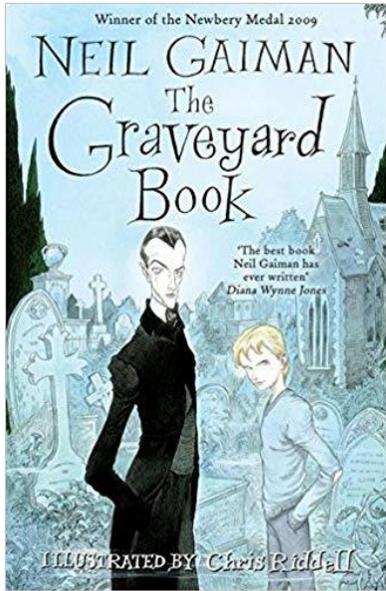


Knowledge organiser - The Graveyard Book



Plot

The Graveyard Book is an imaginative novel set in the graveyard of a large city in England. It begins with the murder of three members of a family late at night. The youngest child, a baby, escapes by crawling out of the house to a nearby graveyard, where he is taken in by sympathetic ghosts who dwell there. His new parents, the Owens, name him Nobody (or Bod, for short). Bod is nurtured and protected by an array of ghostly neighbours including his guardian, Silas: a strange creature who is unlike the other cemetery dwellers and is not limited to the confines of the graveyard as the others are.

One day, a young girl named Scarlett happens upon the graveyard and meets Bod, a living boy being raised amongst the dead. The two strike up a friendship that Scarlett's parents believe to be between a girl and her imaginary friend. Not long after their meeting, Scarlett leaves the area and Bod does not see her again for several years.

It is about the time when Scarlett re-enters the story that the killer of Bod's family returns. The man Jack and several cohorts have heard of Bod's presence in the graveyard and have come to finish the job that Jack began years earlier. The climax and resolution of the novel sees Bod, Scarlett and their graveyard allies pitted against Jack and several despicable colleagues who have been told of a prophecy which must be fulfilled...

New vocabulary

- insinuate** - slide slowly and smoothly into a particular place
insubstantial - lacking strength and solidity or not having physical existence
obduracy - stubbornness
perpetuity - an infinite amount of time / lasting forever
discarnate - (a person or being) not having a physical body
declaim - utter or deliver words in an impassioned way, like giving a speech to an audience
luminescence - light produced by an object without heat
proconsul - a governor in a province of Ancient Rome
revenants - a person who has returned (most commonly from the dead)
obelisk - a tapering stone pillar, set up as a monument or landmark

Key characters

- Nobody Owens** - Known as Bod. An orphaned boy, looked after by spirits in the graveyard. The main protagonist of the story.
Silas - Bod's guardian, whom possesses the quality of being neither wholly living nor dead.
The man Jack - Killer of Bod's family and primary antagonist within the story.
Mr and Mrs Owens - Bod's new parents within the graveyard, responsible for looking after him in conjunction with Silas.
Scarlett - Living girl who meets and makes friends with Bod.
The Lady on the Grey - A mysterious apparition who grants Bod the freedom of the graveyard.

Key learning objectives / skills to be taught

- Use multiple clauses and separate these using commas, brackets and dashes.
- Build vocabulary, using synonyms (words that mean the same) and antonyms (words that mean the opposite of each other).
- Use evidence from a text to describe characters and settings in detail, "painting a picture" in the mind of the reader and creating atmosphere.
- Read aloud and perform role plays of different scenes.
- Summarise and evaluate what has been read through writing.