**Curriculum Guide for Educators and Librarians: The Mask of Memories**

**The Haunted Chronicles**

**Grade Level:** 4th-7th

**Subject Areas:** Language Arts, Critical Thinking, Creative Writing
**Duration:** 3-4 weeks (flexible for longer projects)

**Curriculum Overview**

This curriculum guide focuses on teaching reading comprehension, literary analysis, creative writing, and critical thinking skills through engaging activities related to *The Haunted Chronicles: The Mask of Memories*. The story’s supernatural and mystery elements will spark curiosity and excitement, fostering active reading and discussion.

**Objectives**

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Analyze themes of memory, identity, and decision-making in literature.
2. Identify literary devices such as foreshadowing, symbolism, and mood.
3. Engage in creative writing exercises inspired by the plot.
4. Develop critical thinking through puzzles and escape-room-inspired activities.
5. Understand how setting and plot elements create suspense in storytelling.

**Week 1: Introduction and Literary Devices**

**Day 1: Introduction to the Book**

* **Activity:** Introduce *The Mask of Memories* by discussing the core concepts of supernatural fiction and mystery. Show the book cover and ask students to predict the genre and plot based on the cover design and title.
* **Discussion:** What makes a good mystery? What do we expect from supernatural stories?
* **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1 (*The Invitation*)

**Day 2: Literary Devices – Foreshadowing and Mood**

* **Mini-Lesson:** Define foreshadowing and mood in literature. Provide examples from Chapter 1 where the eerie atmosphere is set up, such as the blood-red moon and mysterious invitation.
* **Activity:** In pairs, students identify instances of foreshadowing in Chapter 1 and predict what might happen later in the story.
* **Homework:** Read Chapter 2 (*The Masquerade*) and write a brief response about the mood in the ballroom scene.

**Day 3: Symbolism**

* **Mini-Lesson:** Discuss symbolism, focusing on the masks in *The Mask of Memories*. What might the masks symbolize?
* **Activity:** In small groups, students design their own symbolic mask and write a short explanation of what their mask represents (e.g., bravery, fear, memory).
* **Homework:** Read Chapter 3 (*The Forgotten*) and note any new symbols introduced in the chapter.

**Week 2: Plot Development and Critical Thinking**

**Day 1: Plot Structure**

* **Mini-Lesson:** Teach students about plot structure (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution).
* **Activity:** In pairs, students create a plot map, placing the events of Chapters 1-3 on the map and predicting where the story’s climax might occur.
* **Homework:** Read Chapter 4 (*The Mansion’s Curse*). Write a paragraph about how the plot is building tension.

**Day 2: Puzzles and Problem Solving**

* **Activity:** Escape Room Challenge (can be done in groups or individually). Create a set of puzzles related to the plot and setting of the mansion. For example:
	+ **Puzzle 1:** Decoding a hidden message from the invitation.
	+ **Puzzle 2:** A memory match game that ties into the book’s theme of lost memories.
	+ **Puzzle 3:** A logic puzzle to help Elara navigate the mansion’s maze of rooms.
* **Homework:** Read Chapter 5 (*The Maze of Memories*). Reflect on how Elara solves problems and escapes danger.

**Day 3: Mid-Unit Discussion**

* **Discussion:** How does the setting (the mansion) create suspense? What role does memory play in the characters’ actions?
* **Activity:** Students write journal entries from Elara’s perspective, focusing on how she feels as she faces the mansion’s traps and challenges.
* **Homework:** Read Chapter 6 (*The Timeless Host*) and write a short reflection on the mystery surrounding the host.

**Week 3: Themes and Creative Writing**

**Day 1: Themes of Identity and Memory**

* **Mini-Lesson:** Explore the themes of identity and memory in the book. How does Elara struggle with losing her memories? Why is identity important to the story?
* **Discussion:** Ask students if they have ever forgotten something important. How did it make them feel?
* **Activity:** Write a short story where a character faces a challenge involving lost or hidden memories.
* **Homework:** Read Chapter 7 (*The Unmasking*) and think about how the masks are connected to the characters’ identities.

**Day 2: Creative Writing – Alternative Ending**

* **Activity:** Students rewrite the ending of *The Mask of Memories*. What if Elara made a different choice? How would the story change?
* **Share:** Allow students to share their alternative endings with the class.
* **Homework:** Finish reading the book (Chapters 8-9 and Epilogue). Write a reflection on Elara’s final decision and its consequences.

**Day 3: Final Project – Create Your Own Supernatural Mystery**

* **Activity:** Students brainstorm and outline their own supernatural mystery inspired by *The Mask of Memories*. They should include:
	+ A mysterious setting (e.g., a haunted house, an abandoned ship)
	+ A central object (e.g., a cursed artifact, a magical mirror)
	+ A decision that changes the protagonist’s fate
* **Homework:** Begin drafting the story. Complete a rough draft for the next class.

**Week 4: Wrap-Up and Presentations**

**Day 1: Presentations**

* **Activity:** Students present their supernatural mystery stories. Encourage creativity and thoughtful use of mystery and suspense elements.
* **Class Discussion:** What made each story mysterious? How did the authors create suspense?

**Day 2: Final Reflection**

* **Activity:** Students write a final reflection on what they learned from *The Mask of Memories*. What literary devices stood out? How did the theme of memory affect their understanding of the characters?
* **Class Wrap-Up:** Review the book’s key themes, plot points, and literary techniques.

**Extension Activities**

1. **Film Adaptation Project:** Students create storyboards for a film adaptation of *The Mask of Memories*. Focus on key scenes that build suspense and mystery.
2. **Group Research Project:** Research real-life legends about haunted places or cursed objects. Present findings to the class and compare them to the mansion in *The Mask of Memories*.
3. **Creative Drama:** Students act out scenes from the book, using props and masks to represent different characters. Focus on how masks conceal identity and affect the plot.

**Supplementary Materials (Available on Companion Website)**

* Fun fact guide about the origins of masquerades and haunted legends.
* Downloadable escape room puzzles and brain teasers.
* Creative writing templates for students to build their own supernatural stories.
* Classroom discussion questions and comprehension quizzes.
* Activities for drawing/designing masks with symbolic meaning.

**Assessment**

Students could be assessed on:

1. **Participation in discussions and group activities**
2. **Completion of creative writing assignments**
3. **Understanding of literary devices (through quizzes and written responses)**
4. **Final project presentation of their own supernatural mystery story**