**Curriculum Guide for Educators and Librarians: The Ghostly Guardian**

**The Haunted Chronicles**

**Age Level: 9-13**

**Themes:**

* Friendship
* Loneliness
* Mystery and Curiosity
* Facing the Unknown
* Finding Strength

**Goals:**

* Develop critical reading and comprehension skills.
* Engage students with themes of friendship and perseverance.
* Encourage exploration of mystery and supernatural fiction.
* Inspire discussions about character development and moral choices.
* Support creative thinking through writing and group activities.

**Curriculum Standards:**

* **Reading: Literature**
  + Analyze characters, settings, and events using textual evidence.
  + Describe the theme of the story, including how the protagonist changes throughout.
  + Interpret words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings.
* **Writing:**
  + Write opinion pieces on the book, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
  + Write narratives based on the book that recount an imagined or real experience using details from the text.
* **Speaking & Listening:**
  + Participate in collaborative discussions on the book, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own.

**Pre-Reading Activities:**

**1. Prediction Discussion**

* Show the book cover and read the title aloud. Ask students:
  + What do you think the story will be about?
  + What kind of character do you think “The Ghostly Guardian” is?
  + Why do you think this story is part of *The Haunted Chronicles*?

**2. Exploring the Genre:**

* Introduce the supernatural mystery genre. Ask students:
  + What do you know about ghost stories?
  + Have you ever read a mystery? How do they keep you interested?
  + What elements might this story contain to build suspense?

**Chapter-by-Chapter Discussion Prompts**

**Chapter 1: The Lonely Child**

* **Discussion Questions:**
  + Why do you think Lucy feels so lonely at the beginning of the story?
  + How does the house reflect Lucy’s emotions?
* **Activity:** Write a journal entry from Lucy’s perspective about moving to a new town.

**Chapter 2: Mysterious Happenings**

* **Discussion Questions:**
  + What are some of the first signs that something strange is happening in the house?
  + How does Lucy feel when she hears the giggle?
* **Activity:** Create a class “mystery journal,” where students jot down every strange occurrence they notice as they read.

**Chapter 3: An Unlikely Friendship**

* **Discussion Questions:**
  + Why does Lucy begin to trust Emily even though she’s a ghost?
  + What makes their friendship special?
* **Activity:** Have students draw or describe what they imagine Emily, the ghost, looks like.

**Post-Reading Activities**

**1. Character Analysis:**

* Have students create a “Character Map” for Lucy and Emily. Include:
  + How each character changes throughout the story.
  + Key decisions each character makes.
  + What drives the friendship between Lucy and Emily?

**2. Creative Writing Prompt:**

* Ask students to imagine they’ve moved into an old, mysterious house like Lucy’s. What do they discover? Is there a ghost or a mystery to solve? Have students write a short narrative inspired by the book.

**3. Compare and Contrast:**

* Compare Lucy’s experience with loneliness and making friends to real-life scenarios. How can we relate to her feelings? What advice would the students give to someone who feels alone like Lucy?

**Projects and Activities**

**1. Haunted House Diorama:**

* Have students work in groups to build a diorama of Lucy’s house, showing different rooms where mysterious happenings occur. Students can label where each event from the book took place and present their diorama to the class.

**2. Ghost Story Writing Workshop:**

* Host a writing workshop where students create their own ghost stories, inspired by *The Ghostly Guardian*. Encourage them to include mysterious happenings, strange characters, and an unexpected twist at the end.

**3. Drama & Role-Play:**

* Have students perform a short play based on their favorite chapter or scene from the book. Assign roles such as Lucy, Emily, or other characters from the book, and let them act out key moments.

**Assessment Tools**

**Comprehension Quiz (Sample Questions):**

* Why does Lucy feel so alone at the beginning of the book?
* What clues does Lucy find that suggest Emily is more than just a ghost?
* How does the relationship between Lucy and Emily change throughout the story?

**Writing Assignment:**

* Have students write an essay explaining what they would do if they were in Lucy’s shoes. Would they be scared of Emily? How would they try to solve the mystery?

**Creative Assessment:**

* Create a “Ghostly Timeline” showing the major events in Lucy’s journey and how each one moves her closer to solving the mystery of Emily.

**Extension Activities**

**1. Field Trip to a Local Historic Site:**

* Take students to a nearby historic building or museum. Encourage them to explore the history of the site and write a short mystery or supernatural story based on their visit.

**2. Create a Class Mystery Game:**

* Design a classroom mystery game where students have to solve clues based on themes from *The Ghostly Guardian*. This could be turned into an educational escape room, where students collaborate to “unlock” different parts of the story.

**Additional Resources for Teachers and Librarians:**

**Companion Website:**

* Direct students to the book’s companion website for downloadable activities, puzzles, and brain teasers.
* Teachers can access lesson plans, group activities, and a fun fact guide about the history of haunted houses in literature.

**Recommended Books:**

* *The Phantom Pen Pal* by Stacey Bottone
* *The Silent Ghost Ship* by Stacey Bottone
* *The Midnight Vampire Society* by Stacey Bottone

**Professional Development:**

* Include *The Haunted Chronicles* in your library or classroom’s supernatural fiction collection, which fosters students' interest in the genre while supporting literacy and engagement.