About this guide:
This education guide contains classroom discussion questions and extension activities to help teachers, librarians and parents help their students and children to consider and expand on the learning themes presented in The Cyclops Witch and the Heebie-Jeebies. This guide will help students meet several of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts.
The bravest witch in Hazy Dell comes face-to-face with the one thing in the world that gives her the heebie-jeebies—and it’s not what you’re expecting. This rollicking, beautifully illustrated picture book delivers a timely lesson of fear and misunderstanding, and the ways in which misguided bigotries can get in the way of friendship and fulfillment—with plenty of fun to have along the way.

LEARNING THEMES

- Prejudice
- Fear
- Compassion
- Empathy

About the author:

Kyle Sullivan is a writer and creative director based in Portland, OR. He holds an MA in English Literature from the University of British Columbia, and a BA in Creative Writing from the University of Washington. His works for children include the board book *Get Dressed, Sasquatch!*, and the middle-grade chapter books *Hobgoblin and the Seven Stinkers of Rancidia* (Hazy Fables #1) and *Zombie, Or Not to Be* (Hazy Fables #2).
Discussion Questions

1. At the end of the book, the Cyclops Witch has a very different opinion of children than she does at the beginning of the book. How do the Heebie-Jeebies help to change her mind?

2. At the beginning of the book, the Cyclops Witch demonstrates prejudice against children. Prejudice is “an opinion that is not based on reason or experience.” What does the Cyclops Witch learn about prejudice by the end of the book?

3. On page 38, Latasha the Heebie-Jeebie scout says:

   “While not all fears are bad, some can get out of hand—sometimes we’re just scared because we misunderstand.”

   In what ways can our fears get out of hand? How can misunderstanding, or a lack of understanding, increase our fears?

4. Thinking of Latasha’s words from page 38, what are some things that are okay to be afraid of? What are things that seem scary at first, but aren’t scary actually scary at all?

5. The Heebie-Jeebies display compassion for the monsters they meet, and for the Cyclops Witch. Compassion means to “show concern and care for others.” How do the Heebie-Jeebies show compassion? In what other ways can we show compassion in our lives?
6. When the children arrive at the Cyclops Witch’s door, she immediately runs away. How might the story have changed if she answered the door and talked to the children instead of running?

7. The Cyclops Witch’s best friend is the raven, Lenore. Along with the Heebie-Jeebies, Lenore shows compassion and empathy to the Cyclops Witch. Empathy means “understanding the feelings of another.” How does Lenore show empathy to the Cyclops Witch? What are some ways that we show empathy to each other in our daily lives?

8. The Heebie-Jeebies help others overcome their fears. If you were a Heebie-Jeebies scout, who would you help first? What are they afraid of, and how would you help them overcome their fear?

9. On page 33, Latasha says, “We’re here to help you sort the fake from the true.” In reading the book, what are some of the “true” things? What are some of the “fake” things?

10. How do Heebie-Jeebies earn their sashes and ears? What are some things you do in your life that would help you earn a sash and ears?
The Heebie-Jeebies and the Cyclops Witch end up helping many creatures overcome their fears. For a small group activity, ask the students to choose one of the creatures, and come up with a plan to help them overcome their fear. Their plans must have at least 5 steps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATURE</th>
<th>FEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ice troll</td>
<td>Sunlight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leprechaun</td>
<td>Stage fright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpkinhead</td>
<td>His teenage daughter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winged Monkeys</td>
<td>Water</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. At the beginning of the book, the Cyclops Witch has many false opinions about children. Ask the students to write the Cyclops Witch a letter explaining why her opinions about kids are wrong. Ask them to supply reasons, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also), and end with a conclusion.

As a starting point, here are the Cyclops Witch’s opinions of children from page 16:

They’re so nasty and weird and wild and mean!
“Always dripping in mud—gross and unclean!

They’ll tickle! And roughhouse! And pinch! And bite!
Come on, Cyclops Witch! Let’s put up a fight!”

2. Speaking & Listening

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1
Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

Writing

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.1
Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.
3. There are various points in the story when the Cyclops Witch has a different perspective than the others.

Ask the students to read the following pages out loud, using different voices for the different characters. Ask them to discuss the ways in which the characters have differing perspectives or opinions.

Page 17
Perspectives: The Cyclops Witch / Lenore

Behind a rock she tumbled and trembled with fear.
“Whatever could they want? Why oh why are they here?”

“They seem nice to me,” quoth Lenore with a wink.
“Not funny!” cried the witch. “I really must think.”

The witch puzzled and pondered a way out of her bind.
Then suddenly, like thunder, a plan rolled through her mind.

Page 18
Perspectives: The Cyclops Witch / the Heebie-Jeebies

She popped out from the rock with a crazy yell:
“Follow me—if you dare—into Hazy Dell!”

“Don’t run!” cried the children. “Come back here, please!”
But swiftly, she vanished, into the trees.

Page 38-40
Perspectives: The Cyclops Witch / the Heebie-Jeebies

“While not all fears are bad, some can get out of hand—sometimes we’re just scared because we misunderstand.
You see, your fear of children is not based on facts.
Once you get to know us, you’ll completely relax.”

The witch eyeballed the children with her probing eyeball...
“Well,” she said. “You don’t seem loud or dirty at all.

“And you don’t roughhouse or pinch or tickle or bite...
“Could I have had it all wrong? Could you be all right?
“I can’t believe it. You’re brave, kind, and clever too...
You’re exactly like me! I’m exactly like you!”

Writing
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.6
Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.
4. **Extension Activities**

Using the writing prompt activity sheet included on page 8 of this learning guide, ask the students to write about something that used to make them afraid, but no longer does.

**Writing**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.8
Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

5. Using the drawing activity sheet included on page 9 of this learning guide, ask the students to draw a Heebie-Jeebie’s badge related to the fear that they’ve overcome.

**Writing**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.8
Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

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**MAKE CLASSROOM STORY TIME EVEN MORE ENGAGING**

Download a (free) voice-activated soundscape—including immersive music and special effects—for *The Cyclops Witch and the Heebie-Jeebies* with the (free) Novel Effect app.

[Google Play](#)  [App Store](#)
Mothman used to be afraid of the dark.
Now, with his nightlight and teddy bear, bedtime is fun and relaxing.

In the space below, write about something that used to make you afraid, but doesn’t anymore. How did you overcome your fear?

The CYCLOPS WITCH and the HEEBIE-JEEBIES
Because you have overcome your fear, you have earned a Heebie-Jeebies badge! Use the space below to draw your badge within the circle. Your badge drawing should be related to your fear. (For instance, if you have overcome a fear of sharks, your badge drawing might be of a shark. If you’ve overcome a fear of homework, your badge drawing might be of a stack of papers.)