

# A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

## SHIVER by Alex Nye

The sequel to *Chill*, winner of a Royal Mail Award for Scottish Children's Books in 2007



www.florisbooks.co.uk

### Themes/issues addressed in this book

Friendship, ghosts, family, plague, history, loneliness

### Book Summary

One year on from the events in *Chill*, the four children are once again delving into the history of Dunadd House in order to solve another ghostly mystery. When Fiona starts to hear mysterious voices and Charles discovers an unsettling presence in his room, they discover that they are not the only youngsters at Dunadd. Eliza and John, two sad and lonely ghost children from Dunadd's dark past, are very unsettled. Samuel and the Morton children learn they died from the plague, and attempt to help the little ghosts find peace. Once again, Alex Nye weaves a plot rich in history and intrigue to create a satisfying and thought provoking read.

## BEFORE READING

### Group Activities

- Discussion: What do you know about the Plague? What caused it? How many people died from it in Scotland?
- Discussion: Do you think ghosts exist? Why? Why not?
- Discussion: What are ancestors? Who are your ancestors?

## AFTER READING

### Individual Work

- Write a paragraph on the thoughts and feelings you had when:
  - a) The word 'Hello' appears on Charles's computer screen (chapter 5)
  - b) You hear a terrified John begging Eliza to 'come away' (chapter 8)
  - c) Sebastian and Samuel get lost in the snow (chapter 15)
  - d) You learn the truth of John and Eliza's fate (chapter 26)
- When Samuel and Sebastian get lost in the snow, there is a real danger that they will contract hypothermia. What is hypothermia? Using the Internet and your library, find out all you can about this condition, how to recognise it, how best to avoid getting it, and how best to help someone who may be suffering from it. Write about three hundred words on your findings.
- Invent a ghost that might live in your house. What is his/her name? What is your ghost's history? How did it come to be in your house? How old is your ghost? What does your ghost look like? Write four paragraphs on your ghost. If you want, you can also draw a picture.

### Group Activities

- Group activity: go to an old, local cemetery and look at the gravestones. Try to find the oldest graves, and look at the names and dates on these graves. When did the occupants die? How old were they when they died? Why do you think there are so many young people buried in very old cemeteries? Write down names and dates and discuss these things when you get back to class.
- Group discussion: Charles the loner. In chapter 5, it states that 'Charles was a loner. He didn't confess his secrets to anyone.' What do you think about this? Do you think it's good to share things? Do you think it's better to keep secrets? Can you think of any occasion where it might be better not to keep secrets?
- Group discussion: Re-read chapter 27. At the end, after the fire, Chris Morton reflects on the importance of family and friends and the loss of Dunadd House. Do you think she is right? Why? Why not?

(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 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. Of these, *Chill* by Alex Nye won a Royal Mail Award in 2007 and *Hox* by Annemarie Allan was nominated for a Royal Mail Award in 2008.

## 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:

abrupt (14)	conflagration (213)	exasperated (27)	inexplicable (34)	philosopher (30)	sceptical (39)
bemused (52)	contaminated (220)	gargoyle (139)	intrigue (24)	pompous (30)	scrupulous (52)
blasé (65)	decrepit (162)	glimmer (88)	mausoleum (135)	prognosis (74)	sluggish (17)
blizzard (142)	discernible (122)	glower (21)	moot (123)	pry (208)	transistor (178)
burnished (24)	doused (60)	hundredfold (97)	nocturnal (93)	quip (65)	unbeknown (189)
claustrophobic (33)	elaborate (56)	impenetrable (81)	offspring (13)	reluctance (11)	void (76)
coax (45)	entail (127)	indomitable (167)	peevish (161)	scarce (78)	wistful (32)