the narrator's plan to escape his master ultimately backfire on him?
-

DISAPPEAR! by R.L. Stine

- Why is Mark unimpressed when he finally meets his magician idol, Alexander the Semi-Great?
 - How does magic strengthen the bond between Mark and his younger brother?
-

THE MANDIGORE by Claire Legrand

- How do Clark and Nina use their obsession with *Noctiluca* to outsmart the Mandigore?
- How does the author use setting to give the story an ominous feeling?



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

KELLY BARNHILL is the author of the novels *The Witch's Boy*, *Iron Hearted Violet*, and *The Mostly True Story of Jack*. You can visit Kelly online at www.kellybarnhill.wordpress.com.

MICHAEL BUCKLEY is the bestselling author of the Sisters Grimm and NERDS series. Originally from Akron, Ohio, he now lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and son.

ADAM GIDWITZ is the author of the bestselling novels *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, *In a Glass Grimly*, and *The Grimm Conclusion*. He grew up in Baltimore but now lives in Brooklyn, New York. You can visit Adam online at www.adamgidwitz.com.

ADELE GRIFFIN and **LISA BROWN** are the creators of the acclaimed visual novel *Picture the Dead*. Separately, Adele is a two-time National Book Award finalist and highly acclaimed author of numerous books, including *The Unfinished Life of Addison Stone*, *Loud Awake and Lost*, and *Where I Want to Be*, as well as the popular Witch Twins and Vampire Island series. Lisa is the author of many picture books, including *How to Be* and *Vampire Boy's Goodnight* as well as the illustrator of *The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming* by Lemony Snicket. Visit Adele online at www.adelegriffin.com and Lisa at www.americanchickens.com.

GRIS GRIMLY has been drawing since he was old enough to hold a pencil. Gris moonlights as a filmmaker, fine artist, and concept designer, but his heart will always be in children's illustration. Visit him online at www.madcreator.com.

CLAIRE LEGRAND is the author of *The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls*, a New York Public Library Best Book for Children in 2012, as well as the author of *The Year of Shadows* and *Winterspell*, and is one of the four authors behind *The Cabinet of Curiosities* anthology. Visit her at www.claire-legrand.com and at www.enterthecabinet.com.

NIKKI LOFTIN is the author of *Nightingale's Nest* and *The Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy*, as well as the upcoming novel *Wish Girl*. Nikki lives outside Austin, Texas and online at www.nikkiloftin.com.

DANIEL JOSÉ OLDER is the author of the Bone Street Rumba urban fantasy series and the ghost noir collection *Salsa Nocturna*. He also co-edited the anthology *Long Hidden: Speculative Fiction from the Margins of History*. You can visit him online at www.ghoststar.net.

DAV PILKEY has written and illustrated numerous popular, award-winning books for children, including the Captain Underpants and Dumb Bunnies series; *Dog Breath*, winner of the California Young Reader Medal; and *The Paperboy*, a Caldecott Honor Book. You can visit him online at www.pilkey.com.

JON SCIESZKA is the National Ambassador for Children's literature emeritus, the bestselling author of more than 25 books for kids, and the founder of Guys Read. He lives in Brooklyn, New York with his family. Learn more at www.jsworldwide.com.

R.L. STINE is the author of Goosebumps, the bestselling horror series for kids. He also created the successful Fear Street series. You can visit him online at www.rlstine.com.

RITA WILLIAMS-GARCIA is the author of the Newbery Honor Book *One Crazy Summer* and its sequel, *P.S. Be Eleven*, as well as six other acclaimed novels for young adults. You can visit her online at www.ritawg.com.

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