



Peg Kehret, [The Ghost's Grave](#), 2005, Scholastic, Inc.

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She was born in Minnesota and grew up there. When she was about twelve, she suffered from polio which left her paralyzed from the neck down. She made a complete recovery and went on to graduate from college. She wanted to either be a writer or a veterinarian when she grew up. She is a writer, but helps animals through her work with the ASPCA, and finding homes for mistreated dogs and cats. She has received many state and national awards for her books. Several awards she has received are the Golden Kite, PEN Center Award in Children's Literature, and four Young Hoosier Book Awards. Other books she has written are [The Volcano Disaster](#), [Escaping The Giant Wave](#), [Nightmare Mountain](#), [Small Steps](#), [Terror at the Zoo](#).

Annotation:

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to talk to a ghost from the past? Josh goes to an eccentric old aunt's house that he has never met before and ends up having the best summer adventure of his life. He talks to a ghost and learns that even if you have been dead a long time, you may still need help with something left behind on earth.

Genre- Mystery

Point of View- First person

Theme- You should always be kind to everyone and help animals and people when and where you can. Doing the right thing will always win over making bad choices.

Conflict: The conflict is external. Josh is sent to an unfamiliar place and due to circumstances beyond his control, he gets placed into some pretty sticky situations.

Conflict Resolution: Josh makes some pretty good decisions and gets the help he needs to bring the bandit to justice.

Characters:

Josh: He is a twelve year old boy who is sensitive and caring.

Aunt Ethel- An elderly lady that is Josh's Great-great aunt. She is the Great-aunt of his new step dad, Steven. She is eccentric and loves to bake cakes. She is independent and strong willed.

Mrs. Morris: She is Aunt Ethel's closest friend and takes care of her and Josh.

Bruce: He is Mrs. Morris's grandson and Josh's friend in the story.

Willie Martin: He is a coalminer that is the ghost who talks to Josh.

Mr. Turlep: He is the Bank Manager who steals the money from the auction.

Setting: Small town called Carbon City, in Washington state.

Interest level is 5-8, reading level is 5.0

Booktalk:

When Josh realizes that his summer plans to play baseball with his new school's team is not going to happen, he is really upset. Then, he is told that he will have to spend the summer with an aunt he has never met in a place very far away. So, naturally he is disappointed and mad at his parents for leaving him to work in some foreign country. All is changed when he arrives at his aunt's house. His adventures start the next day when he visits a tree house in the woods. What he experiences is something he never planned on happening and his attitude about his eccentric Great-great Aunt Ethel is changed forever.

Discussion questions:

Pre- Why is Josh reluctant to leave his home in Minnesota and spend the summer with his Great Aunt Ethel?

During- Who is Willie and what does he ask Josh to do for him? How does this make Josh feel?

Post- What does Josh do to save himself from Mr. Turlep?

Chpt 1 pg 3 Where is Josh traveling to and from? Why is he traveling in the first place? Pg 5 What is Aunt Ethel's favorite saying?

Chpt 2 pg 16 Something happened to Josh just three weeks earlier that was special for Josh. What was it? Pg 18 Where are his mom and dad going and why? Pg 19 What happened that was disappointing to him?

Chpt 3 pg 26 Who is Florence and why was she screaming? Pg 31 Josh finds something in the woods. What does he discover? Pg 34 So far Josh has written two letters to his mom and dad. What was the general tone of these letters?

Chpt 4 pg 37 What did he see in the woods? Pg 40 Aunt Ethel has strong feelings about feeding a stray cat. Why? Pg 43 What is Cash for Critters and what happened to the money?

Chpt 5 pg 49 Where does Josh ride the bike to and what does he buy? Pg 53 What is the cat's name? Pg 57 What does Aunt Ethel ask Josh to help her do?

Chpt 6 Pg 60 Who shows up at the tree house window? Pg 65 What is a coke oven? Pg 67 Why is Josh's new friend angry and who is he angry with?
 Chpt 7 Pg 70 Who is Sarah? Pg 73 What does Willie want Josh to do? How does Josh feel about doing this for Willie?
 Chpt 8 Pg 77 What does he discover about Mr. Stray? Pg 81 Josh reads about the history of an explosion in a mine? Why is he so interested in learning about it? Pg 84 What is Aunt Ethel's favorite thing to do and "one of life's great joys"?
 Chpt 9 Pg 89 Where does Josh go for a visit and what does he learn? Pg 97 What does he plan for the next day?
 Chpt 10 Pg 101 Why does Josh want to dig up Aunt Ethel's daisies? Pg 106 What was in Josh's note to Aunt Ethel?
 Chpt 11 pg 107 Who is Mr. Turlep? What does he think he deserves?
 Chpt 12 Pg 112 What happens to Aunt Ethel while she is making a carrot cake? How does Josh help her? Pg 117 Where does Josh go and what does he do? Pg 118 What does he uncover?
 Chpt 13 Pg 123 After he cemetery, where does he go and what is he carrying in his bookbag? Pg 125 Where does he put Willie's bones? Pg 127 What does Willie say after Josh is done and how does Willie feel?
 Chpt 14 pg 130 Besides bones, what else has Josh uncovered? Pg 133 Why does he call 911? Pg 134 What happened to Aunt Ethel? Where do they take her?
 Chpt 15 pg 141 What did Mr. Turlep discover after he left work on Friday afternoon? Pg 149 How does Josh get home from the hospital? What are some to his thoughts while trying to get home?
 Chpt 16 pg 152-155 How does Turlep discover who must have taken his box? Pg 158 What does Turlep have hidden under the magazines? Pg 160 Who tells him where to find Ethel's house?
 Chpt 17 pgs 164 What did the box that Josh digs up contain? What did he realize after closer examination of the contents? Pg 166 Where is Josh when Turlep arrives and what happens next?
 Pg 174 Who interrupts the conversation between Mr Turlep and Josh?
 Chpt 18 Pg 174-175 How does Josh get an SOS message to Muriel Morris? Pg 178 Who helps Josh keep Mr. Turlep from getting away with the money? What does Willie do? Pg 182 How does Florence save Josh?
 Chpt 19 Pg 186 Who does the masked man, Mr Turlep get caught? Pg 192 What convinced Muriel to call for help? Pg 193 How could the police prove the money came from the critter Auction?
 Chpt 20 How does the summer end for Mrs. Stray and her babies, Bruce and Josh, and Muriel and Aunt Ethel?

Language:

Pg 5 temperamental – stubborn

Pg 7 illuminating- lighting up

Pg 9 lunatic – crazy person

Pg 13 conveniently- handy

Pg 21 resumes- a summary your experiences
Pg 22 fuddy-duddy- odd
Pg 46 garden implements- tools
Pg 52 transient- homeless
Pg 57 arthritis- inflammation of the joints
Pg 61 apprehension- not sure about something
Pg 75 supernatural- not natural.. like a ghost
Pg 81 psychic- someone who can see the future or past or a mind reader
Pg 94 souvenir- keepsake
Pg 110 unscrupulous- someone with few moral values
Pg 130 methodically- carefully
Pg 130 denomination – the face value of money
Pg 131 concocted- made up
Pg 143 diagnosis- identifying a disease
Pg 148 hordes- a quantity of something
Pg 179 quavered- shaky

Indiana Standards met by content:

Reading.. 3.3.1 to 3.3.8; 4.3.1 to 4.3.7; and 5.3.1 to 5.3.7

Anticipation statements:

Would you agree or disagree that ghosts exist and can talk to people?

Would you agree or disagree that most ghost stories are really scary?

Would you agree or disagree that the idea of staying with an eccentric aunt you have never met might be really boring?

Would you agree or disagree you would probably not have fun at an aunt's house who did not have a TV or video store or computer?

Read Alouds

Pg 4-5. This would help introduce the idea that Josh was not happy about going to visit an elderly aunt that he did not know.

Pg 190- The top of the page describes how his attitude has changed about his aunt and reflects some ideas about his character.

Read Alikes:

Peg Kehret- Abduction

Louis Sachar- Holes

Judy Blume- Double Fudge

Kate DiCamillo Because of Winn Dixie

Across Curriculum Connections:

Book Activity:

Spelling –Make up a spelling contract that includes three activities that will help you learn how to spell the words from the vocabulary list. The contract should include one written activity, one oral activity and one that includes the help of

someone else. All work must be turned in at the end of the week. A signature of the person who helped you must be included in the paperwork.

Ind. Standards: Spelling 3.6.8; 4.6.8 and 5.6.7

Reading Comprehension-

Working in partners, create a board game. The game should include all the mysteries from the story. Use a piece of cardboard or poster board that is 24 x 24. Decorate it in any way you would like. Create game pieces and game cards and determine how each player will win or lose and how each player will advance to the end to win. The game must show the major events from the story that keep the mystery going.

Ind Standards- Reading Comprehension 5.5.7, 5.3.2 5.3.3,.5.3.4; 3.3.1,.3.3.8; 4.3.1,.4.3.2,.4.4.4

Bibliography

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