

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION



KICKOFF QUESTION (PAIR SHARE OR GROUP SHARE)

The main character, Emily, moves A LOT in this book.

Share a time when you were the “new kid” in a situation, or where you helped someone who was the “new kid.”

How did it feel? What helped you find a sense of belonging or connection for yourself or someone else?

Why does feeling like you belong matter?

BOOK CLUB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



This story involves a mix of adventure, mystery, and friendship. Which aspect of the story resonated with you the most? Which character would you most like to be friends with? Why?



The core elements of a good mystery include: Detective, Crime, Victim, Suspect(s), Motives, & Clues. Discuss how each of these elements shows up in this story. Were you surprised by who actually hurt Mr. Griswold?



Discuss the importance of hidden codes & puzzles in the story. How did they enhance the suspense and intrigue, and what impact did they have on the characters?



Friendship and collaboration are big themes. Give examples of how characters worked together to solve problems. Reflect on this quote from Hollister about Mr. G. "Similar interests, different priorities." Compare the friendship challenges between Emily & James with those between Hollister & Mr. G.



Describe a time when a character had to make a difficult ethical decision. Would you have returned the book right away if a teacher had told you to?



Read the Author's Note at the end of the book. What true stories about Poe inspired this story? Bonus idea: Find Poe's famous poem THE RAVEN online or at the library and read it in the creepiest voice possible.



ACTIVITY IDEAS



CREATE & CRACK CODES

Use the substitution cipher that James shares with Emily when they first meet to read the question below. Then, to respond in code and share with a friend. Make your own coded messages using this or other ciphers.

ZKTV BS DXLP ITAXPBVU HXXO?

_____?

MAKE YOUR OWN HUGE GAME

Mr. Griswold made Book Scavenger and other huge games like World's Largest Bingo to bring joy and fun to a whole community. Design your own huge game that could be played by a whole community.

FAMILY MOTTO

Emily's family motto is LIVE, TRAVEL, ADVENTURE, BLESS, AND DON'T BE SORRY. Why is this a good motto for them? What would your family motto be?

DESIGN YOUR OWN BOOK COVER


Compare the original book cover and the current paperback book cover. Design your own and explain your choices.

WRITE A BOOK REVIEW!

Log into Bookopolis.com and share your rating/review!

BONUS!! REBUS PUZZLES

What phrases/expressions are represented in these visual word puzzles?

1. FACE	2. EGG EGG HAM
3. BUR	4 THUMBS THUMBS THUMBS THUMBS THUMBS THUMBS...
5. TEEF FEET TEEF	6. FAMILY  SHEEP
7. po FISH nd	8. ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE
9. TIME a b d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z	10. DAYSALLWORK