**Curriculum Guide for The Haunted Chronicles: The Haunted Dollhouse**

**Grade Level: Ages 9-13**

**Subject Areas: English Language Arts, Critical Thinking, Creative Writing**

**Objectives:**

* **Reading Comprehension**: Improve students’ ability to understand plot, setting, character development, and theme.
* **Critical Thinking**: Encourage students to analyze cause-and-effect relationships, predict outcomes, and draw conclusions based on the text.
* **Creative Expression**: Develop students’ creative writing skills through the exploration of alternate story endings, new characters, and related haunted tales.
* **Collaboration**: Foster group discussion and peer learning through engaging activities related to *The Haunted Dollhouse*.

**Materials:**

* Copies of *The Haunted Dollhouse* by Stacey Bottone
* Whiteboard or chart paper for group discussions
* Student notebooks for activities and writing
* Access to the companion website for downloadable resources (puzzles, brain teasers, fun facts)
* Art supplies for creative activities

**Pre-Reading Activities:**

1. **Brainstorming Session**:
   * Ask students what they know about haunted houses or creepy objects.
   * Have students share stories of any "spooky" items they’ve encountered or heard about.
   * Write down key terms like “ghost,” “curse,” “mystery,” and “paranormal” on the board to familiarize students with the genre they’re about to explore.
2. **Prediction Exercise**:
   * Show students the book cover and title. Based on the title *The Haunted Dollhouse* and cover illustration, ask students to predict the story’s plot.
   * Encourage them to jot down their predictions in their notebooks.

**During-Reading Activities:**

1. **Chapter Summaries**:
   * After reading each chapter, have students summarize the key events in their own words.
   * Encourage them to include how the characters change or grow and what new mysteries are introduced.
2. **Discussion Prompts** (Use after key chapters):
   * *Chapter 1*: What do you think makes the dollhouse "haunted"? Why is Lily so drawn to it?
   * *Chapter 3*: Why do you think the doll in the dollhouse is moving? What might this symbolize?
   * *Chapter 6*: What role does Luna play in the dollhouse’s curse? How is she connected to the story’s mystery?
3. **Visualizing the Setting**:
   * After reading descriptions of the dollhouse or attic, have students close their eyes and imagine the scene.
   * Students can draw the dollhouse and add what they visualize based on details from the book.

**Post-Reading Activities:**

1. **Group Discussion**:
   * What do you think the dollhouse represents? Why was Luna trapped inside?
   * How did Lily and Emma help Luna find peace? Could they have solved the mystery any other way?
2. **Writing Activity**:
   * **Alternate Ending**: Ask students to write an alternate ending to *The Haunted Dollhouse*. How might the story change if they could rewrite the ending? What would happen if Luna couldn’t be freed?
   * **Character Diary**: Imagine you are one of the dolls in the haunted dollhouse. Write a diary entry from that doll’s perspective, describing the events of the story and how it feels to be haunted.
3. **Creative Writing**:
   * **Create Your Own Haunted Object**: Have students write a short story where a different object (e.g., a mirror, painting, or toy) becomes haunted. They should include a mystery element that their protagonist must solve.
4. **Puzzles and Brain Teasers**:
   * Use the puzzles and brain teasers available on the companion website as a fun, engaging wrap-up activity after completing the book.
   * Students can work in small groups to solve the puzzles, fostering teamwork and critical thinking skills.

**Extension Activities:**

1. **Literature Comparison**:
   * Compare *The Haunted Dollhouse* to another ghost story or mystery novel. Discuss themes, characters, and how the two books build suspense and mystery.
2. **Create a Diorama**:
   * Have students create a diorama of the haunted dollhouse from the book using boxes, construction paper, and art supplies. They should include as many details from the story as possible and explain their design choices.
3. **Escape Room Challenge**:
   * Set up a mini escape room activity (from the provided guide) based on the events in *The Haunted Dollhouse*. Students can work in teams to solve clues and "escape" from the dollhouse's curse.

**Vocabulary Focus:**

* **Curse**
* **Supernatural**
* **Inheritance**
* **Paranormal**
* **Whispers**
* **Haunted**
* **Mystery**
* **Guardian**

Encourage students to use these vocabulary words in their creative writing activities or ask them to define and illustrate each word in their notebooks.

**Assessment:**

1. **Comprehension Quiz**:
   * Include questions like:
     + What is the name of the girl trapped in the dollhouse?
     + Why is Luna’s spirit still haunting the dollhouse?
     + How do Lily and Emma break the curse?
2. **Participation**:
   * Evaluate students based on their participation in discussions, creative writing, and group activities.
3. **Creative Project**:
   * Grade based on effort and creativity in activities such as writing an alternate ending, drawing the haunted dollhouse, or creating their own haunted object.

**Additional Resources:**

* **Companion Website**: Students can download extra puzzles, brain teasers, and creative activities that tie into the book.
* **Educator Guides**: The website also offers deeper lesson plans for teachers and discussion questions tailored for different age groups.