**Curriculum Guide for Educators and Librarians: The Identity Vault**

***The Haunted Chronicles***

**Overview**

*The Identity Vault* is a gripping supernatural mystery that encourages critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and emotional engagement with complex themes such as individuality, identity, and conformity. This guide is designed to support educators and librarians in facilitating meaningful discussions and activities for readers aged 9-13. The guide includes separate activities for educators and librarians, tailored to their unique roles in fostering a love for reading and learning.

**Learning Objectives**

* Analyze themes of individuality, conformity, and self-identity.
* Develop critical thinking skills by examining the moral dilemmas faced by characters.
* Enhance creativity through writing, art, and role-play activities.
* Foster collaboration and problem-solving skills in group discussions and projects.
* Strengthen literacy and comprehension through guided reading and analysis.

**For Educators**

**Pre-Reading Activities**

1. **Brainstorming Discussion**
   * Ask students to define individuality and conformity. Discuss examples of both in their own lives.
   * Pose questions: *What makes us who we are? How might losing our memories affect our identity?*
2. **Prediction Exercise**
   * Show the book cover and read the title. Have students predict what the story might be about.
3. **Vocabulary Exploration**
   * Introduce key terms: *Rebirth, Vault, Sentinels, individuality, conformity.*
   * Create a word wall and encourage students to add terms as they read.

**During Reading Activities**

1. **Guided Reading Questions**
   * Chapter 1: *What does Jade’s rebellion against conformity reveal about her character?*
   * Chapter 5: *How does the resistance group challenge the government’s control?*
   * Chapter 9: *What is the significance of Brayden’s memory capsule?*
2. **Character Analysis**
   * Use graphic organizers to track character growth, focusing on Jade’s transformation throughout the story.
3. **Theme Exploration**
   * Assign small groups to analyze themes of identity, memory, and control, using specific evidence from the text.

**Post-Reading Activities**

1. **Debate**
   * Hold a debate: *Was Jade right to destroy the Vault despite the risks? Why or why not?*
2. **Creative Writing**
   * Prompt: *Imagine a world where everyone must choose one memory to keep and one to erase. Write a story about your choices.*
3. **Project: Designing the Vault**
   * Have students create a visual representation of the Vault, using descriptions from the book and their imagination.

**Assessment**

* Short quizzes on plot and character development.
* A reflective essay on how the story’s themes relate to students’ lives.

**For Librarians**

**Program Ideas**

1. **Book Club Discussion**
   * Host a book club focused on *The Identity Vault*. Use the guided reading questions to spark conversation.
2. **Escape Room Challenge**
   * Create an escape room activity where participants solve puzzles to "escape" the Vault. Include clues related to key plot points and characters.
3. **Memory Jar Craft**
   * Have participants decorate jars and write down a favorite memory to "store" inside. Discuss how memories shape who we are.

**Interactive Activities**

1. **Role-Playing Game**
   * Divide participants into "rebels" and "Sentinels." Create a scenario where the rebels must infiltrate the Vault and free the memories.
2. **Story Mapping**
   * Provide a large map outline of the Vault. As the story progresses, mark significant locations and events.

**Literacy Promotion**

1. **Themed Reading Display**
   * Create a library display featuring books about identity, memory, and dystopian worlds. Include *The Identity Vault* as the centerpiece.
2. **Author Event**
   * Host a virtual or in-person talk with Stacey Bottone to discuss her writing process and themes in *The Identity Vault*.

**Collaboration with Schools**

* Partner with local educators to align book club discussions with classroom activities.
* Provide educators with supplemental materials, such as discussion guides and activity kits.

**Cross-Curricular Connections**

* **Social Studies**: Discuss parallels between the society in *The Identity Vault* and historical or contemporary examples of conformity and control.
* **Art**: Design propaganda posters for or against the Rebirth program.
* **STEM**: Explore the ethics of memory manipulation and the science behind memory storage.

**Resources**

* Visit [www.thehauntedchronicle.com](http://www.thehauntedchronicle.com) for additional activities, puzzles, and educational resources.