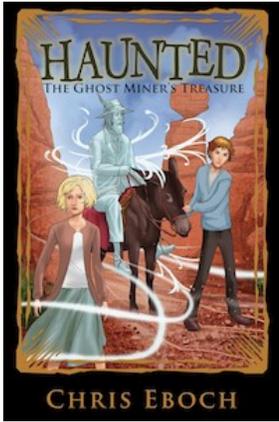


The Ghost Miner's Treasure



Thirteen-year-old Jon and his eleven-year-old sister, Tania, are typical kids – except that Tania can communicate with ghosts. Their mom and stepdad are producers of a ghost-hunter reality television show, but they don't know about Tania's gift, and Tania wants to keep it that way.

Jon can't see ghosts, but if softhearted Tania wants to help the ghosts, Jon will have to protect her and try to keep them both out of trouble.

Book Summary

The ghost hunter TV show has a new case, in the Superstition Mountains of Arizona! Jon and Tania meet the ghost of an old miner who is still looking for his lost mine. The siblings want to help him move on – but to resolve the problem keeping him here, they'll have to find the mine. And even then, the old ghost may be having too much fun to leave! It's a good thing Tania can see and talk to the ghost. The kids will need his help to survive the rigors of a mule train through the desert. No one else seems to know what to do when faced with dangers such as a flash flood. Then there's the suspicious treasure hunter who wants the gold mine for himself....

“Haunted is a fun read with some thrills and chills and has the added bonus of some genuine, compassionate personalities.”

– *School Library Journal*

As students read this book they should think about family relationships, loyalty, and when to tell the truth.

Book Stats

Grade Level Equivalent: 3-6 **Ages:** 7-11
Genre: Contemporary Fantasy **Pages:** 155
Themes: honesty, helping others, family relationships

About the Author

Chris Eboch writes fiction and nonfiction for all ages, with over thirty published books for children. Learn more at

www.chriseboch.com or [sign up for her newsletter: http://eepurl.com/8MQmX](http://www.chriseboch.com).

The Haunted series features a brother and sister who travel with a ghost hunter TV show. *The Ghost on the Stairs* is set at a Colorado hotel haunted by a ghost bride from the 1880s. *The Riverboat Phantom* features a steamboat pilot still trying to prevent a long-ago disaster. In *The Knight in the Shadows*, a Renaissance French squire protects a sword on display at a New York City museum. These books do not have to be read in order.

Chris has several other books suitable for ages nine and up. *The Eyes of Pharaoh* is an action-packed mystery set in ancient Egypt.

The Genie's Gift draws on the mythology of *1001 Arabian Nights* to take readers on a fantasy adventure.

In *The Well of Sacrifice*, a Mayan girl in ninth-century Guatemala rebels against the High Priest who sacrifices anyone challenging his power.

In *Bandits Peak*, suitable for ages 11+, a teenage boy meets strangers hiding on the mountains and gets drawn into their crimes, until he risks his life to expose them.

Chris also writes for adults under the name Kris Bock.

Teaching *The Ghost Miner's Treasure*

| Common Core Standards | Reading and Literature | Writing | Speaking and Listening | Language |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------|
| Grade 3 | 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6 | 3.1,3.2,3.3 | 3.1 | |
| Grade 4 | 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.6 | 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.5A |
| Grade 5 | 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6 | 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.4 |

Page numbers refer to the print version of the book.

Discussion questions relate to standards SL.3.1, 4.1, 5.1.

During Reading

Character Study (RL 3.3, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3)

A **character trait** is a word that describes a character. A physical or **external trait** describes what the character looks like on the outside, but an **internal trait** focuses on a **character's** personality.

A good reader identifies a character's internal traits by noticing what the character does, says, and thinks. As your students read, have them keep track of how Jon and Tania each demonstrate their traits throughout the book (Resource 1). They can then **Prove a Trait** (Resource 2) by finding a trait that is demonstrated in more than one way by the character.

Chapter 1:

Discussion: Tania wants to keep her gift of seeing ghosts a secret. What are her reasons? Are these good or bad reasons?

What are the dangers in keeping secrets? Should some secrets be kept? Why or why not?

On page 4, Jon says: It was hard to know what to believe. Sometimes I wished I could just believe the things I wanted to believe and not worry about it. But life is more complicated than that.

Discussion: Is anything wrong with simply believing what you would like to believe? Why or why not?

Bruce is superstitious. Jon is trying not to be. Superstition is defined as the belief that magic or other supernatural powers will cause things to happen. This belief is not based on logic or scientific knowledge.

Critical Thinking: Are there advantages to superstition? Are there disadvantages? How can you tell when a belief is based on superstition rather than facts?

In *The Ghost Miner's Treasure*, the ghost is trying to find his gold mine. History has many examples of lost mines. You can also find many stories about buried treasures. Sometimes the people who buried the treasure could not find it again. In other cases, those people died and no one else has been able to find the treasure. Even maps or stories describing where the treasure is do not always help.

Discussion: Why might it be hard to find a buried treasure?

Activity: Divide into two or more groups. Each group hides a "treasure," in the classroom, another room, or outside. They make a map to the treasure. The map should be designed to help that group find their own treasure again. In other words, it is a reminder to someone who already knows where the treasure is buried – not a guide for a stranger. Then the two groups exchange maps. Have each group try to find the treasure the other group hid.

Discussion: Was it easy or hard to find the treasure based on the other group's map? Why?

Chapter 2:

A metaphor compares two things. A simile is a type of metaphor that uses the words *like* or *as*. On page 6, Jon comments: Tania scowled. She looks like a fierce kitten when she does that. ("Tania scowled. She was a fierce kitten" would be a metaphor but not a simile.)

What two things are compared in the simile above?

What image does the simile convey?

Come up with a simile or metaphor for someone who is smiling or frowning.

L 4.5.A, 5.4

On page 8, Jon suggests that Bruce might do "something crazy" in order to improve the TV show's ratings.

Discussion: Why might a "reality" TV show include fake material?

Chapter 3:

On page 11, Jon says, "Every time we deal with one of these ghosts, something terrible happens. Like Tania gets possessed, and I have to deal with it. After the last one, I caught her in a weak moment and made her promise not to let a ghost take over her body again. But I knew just how long that promise would last—until she thought she had a good reason for breaking it."

Critical Thinking: Why do people break promises? Are there any good reasons for breaking a promise?

Tania can see ghosts but Jon cannot.

Writing Project: Would you want to see ghosts if they exist? How would you feel if a friend or family member could see them, and you could not? Include specific reasons to support your opinion.

W.3.1, 4.1, 5.1; W 3.2, 4.2, 5.2

Chapter 6:

The ghost moves a photo. Bruce and Maggie react differently to this. How do they each react? How does that contribute to the sequence of events in the story?

RL 3.3, 4.3, 5.3

Discussion: How do their reactions show differences between Bruce and Maggie?

Whose response makes more sense? Why?

RL 3.3, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3

Chapter 7:

The author of *The Ghost Miner's Treasure* defines rules for ghosts in this fictional world. For example, in chapter 4 we see how touching a ghost is painfully cold. In chapter 7, Jon and Tania discuss when and how ghosts can move around. Also, some people can see ghosts and some cannot.

Writing Project: Plan a ghost story. What will the rules for ghosts be in your story? Why?

W 3.2, 4.2, 5.2

Write your ghost story. Introduce the characters and the situation. Organize a sequence of events. Include dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings. Provide a sense of closure at the end. Draw an illustration for your story.

W 3.3, 4.3, 5.3

Chapter 9:

At the end of the chapter, Jon thinks: I didn't have to be psychic to know that nothing comes easily or without a price.

Discussion: What does he mean by this? Do you think it is true that nothing comes easily or without a price?

Chapter 10:

The ghost hunting team uses a GPS to track their hike. A GPS, or Global Positioning System, makes a map of where the device goes. This can help prevent hikers from getting lost.

Discussion: How can electronic devices help people in the wilderness? Are there disadvantages to depending on electronics?

Chapter 11:

Luke kills a rattlesnake. He says it is a deadly pest. Phil says Luke should not have killed the snake.

Writing Project: Who do you think is right? Write an opinion essay. Include at least three specific reasons to support your opinion.

W.3.1, 4.1, 5.1

This scene shows differences between Luke and Phil. What does their behavior show about them?
RL 3.3, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3

On page 53, Phil describes why finding gold is difficult. What reasons does he give?
RL 3.1, 4.1, 5.1

Discussion: Why do you think people still hunt for gold?

Chapter 18:

On page 83, Jon wonders: Why does everyone seem to figure out that Tania can see ghosts except the people we see all the time? Maybe people really do see only what they want to see.

Discussion: Is it true that some people only see what they want to see? What are some examples? Why might someone not realize what a friend or family member is going through?

Does Jon understand Tania better than other people do? How can you tell if his view of her is accurate or not?
RL 3.6, 4.6, 5.6

Chapter 19:

The question of secrets comes up again. Jon wonders if he is doing the right thing by hiding the GPS and radio.

Discussion: What are his reasons for doing this? Are they good or bad reasons? How do these compare with Tania's reasons for hiding the fact that she can see ghosts?
RL 3.1, 4.1, 5.1; RL 3.3, 4.3, 5.3

Chapter 20:

Jon describes the scene on page 91: The pinnacle shimmered like a mirage through the waves of heat. It wasn't far away, but running in full sun, after our long hike, felt like slogging through a swamp.

What are the similes in that description? How do they convey what Jon is feeling?

L 4.5.A, 5.4

Come up with your own simile or metaphor for someone doing a physical activity.

Chapter 21:

On page 99, after entering the mine shaft, Jon does the following: I turned away from the light and closed my eyes for a few seconds, trying to help my eyes adjust. With my eyes closed, all the sounds seemed to get louder.

Activity: Close your eyes. What do you hear? Do you notice sounds more with your eyes closed? Why might this be so?

Group activity: Have one blindfolded child sit on a chair with other children in a circle around him or her. The other children take turns making a noise, such as clapping hands. The blindfolded child tries to point in the direction of the sound. Or have all the children cover their eyes, and see if they can identify different sounds.

Chapter 23:

On page 108, Jon describes trying to climb out of the mine shaft in detail.

Writing Activity: Choose a physical activity you know well. It might be a sport, a chore, or a playground game. Write a description of the activity. Use lots of specific details so a reader will be able to see the scene. (The teacher can also choose a specific activity, as long as it is one all the children have done.)

W 3.3, 4.3, 5.3

Chapter 25:

On page 116, Jon comments: I couldn't move anyway; my legs felt like water.

He also says: Tania against Luke would be like a fly battling a buffalo.

What do these similes mean?

L 4.5.A, 5.4

Chapter 29:

Jon and Tania's original goal was to help the old miner move on from this life. Yet Mr. Waltz chooses to stay around for a while longer.

Discussion: Did Tania and Jon fail? Are there times when it is good that your plans don't work out the way you wanted?

What is the message or moral of the story? How is it conveyed through the events of the text?

RL 3.2, 4.2, 5.2

After Reading

Discussions: Siblings do not always get along. What are some reasons siblings might get along well? What are some reasons they might not get along? Is it important that siblings like each other? Why or why not?

Jon is protective of Tania. Why is he? Should he be?

What was the point of view of the story? How did this narration influence how events were described?
RL.3.6, 4.6, 5.6

Suggestions?

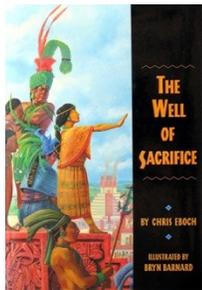
If you have any suggestions for activities that could be added, or if you have tried something with your class that you'd like to share, contact the author at chriseboch@members.authorsguild.net. You can also download lesson plans for some of the author's other books at her website, on the "for teachers" page: <http://www.chriseboch.com/events.htm>. Lesson plans are available for *The Well of Sacrifice* and *The Eyes of Pharaoh*. This page also has information about school visits by the author.



The Ghost Miner's Treasure is published by Spellbound River Press.

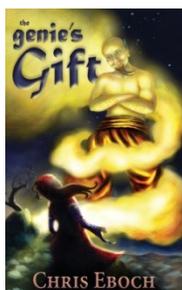
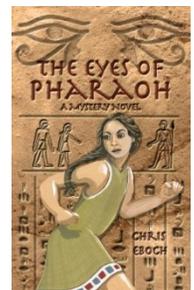
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Chris Eboch has several other books suitable for ages nine and up. Learn more at www.chriseboch.com or [sign up for her newsletter: http://eepurl.com/8MQmX](http://eepurl.com/8MQmX)



In *The Well of Sacrifice*, a Mayan girl in ninth-century Guatemala rebels against the High Priest who sacrifices anyone challenging his power. *Kirkus Reviews* called *The Well of Sacrifice*, "[An] engrossing first novel.... Eboch crafts an exciting narrative with a richly textured depiction of ancient Mayan society.... The novel shines not only for a faithful recreation of an unfamiliar, ancient world, but also for the introduction of a brave, likable and determined heroine."

The Eyes of Pharaoh, set in Egypt in 1177 BC, brings an ancient world to life. When Reya hints that Egypt is in danger from foreign nomads, Seshta and Horus don't take him seriously. How could anyone challenge Egypt? Then Reya disappears. To save their friend, Seshta and Horus spy on merchants, soldiers, and royalty, and start to suspect even The Eyes of Pharaoh, the powerful head of the secret police. Will Seshta and Horus escape the traps set for them, rescue Reya, and stop the plot against Egypt in time?



The Genie's Gift is a lighthearted action novel set in the fifteenth-century Middle East, drawing on the mythology of *1001 Arabian Nights*. Shy and timid Anise determines to find the Genie Shakayak and claim the Gift of Sweet Speech. But the way is barred by a series of challenges, both ordinary and magical. How will Anise get past a vicious she-ghoul, a sorceress who turns people to stone, and mysterious sea monsters, when she can't even speak in front of strangers?

Chris also writes for adults under the name [Kris Bock](#).

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Resource 1

Record of Internal Character Traits

| Page # | What the character did/said/thought | What it means |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| p. 1 | Jon is worried about the fortuneteller's words, but then he says he doesn't believe in fortunetellers. | This makes me think that Jon is <u>suspicious</u> because he questions whether the fortuneteller is right or not. |
| p. 2 | Jon says he has to keep Tania from getting into too much trouble and keep the grown-ups from figuring out what they were doing. | This makes me think that Jon is <u>protective</u> because he looks after his little sister. |
| | | This makes me think |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Name: _____ Date: _____

Record of _____'s Internal Character Traits

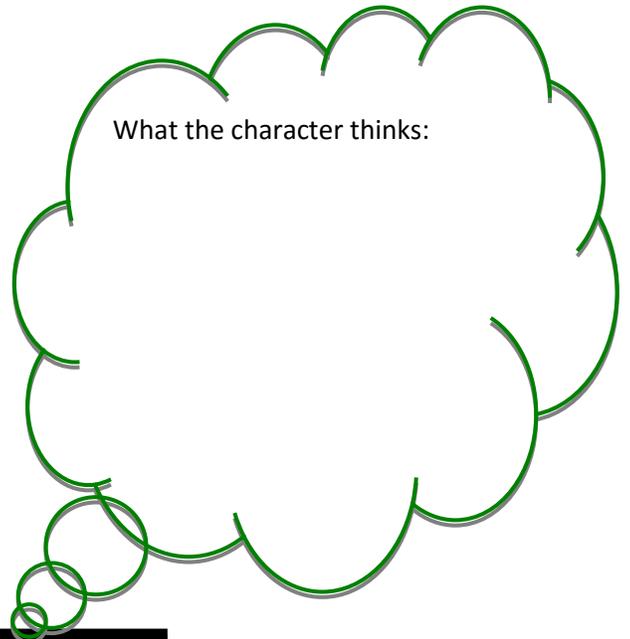
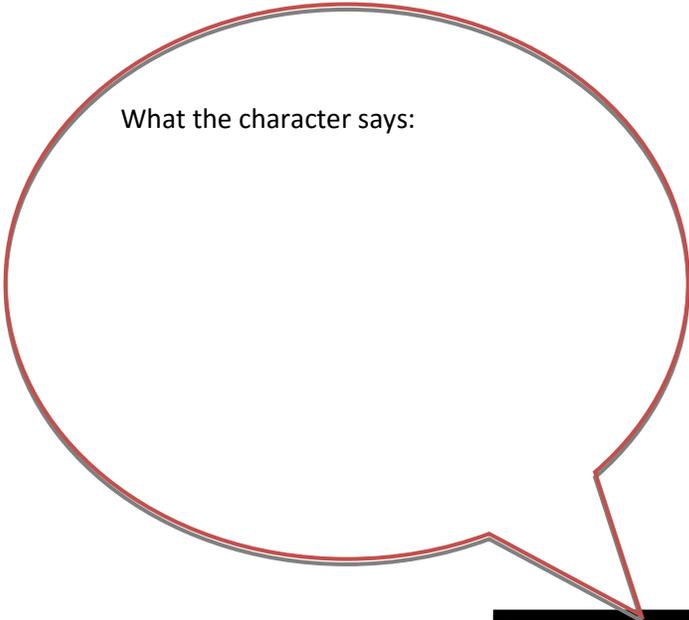
| Page # | What the character did/said/thought | What it means |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | This makes me think |
| | | |
| | | |
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| | | |
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Name: _____

Date: _____

Resource 2

Prove A Trait



Character Trait

A rectangular box with a thick black border. Inside, there is a horizontal blue line followed by a blank space for writing.