

***The Graveyard Book* Study Guide- Grade 8**
by Neil Gaiman

Use this study guide to help you better understand the book. As you read each chapter, answer the following questions. Please do this by hand or on looseleaf. Keep your work neatly stored in a folder. Papers that are badly crumpled will not be accepted in September.

Chapter 1 Questions-

Read to find out how Nobody ended up in the graveyard.

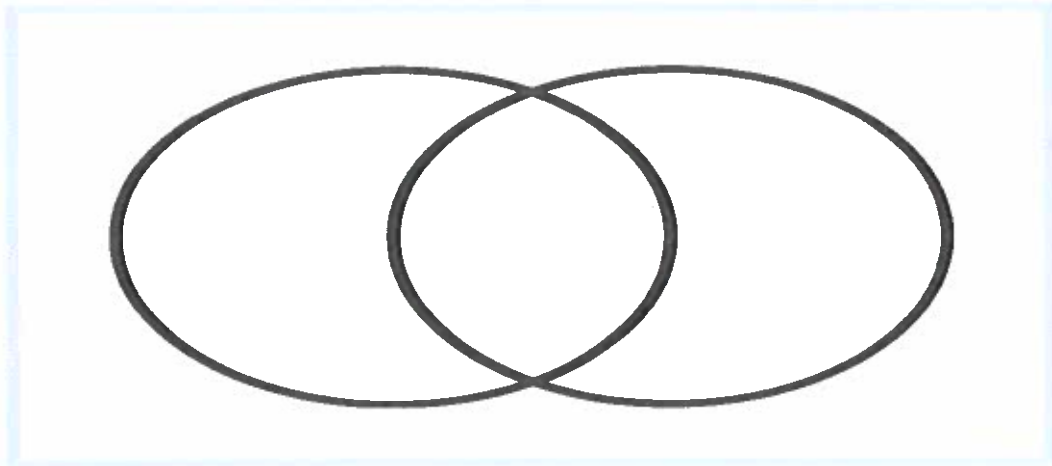
1. Why did the man Jack visit the tall house on the side of the hill? How did he track his prey?
2. How did the baby manage to escape the fate of his family?
3. Why did Mistress Owens feel an obligation to protect the baby? How did she and the mysterious stranger named Silas save him?
4. How did the baby get his name? How did Mr. and Mrs. Owens and Silas propose to raise him?
5. Who was the Lady on the Grey? How did she help settle the dispute in the library?
6. Why did Silas pay a visit to the tall house on the side of the hill? How did he react to his discovery?

Chapter 2 Questions-

Read to find out about Bod's new friend.

1. Why was Bod confined to the graveyard?
2. How did Bod learn to read and write even though he didn't attend school?
3. How did Scarlett and Bod become friends? Why were Scarlett's parents convinced that Bod must be an imaginary friend?
4. Why did Bod visit Caius Pompeius? What did he learn about the oldest inhabitant of the graveyard?
5. What discoveries did Bod and Scarlett make in the barrow?
6. Who was the Sleer? How and what did it guard and protect?
7. Why was Silas doubtful that Bod would ever see Scarlett again? What parting thought did Scarlett leave with Bod?

Activity: Compare Bod and Scarlett in a Venn diagram such as the one below.



Chapter 3 Questions-

Read to find out about the Hounds of God.

1. Why did Silas ask Miss Lupescu to serve as Bod’s temporary guardian? How did Bod feel about this arrangement?
2. What is a ghoul-gate and how could you spot one in a graveyard? Why was Bod willing to pass through the gate?
3. How did the ghouls' behavior towards Bod change once he entered their kingdom?
4. Why did Bod feel that he was between “the devil and the deep-blue sea” as he was being carried in Victor Hugo’s sack?
5. How did Miss Lupescu’s lessons prove useful to Bod?
6. What surprising discovery did Bod make about Miss Lupescu? How did she fulfil her mission?

Activity: When Miss Lupescu began to teach Bod, she gave him a pretext by asking him to name the different kinds of people. Noting his ignorance on this topic, she observed that he had a lot to learn. Show what you know by classifying the important characters you have met in the first three chapters into several of Miss Lupescu’s categories. Some names are done for you as an example.

Living	Dead	Ghouls	Hounds of God	Solitary Types
Jack	Mrs. Owens			

Chapter 4 Questions-

Read to find out what happened when Bod ventured out into the real world.

1. Why had Bod been warned to stay away from the far corner of the graveyard?
2. Why was Mr. Pennyworth disappointed in Bod's progress?
3. Why had Liza Hempstock's neighbors determined that she was a witch? How did Liza get her revenge?
4. Why did Bod return to the barrow? How did he plan to use one of the treasures guarded by the Sleer?
5. How did Bod display courage in the face of the Sleer?
6. Why did Abanazer Bolger believe that Bod had presented him with two kinds of treasure?
7. Why did Abanazer Bolger invite Bod into the back room for tea and a chat?
8. Why did Liza thank Bod for doing the first nice thing in 500 years?
9. How did Liza help Bod escape from the locked room? How did Bod help himself?
10. How did Silas, the Sleer, and Mr. Owens each react when Bod returned to the graveyard?

Chapter 5 Questions-

Read to find out why all the dead left the graveyard on the night the winter blossoms bloomed.

1. Why did Mistress Owen push Bod out into the cold?
2. How did the living prepare to dance the Macabray?
3. Why did Bod suddenly feel a sense of panic in the graveyard? What helped him overcome his fears?
4. What surprising event happened at the stroke of midnight?
5. How did Bod feel as he danced? How did these feelings change after the dance with the lady in the cobweb dress?
6. How did the inhabitants of the graveyard respond to Bod's questions after the dance?
7. Why did the silver-haired man at the dinner criticize the man Jack?
8. What do you think Mother Slaughter meant when she said, "Things blossom in their time. They bud and bloom, blossom and fade. Everything in it's time."?

Chapter 6 Questions-

Read to find out what happened when Bod left the security of the graveyard to go to school.

1. Why did Bod have an altercation with one of the dead inhabitants of the graveyard?

2. Why did Silas believe that Bod should stay in the graveyard? How did Bod convince Silas that he should be allowed to attend school?
3. Why was Bod a forgettable and easily student at first?
4. How did Bod become noticed at school?
5. What techniques of the dead did Bod use to try and convince Mo and Nick to change their behavior? How effective were they?
6. Why did Bod consider running away? How did Liza convince Bod to change his mind?
7. Why did the police want to take Bod to the station house?
8. How did Bod manage to escape from the police?
9. Why did Bod return to Old Town school one last time?
10. What compromise did Bod and Silas reach that could expose Bod to future dangers?

Chapter 7 Questions-

Read to find out what happened when Bod and the man Jack met again.

1. Why did Mrs. Owens fear for Bod?
2. Why was Scarlett's mother upset when she learned how her daughter met Mr. Frost?
3. Why had Scarlett experienced a feeling of *deja vu* when she was in the graveyard?

4. How did Scarlett become reacquainted with Bod? What unusual powers did Scarlett seem to possess?
5. At the age of fourteen, what bothered Bod the most about life among the dead?
6. Why did Scarlett visit the public library? What did she learn?
7. What surprising discovery did Bod make about Mr. Frost?
8. Why did the Jack of All Trades want to kill Bod?
9. How had Silas, Miss Lupescu, and other members of the Honour Guard protected Bod from the Jacks?
10. How did Bod save himself from the remaining five Jacks?
11. Why did Silas take away some of the memories of Scarlett and her mother?
12. Why was the triumph over the Jacks a bittersweet experience for Bod?

Literary Element- The climax in a novel is the moment of greatest interest or excitement. It is the point at which interest in the outcome is the highest. What do you think is the climax of *The Graveyard Book*?

Graphic Organizer Activity:

In Chapter Seven, we learn more about the members and the function of the Honour Guard. Do some research to find out more about vampires, werewolves, Assyrian mummies, and Islamic Ifrits. Then combine this information with that found in *The Graveyard Book* to help you complete this classification chart.

Name of Character	Type of Being	Powers and Characteristics
Silas		
Miss Lupescu		
Kandar		
Haroun		

Chapter 8 Questions-

Read to find out what happened to Bod now that the Jacks of All Trades are gone.

1. How did Bod's experiences in the graveyard gradually begin to change?
2. How did Mother Slaughter's recollection of Bod's arrival in the graveyard differ from the actual events?
3. Why did Bod's adoptive parents feel ill at ease when they met Bod at their tomb?
4. Why did Silar feel that Bod was ready for a change?

5. How did Bod's visits with Alanso Jones help prepare him for the next chapter of his life?

6. How did Bod feel as he walked through the graveyard gate one last time?

***Note:** Be prepared to discuss religious parallels with the story for your test in September. Do some research on this and take notes. We will discuss this in the fall.

****Also,** consider how the theme here might be one of an epic battle between good and evil. Who (or which characters) represent the good here? Who represent the bad? What is the battle for? How is the battle played out? Take some notes on this.

