**Curriculum Guide for Educators and Librarians: The Siren and the Sleepwalkers**

***The Haunted Chronicles***

**Age Group:** 9-13 years old

**Curriculum Objectives**

1. Foster a love for reading and critical thinking through the exploration of mystery and supernatural themes.
2. Develop students' understanding of literary elements such as plot, character development, theme, and conflict.
3. Encourage creative expression through writing, art, and drama activities inspired by the book.
4. Enhance problem-solving skills through puzzles and activities related to the story’s events and themes.
5. Explore themes of friendship, bravery, responsibility, and the impact of choices.

**Suggested Lesson Plan**

**Week 1: Introduction and Setting the Stage**

**Objective:** Familiarize students with the book’s setting, characters, and themes.

* **Activity 1:** Discuss the concept of sleepwalking and its connection to myths and legends. Explore students' prior knowledge of sirens and their role in folklore.
* **Activity 2:** Create a map of Driftwood Cove, marking key locations mentioned in the book (e.g., Mira’s house, the cliffs, the library, the docks).
* **Discussion Questions:**
	+ What makes Driftwood Cove an effective setting for a mystery?
	+ How does the author use the setting to create suspense in Chapter 1?

**Week 2: Character Analysis**

**Objective:** Analyze the motivations, relationships, and development of key characters.

* **Activity 1:** Character Web: Create visual diagrams showing the relationships between Mira, Jonah, Lena, Captain Rhodes, and Isolde.
* **Activity 2:** Journal Prompt: Imagine you are Jonah. Write about your experiences of sleepwalking toward the cliffs from your perspective.
* **Discussion Questions:**
	+ What traits make Mira a strong protagonist?
	+ How do Jonah’s experiences deepen the mystery?

**Week 3: Plot Development and Conflict**

**Objective:** Examine how the plot unfolds and how conflict drives the story forward.

* **Activity 1:** Plot Timeline: Chart key events from each chapter on a timeline, highlighting moments of rising action, climax, and resolution.
* **Activity 2:** Group Debate: Discuss whether the locket should have been destroyed or kept safe. What might have happened if Mira had made a different choice?
* **Discussion Questions:**
	+ How does the conflict between Mira and Isolde drive the story?
	+ How does the storm symbolize the growing tension in the book?

**Week 4: Themes and Literary Devices**

**Objective:** Explore deeper themes and analyze the use of literary devices.

* **Activity 1:** Theme Analysis: Divide students into small groups and assign each a theme (e.g., friendship, betrayal, sacrifice). Have them find examples from the text to support their theme.
* **Activity 2:** Identify literary devices such as foreshadowing, imagery, and symbolism in key scenes (e.g., the recurring motif of the ocean).
* **Discussion Questions:**
	+ How does the theme of sacrifice appear throughout the story?
	+ What does the ocean symbolize in the book?

**Week 5: Creative Exploration**

**Objective:** Encourage students to engage with the story through creative expression.

* **Activity 1:** Write an Alternate Ending: What if the curse wasn’t quieted? How might the story continue?
* **Activity 2:** Design a Book Cover: Illustrate a new cover for *The Siren and the Sleepwalkers* based on your interpretation of the story.
* **Activity 3:** Drama Activity: Act out the final scene at the cliffs, emphasizing the tension and resolution.

**Supplemental Activities**

**Puzzles and Brain Teasers**

1. **Sleepwalker Logic Puzzle:** Create a grid-based logic puzzle where students figure out the sequence of events leading to the characters' sleepwalking episodes.
2. **Ocean Crossword:** Include vocabulary words from the book (e.g., siren, locket, curse, Driftwood Cove).

**STEM Connection**

* Research the science of sleepwalking: What causes it? How does the brain function during sleepwalking episodes?
* Explore ocean currents and shipwrecks: How do scientists locate and study underwater wrecks like *The Siren’s Whisper*?

**Art Integration**

* Create a visual storyboard of the key scenes in the book.
* Paint or draw an interpretation of Isolde and her transformation.

**Discussion Circles**

* Hold weekly discussions where students share their thoughts on the story’s progression.
* Encourage them to compare the book’s themes to real-life situations or other stories they’ve read.

**Educator and Librarian Resources**

**Recommended Reading Pairings**

1. *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman
2. *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman
3. *The Night Gardener* by Jonathan Auxier

**Resources on Stacey Bottone’s Website**

* Fun fact guides and activities about the book’s creation.
* Downloadable puzzles and interactive games.
* Guides for hosting a *Haunted Chronicles*-themed book club or library event.

**Assessment and Reflection**

* **Student Reflection Journal:** Encourage students to write weekly reflections on what they’ve learned, how they felt about the story, and what questions they still have.
* **Creative Project Showcase:** End the unit with a showcase of student projects (e.g., art, writing, or dramatic performances).
* **Classroom Debate:** Host a debate on whether Mira made the right choice with the locket. Evaluate arguments for critical thinking and engagement.

**Engage with the Author:**
Invite Stacey Bottone for a virtual author visit to discuss her inspiration for *The Siren and the Sleepwalkers* and answer student questions. Details available at [www.staceybottone.com](http://www.staceybottone.com).