**Curriculum Guide for *The Haunted Chronicles: The Cemetery of Forgotten Names***

**Grade Level: Middle Grade (Ages 9-12)**

**Subjects:**

* English Language Arts
* Social Studies
* Art & Design
* Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

**Learning Objectives:**

1. **Develop Reading Comprehension**: Students will identify key themes, character development, and plot progression in the story.
2. **Critical Analysis**: Students will examine the use of suspense, foreshadowing, and supernatural elements to build tension.
3. **Creative Expression**: Students will create original artwork, alternate endings, and journal entries inspired by the book.
4. **Cultural and Historical Context**: Students will research the concept of memory, forgotten histories, and cemeteries, linking it to the book’s themes.

**Curriculum Structure**

**Week 1: Introduction & Pre-reading Activities**

* **Introduction to the Supernatural and Gothic Themes**:
  + *Objective*: Familiarize students with the genre of supernatural fiction.
  + *Activity*: Group discussion on the supernatural in literature. Students can share books, movies, or games that have supernatural elements.
  + *Assignment*: Have students research historical and cultural beliefs about ghosts and the supernatural. Create a short presentation or poster about what they discover.
* **Previewing the Text**:
  + *Objective*: Activate prior knowledge about cemeteries, forgotten histories, and memory.
  + *Discussion Prompt*: What do cemeteries symbolize in stories? What could it mean when a character’s name is on a gravestone but they’re still alive?

**Week 2: Reading Chapters 1-3 (The Forgotten Path, Fading Memories, The Gravestone Revelation)**

* **Reading Focus**:
  + Identify main characters and setting (Morgan, the cemetery).
  + Analyze the initial conflict: discovering Morgan’s name on a gravestone.
* **Discussion Questions**:
  + Why do you think Morgan feels drawn to the cemetery?
  + What role do memory and identity play in the story so far?
  + How does the author create a sense of suspense when Morgan first encounters the cemetery?
* **Creative Writing Activity**:
  + Write a journal entry from Morgan’s perspective after she first discovers her name on the gravestone. Include her thoughts and feelings about the eerie experience.

**Week 3: Reading Chapters 4-6 (Aspen’s Warning, The Search for Answers, The Cemetery’s Trap)**

* **Reading Focus**:
  + Explore character development, especially the relationship between Morgan and Aspen.
  + Analyze the introduction of The Reclaimer and its connection to forgotten identities.
* **Discussion Questions**:
  + Who is Aspen, and what do we learn about her past?
  + What is The Reclaimer’s purpose, and how does it affect the people it marks?
  + How does the cemetery serve as a metaphor for being forgotten?
* **Art Activity**:
  + Draw a scene from one of the chapters, focusing on the description of the cemetery or The Reclaimer’s lair. Encourage students to use color symbolism to show the mood and tone of the scene.

**Week 4: Reading Chapters 7-9 (Striking a Deal, The Escape, The Reclaimer’s Lair)**

* **Reading Focus**:
  + Investigate the resolution of the story and Morgan’s decision to confront The Reclaimer.
  + Examine the moral choices made by Morgan and the sacrifice of Aspen.
* **Discussion Questions**:
  + How does Morgan’s character change from the beginning to the end of the book?
  + Why is Aspen’s sacrifice significant? What does it mean for the overall story?
  + If you were in Morgan’s place, would you have made the same decisions? Why or why not?
* **Creative Writing Activity**:
  + Write an alternate ending to the book. How might the story change if Morgan had chosen a different path or if The Reclaimer had won?

**Week 5: The Epilogue & Closure**

* **Reading Focus**:
  + Analyze the final twist: Morgan becoming the new Reclaimer.
  + Discuss themes of cycles, memory, and the supernatural.
* **Discussion Questions**:
  + What does the epilogue suggest about the nature of the curse?
  + How does the idea of being forgotten resonate with the students’ own lives or society in general?
  + Do you think Morgan can escape the cycle, or is she truly bound to the curse forever?
* **Creative Group Project**:
  + Create a group diorama of the cemetery, including key locations such as the gravestones, the archway, and The Reclaimer’s lair. Students should work together to identify important scenes and recreate them.

**Week 6: Culminating Activities**

* **Final Assessment**:
  + Have students present their favorite scene from the book and explain why they found it important.
  + They should also connect this scene to one of the major themes of the book (memory, identity, or sacrifice).
* **Creative Writing Activity**:
  + Write a letter from The Reclaimer’s perspective. Why does it do what it does? How does it feel about being The Reclaimer?

**Extension Activities**

**1. Research Project: Forgotten Histories**

* Students will research real-life forgotten places or people, such as ghost towns, unmarked graves, or historical figures who have been forgotten over time.
* They will create a presentation explaining the connection between these forgotten histories and the themes in *The Cemetery of Forgotten Names*.

**2. Art Activity: Designing a Book Cover**

* Have students design their own book cover for *The Cemetery of Forgotten Names*. They should think about the themes of the story and how to visually represent the supernatural elements.

**3. Critical Thinking Challenge: The Curse Cycle**

* Students will debate whether Morgan’s fate is truly sealed or if she has the ability to break the curse. They must use evidence from the text to support their argument.

**Resources for Teachers and Librarians**

**Vocabulary and Literary Terms:**

1. Foreshadowing
2. Gothic literature
3. Supernatural suspense
4. Symbolism
5. Cliffhanger

**Thematic Exploration:**

* **Identity and Memory**: How do memories define who we are? What happens when our identity is erased?
* **Sacrifice and Friendship**: Discuss how the themes of sacrifice and friendship are explored through Morgan’s and Aspen’s relationship.

**Additional Resources Available on the Companion Website:**

* **Fun Facts** about cemeteries and forgotten places.
* **Puzzles and Brain Teasers**: Students can solve riddles inspired by the book.
* **Interactive Quizzes**: Test comprehension with multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

This curriculum guide is designed to foster a deeper understanding of the book’s themes while engaging students in a creative and critical exploration of *The Cemetery of Forgotten Names*. It encourages not only literacy skills but also empathy, teamwork, and creative expression.