

Pretty darn Scary

glossary



accosted: approached or spoken to in an angry, aggressive, or unwanted manner

acknowledge: to accept, admit, or recognize something

admonished: warned or reprimanded someone firmly

apprenticeship: type of job training that involves working for an expert in a trade or business to learn a job, rather than going to school

concocting: to prepare by mixing ingredients; or devising a plan using skill and intelligence

demoted: to have changed the rank or position of someone to a lower or less important one

effervescent: giving off bubbles; fizzy; or lively and enthusiastic

emaciated: abnormally thin or weak; especially from illness or lack of food

emphatic: expressed, spoken, or done with emphasis

encroach: intrude upon a person's territory or a thing considered to be a right

ensconced: established or settled in a comfortable, safe, or secret place

epitome: a person or thing that is a perfect example of a quality or type

foreboding: a feeling that something bad is going to happen

illiterate: unable to read or write

imbecile: a person considered foolish or stupid

interminable: seeming to be without an end;
endless

maelstrom: a situation where there is great confusion, violence, or destruction **obstinacy:** the state of being unwilling to change your opinion or action despite argument or persuasion; stubbornness

plaintive: sounding sad and mournful

sacrilegious: being highly irreverent to anything held sacred

talk about it!

1. What was your reaction when you learned about how some homeless people in the past were placed in prison cells with prisoners? Explain how you feel about that situation. Do you think that could happen today? Why or why not?
2. Describe several things that gave Elizabeth joy while she lived in such a terrible place. Explain why those things lifted her spirits. Discuss some things that lift your spirits when you are feeling down.
3. Think of four or five adjectives to describe Elizabeth. Think of four or five adjectives to describe Harold. Compare the personalities of the two characters to each other, considering those adjectives you identified.
4. What is something that Elizabeth and Harold had in common? Describe their passion for that activity.

5. Do you have any ideas about where the fifty bodies uncovered by the construction workers came from? Discuss your ideas with your book club members. Why were the construction workers so shocked by that discovery?
6. List several ways that Harold shows kindness and consideration for his friends. Name some ways your friends have helped you. Name some ways you have helped a friend.
7. Describe Harold's mother and what happened to her in the mystery. What does Harold's mother teach us about the value of hard work? How did her life change because she worked hard?
8. What do you think was happening when Harold touched the cell walls and his hand felt warm?
9. What was your favorite part of the story? Why did you choose that part?
10. Who was your favorite character in the mystery? Why did you choose that person?

built-in book Club

bring it to life!

1. Find Atlanta on a map. Find I-20. Does it run north and south, or east and west? Use online resources to find out when I-20 opened to traffic, and how long it took workers to build the interstate highway.
2. Write another ending to the story, starting where Harold takes the brick out of the wall. Is there anything hidden behind it? What happens next? Does Harold actually meet Elizabeth? How does his life change? The possibilities are endless!
3. Research the history of GlenCastle and the Atlanta Stockade. On a piece of posterboard, create a timeline of the building's history. Decorate the timeline with pictures or drawings that describe activities going on in the complex during that time in history.

4. Create a fictional journal page written by one of the book's characters, like Elizabeth, Harold, or L.T. For example, if you choose Elizabeth, write about something important to her, like her parents, baby sister, or how it feels to be homeless. Use a passionate writing style to make that person come alive!
5. Create a word search using words from the book. Start with the names of the main characters, followed by some places kids explore in the book (like the dungeon and the library) and then add some other words from the mystery like prison, criminal, goosebumps, etc.
6. Design a new book cover for *The Ghost of GlenCastle Prison*. You can draw the cover design yourself, or use computer software to create it.

WRITE YOUR OWN MYSTERY!



Make up a dramatic title!



You can pick four real kid characters!



Select a real place for the story's setting!



Try writing your first draft!



Edit your first draft!



Read your final draft aloud!



You can add art, photos or illustrations!

Share your book with others and send me a copy!

SIX SECRET WRITING TIPS FROM CAROLE MARSH!

