

TALES OF GHOSTS AND HAUNTINGS: BOOK CLUB KIT



SUMMARY

There are six chapters in this book telling the stories of brave individuals who have experienced ghosts and hauntings on their adventures. Readers can study the stories and illustrations, and use critical thinking prompts at the end of each chapter to figure out what they really saw!

NB: There might be some children who find this topic scary or not appropriate to their beliefs.

DISCUSSION STARTER

At the end of each chapter, the book asks the reader to consider all the evidence and think about what really could have happened. What is 'critical thinking'? Why might we need to think critically about certain stories, articles or things we read online?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is an eye witness? Can you always trust eye witness statements?
2. What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source? Can you trust them?
3. Read the Terror on the Mountain story and consider the evidence. What do you think is the most likely explanation for what the climbers saw?
4. Read the Palace Phantoms story. Do you think we should trust the eyewitness statements from the staff at Hampton Court Palace?
5. Do you think that every story in the book can be explained?

INVESTIGATOR ACTIVITIES

Choose a story from the book, or research another ghost story that interests you. Make a case file of your own! Gather evidence, find sources, and decide what you trust and what you don't. Use illustrations and make a dossier of evidence to explain your findings.

Choose an eyewitness from one of the stories in the book, and write a diary entry as if you were them. Can you get into their head? Describe their thoughts and feelings, and make sure to include key evidence such as dates and locations.

Write a news article based on one of the stories in the book. Include any theories or speculations, as well as relevant quotes from eye witnesses.

Introduction: Do Ghosts Really Exist?

1. Terror on the Mountain

2. Palace Phantoms

3. The Most Haunted House?

4. Spooks on a Mission

5. Demon Dogs

6. Ghost ships and Spooky Trains

Tips for Mystery Investigators

Glossary



Real Life Mysteries: Tales of Ghosts and Hauntings

by Susan Martineau, illustrated
by Vicky Barker

For readers aged 8+