

# A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

## CLouDBERRY CASTLE by Janey Louise Jones



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### Themes/issues addressed in this book

Ballet, family, friendship, death, overcoming obstacles, determination, school, inheritance, writing

### Book Summary

Katie MacKenzie longs to be a ballerina like her mum. When her family inherit Cloudberry Castle from Dr Campbell, Katie dreams of turning it into the most wonderful ballet school in Scotland, but her family think that selling the castle is the best option available to them. Katie decides to put a business plan together, and with a little help from her friends, she attempts to scare off any would-be purchasers. As Katie explores the castle, she learns that there was more to Dr Campbell than she realised, and eventually through her own determination and ingenuity, she gets her wish.

## BEFORE READING

### Group Activities

- Discussion: what is ballet?
- Discussion: do you like dancing? Why? Why not?
- Discussion: do you know where Perthshire is? Have you ever been?

## AFTER READING (note, contains spoilers!)

### Individual Work

- Write a paragraph on the thoughts and feelings you had when:
  - a) Katie finds out Dr Campbell has died (chapter 5)
  - b) The castle is left to the MacKenzies (chapter 13)
  - c) Katie is chosen to dance the part of Odette (chapter 13)
  - d) Dr Campbell's book is going to be published (chapter 20)
- Think about a time that you were faced with something difficult to do and were determined to succeed. Write two paragraphs about this.
- From the description given on page 8, draw or paint a picture of Cloudberry Castle, but add something extra to your castle, to make it individual. Compare it with your classmates' pictures.
- Find out what the following terms on page 93 mean: demi plié, battement tendu, ronde de jambe à terre, glissade, sauté, arabesque. Which language is this?

### Group Activities

- Class discussion: ballet. Is ballet more for boys or girls? Why? Why not? If you are a boy, would you like to do ballet? If you are a girl, do you think more boys should do ballet? Give reasons for your answers. Can you name any famous male ballet dancers? Who do you think is fitter: a ballet dancer or a football player? Why?
- Class activity: Each group should be allocated a different country. With the aid of the school library or the Internet, they should try to find out about the traditional dance of that country. What is it called? How is it performed? What does it mean? Each group should present their findings to the rest of the class. Perhaps they might find some video footage of the dance being performed?
- Class project: Egypt. Dr Campbell's great love was archaeology and Egypt. Find out all you can about Egypt, its history and legends, and display your project on your classroom walls.
- Class activity: watch Swan Lake – either go to the ballet in your town, if it is being performed, or watch it on dvd. Discuss it afterwards – what did you enjoy? Did it change or reaffirm your feelings towards ballet?

(continued overleaf)

### Kelpies Series Summary

The award-winning Kelpies series is Scotland's favourite collection of children's fiction. Floris Books took over the list in 2001, republishing classic works by authors such as Kathleen Fidler, Mollie Hunter, George Mackay Brown and Allan Campbell McLean. Since then, we have continued to add to the series with a range of highly successful new Scottish novels for children including books by Gill Arbuthnott, Alex Nye, Lari Don, Anne Forbes, Annemarie Allan, Mike Nicholson and Margaret Forrester.

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED

### 5–14 Curriculum (Scotland)

Years: P4–P7

#### Listening:

Listening in Groups  
Listening for Information, including instructions and directions

#### Reading:

Reading for Information  
Reading to Reflect  
Awareness of Genre

#### Talking:

Talking in Groups  
Talking about Texts  
Talking about Experiences, including feelings and opinions

#### Writing:

Functional  
Imaginative

### National Curriculum (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)

Key Stage 2

#### English: Reading

Reading Strategies  
Response to Texts, including analysing and evaluating  
Reading for Information

#### National Literacy Strategy:

Text-Level Reading  
Text-Level Writing  
Vocabulary

# Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean (page numbers of example words in brackets):

amber (63)	bittersweet (169)	frustrated (35)	manuscript (120)	retreat (106)
anguish (98)	bliss (12)	funeral (56)	mission (114)	revolving (27)
appreciated (50)	bobsleigh (84)	gramophone (46)	official (20)	semicircle (22)
archaeology (57)	chandelier (28)	immaculate (157)	parlour (39)	spectacular (22)
aroma (11)	chores (78)	impress (25)	pointe (22)	tetchy (138)
artefacts (168)	conscience (72)	independence (90)	poltergeist (131)	threadbare (16)
assumption (119)	conventional (88)	insanity (87)	predictable (90)	unravel (157)
atmosphere (32)	cygnets (81)	interpret (94)	preoccupied (69)	untimely (157)
auditions (81)	document (87)	legal (57)	reclaim (124)	
awkward (35)	enthusiasm (143)	literary (142)	relied (68)	
banister (74)	footman (39)	manure (127)	responsibility (19)	