



A Educator's Guide for

JAMIE AND THE HALF-WOLVES

written by Charlotte Kieft
illustrated by Soda Design



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About the book:

It's a full moon when Jamie's family starts behaving ... well, unusually. Jamie, as usual, is left behind at home while his parents and sister take off for their midnight romp. Being the only normal one in the family is so unfair. But then one morning Jamie wakes to find something has gone wrong and only he can help ... if he can find anyone who will believe his strange, blood-curdling story.

About the author:

Charlotte Kieft is a writer with a passion for fantastical tales and historical fiction. Besides writing, she loves travel, cycling, and scuba diving – or combining all three (although it's hard to cycle underwater). She lives by the sea in New Zealand with her husband and two small dogs.



Pre-Reading Discussion Questions:

- Tell everything you know about werewolves.
- Observe the book's front cover. Identify graphic elements that support your knowledge of werewolves.
- Discuss the significance of the full moon on the cover.
- Determine how the font used in the cover art serves to enhance the story.
- Read the blurb printed on the back cover. List the clues given about Jamie's character. Identify his problem. Predict how his problem will be solved.
- Consider the title—JAMIE AND THE HALF-WOLVES. Based on your impression of the cover art the title, and blurb make a prediction. What do you think this story is going to be about?

Post-Reading Discussion Questions:

Madison pulled a face at him. “It’s not fun. You know what Mum says. It’s a disability. A curse” (pg. 5).

- A word *curse* is defined as evil, a burden, or a jinx. Discuss how being a werewolf could be considered to be a curse.
- The word *disability* means a restriction, a disadvantage, or a weakness. Tell how being a werewolf might cause a person to become disabled.
- In your opinion, which term best defines what the experience of being a werewolf would be. Explain your answer.

Of course, Jamie was the first one up the next morning too. He looked around the kitchen. It was the usual disaster zone that came with a full moon. But something felt different... wrong (pg. 9).

- It seems that every morning after a full moon would be troublesome for Jamie. Discuss what made this particular morning after different than all of the others.
- If Jamie weren't human, do you think he would've sensed that there was a serious

problem? Explain your answer.

She cleared her throat. “You haven’t formally invited me in yet. Without an invitation I can’t cross the threshold” (pg. 17).

- Discuss the significance of Dr. Ramelstein's request. Tell why she could not or would not assist Jamie until she was formally invited to do so.
- Consider Dr. Ramelstein's character. Predict why she is able to diagnose a cure for Jamie's family members.

Madison frowned. “Maybe we should try one more full moon with you locked in your room – just in case” (pg. 21)?

- Examine Madison's comment. Explain why she is concerned about Jamie's well-being.
- Discuss how Jamie's actions lifted the curse and disability of being a werewolf for his family members, and for himself.

Review the Pre-Reading Discussion questions. Discuss your story line predictions based on the cover art, title, and blurb. Were you correct?

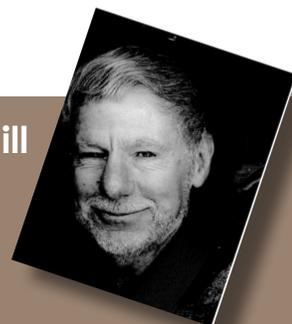
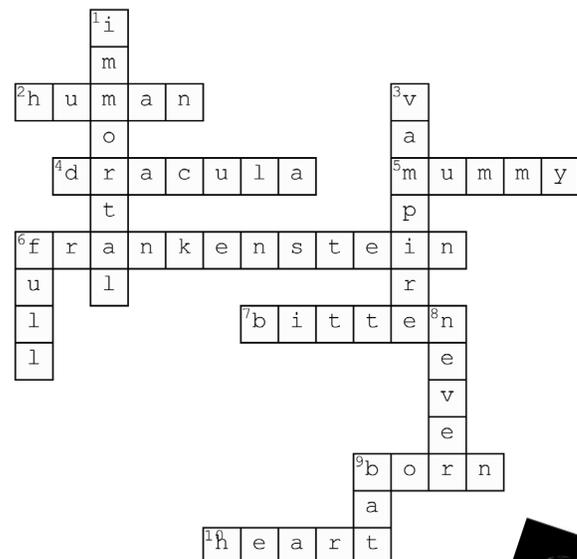
Extension Activities:

~ Research the legend of the werewolf. Consider aspects of **JAMIE AND THE HALF-WOLVES** that correspond to the information gathered in your research. In a short essay, identify how the author used actual werewolf folklore to enhance details of the story.



~ Access a few videos depicting the transformation of werewolves from the human to non-human state. Note the change in the physical and temperament of the creatures. Write a short narrative from Jamie's point of view describing his emotional reaction to witnessing the terrifying alterations his family members experience at the rise of the full moon.

Vocabulary Crossword Answers:

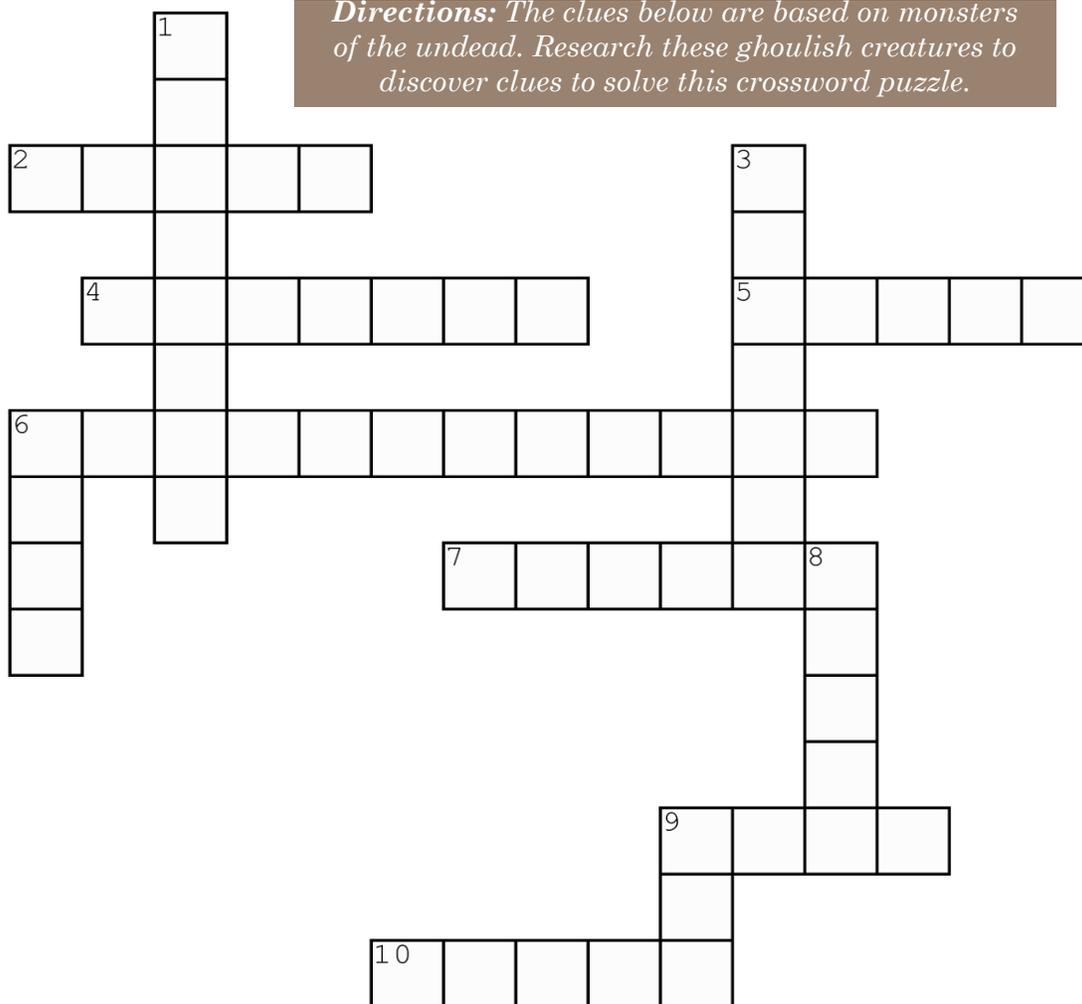


A free audio book read by YA author David Hill is available at www.giltedgepublishing.co.nz.

Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle

"Any other time you'd complain!" he protested. "But when it's a full moon, everything changes" (pg. 7).

Directions: The clues below are based on monsters of the undead. Research these ghoulish creatures to discover clues to solve this crossword puzzle.



Across

2. If the name werewolf, the term 'were' means _____
4. The vampire Count
5. At one time entombed, this bandaged monster silently stalks its human prey
6. A creature created by a science experiment gone wrong
7. A person will become a werewolf if _____ by one
9. It is possible for a person to be _____ a werewolf
10. A wound to the _____ is one way to kill a werewolf

Down

1. Werewolves can live forever because they are _____
3. The undead who live off of human blood
6. Werewolves turn on a _____ moon
8. The curse of the werewolf can _____ be broken
9. Nocturnal flying animal associated with vampires

