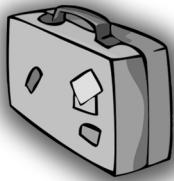




*The Mystery of*  
**Mimi's  
Haunted  
Book Shop**



**Teacher's Guide**  
by  
**Carole Marsh**

Editorial Assistant: Janice Baker • Art & Design: Randolyn Friedlander

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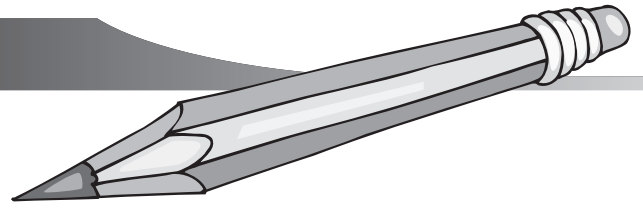
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## *A Word from the Author*



### **Dear Teacher,**

In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic sites that still existed—primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children than to visit a fascinating historic site!

This time, I've set my mystery in my current hometown of Peachtree City, Georgia! On a lazy, hot summer day, Mimi gets the idea to open her own book shop. Mimi loves writing, and books, and learning. And of all places to pick for her new business—she chooses an old funeral home! Talk about spooky!

I hope teachers and kids will grasp several themes in this book. First, Mimi has a dream, and she goes for it! Yes, she might have a doubt or two along the way, but she sticks to her goal. Second, Mimi involves Christina and Grant in her project from beginning to end to help them learn about business. Third, Mimi welcomes all of the family's ideas and input and special skills. And finally, the family all works together to clean up the old house. There's nothing like teamwork (and a tasty picnic lunch) to keep you going!

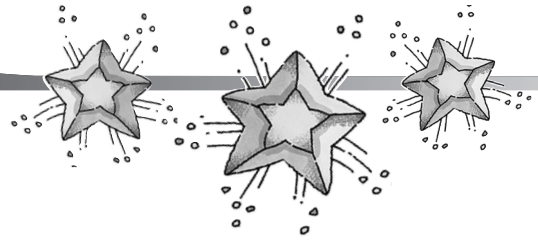


I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read my mystery books with their class or child, then visited the historic site and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? Everything! Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about. And sometimes, a vacation trip might be the spark that leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, or a people...or in this case, a spark that ignites a fledgling entrepreneur!

Once you've finished the mystery, take a trip to our new website, [mimishauntedbookshop.com](http://mimishauntedbookshop.com)! You'll love what we've done with the place!

*Carole Marsh*

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# Page-by-Page Guide

<i>Page #</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i><u>EXPLORE!</u></i>
12	Botany	Spanish moss is a flowering plant that grows on large trees like live oak or bald cypress in the southeastern U.S. It is often called “air plant” because it hangs from tree branches and absorbs its nutrients and water from the air and rainfall.
13	Human Body	Dehydration occurs when the body does not have as much water and fluids as it should. When severe, dehydration can be fatal! Babies, children, and the elderly are particularly susceptible to dehydration.
13	Vocabulary	To be “wary” is to be very cautious.
14	Idioms	To “let the cat out of the bag” is to disclose something secret, often without intending to do so.
15	Nature	Hummingbirds are very small birds. Their name comes from the humming sound made by their rapidly beating wings.
17	Geography	Peachtree City, Georgia, is Christina and Grant’s hometown. Located south of Atlanta, it is known for its extensive network of golf cart paths. Residents use golf carts to travel around the area in much the same way as cars.
21	Business	A real estate agent acts as an intermediary between sellers and buyers of property like houses and land.
21	Technology	Mimi has an iPhone, so when she “swiped the screen,” she made a swiping motion to navigate on her phone. Do you know how to work that type of cell phone?
24	Transportation	Most golf carts hold four passengers so Miss Emma’s is a deluxe version! One nice thing about a six-passenger cart is all the riders can face forward.
25	Botany	Kudzu is a climbing vine from Japan commonly seen in the southeastern U.S. Kudzu was originally used to control erosion, but has become a problem because it grows so fast and often blankets large areas. Kudzu vines can grow as much as one foot per day in the summer months!

## Page-by-Page Guide

25	Figure of Speech	To say that something is “off the beaten path” means it is isolated, or away from areas where people usually travel.
25	History	The Victorian era revolves around the career of Great Britain’s Queen Victoria, who was crowned in 1837 and died in 1901. Many changes took place during this period, due in large part to the Industrial Revolution.
26	Vocabulary	A turret is a small tower that rises vertically from a building.
26	Word Usage	A “painted lady” is a term used to describe a Victorian or Edwardian house painted in three or more colors.
26	Business	A funeral home is a business that provides burial and funeral services for people who have died and their families.
30	Vocabulary	A coffin is a long, narrow box (typically made of wood) in which a body is buried or cremated.
31	Science	Embalming is a process that treats a dead body to protect it from decay. The purpose is to preserve human remains temporarily to make the body suitable to display at a funeral.
32	Vocabulary	To be prissy is to be excessively prim and proper. Do you know anyone who is prissy?
32	Botany	Wisteria is a climbing plant with groups of small purple, blue, or white flowers hanging from it. Wisteria vines climb by wrapping themselves around any available support like a tree or wall.
36	Vocabulary	To be enthralled is to be captivated or fascinated by something.
36	Architecture	A veranda is a porch or balcony, usually roofed and often partly enclosed, extending along the outside of a building.
37	Personality	Mimi finds it easy to imagine how beautiful the old funeral home can be once it is fixed up. She has a positive outlook, and a very creative mind. She is expressing optimism.
38	Personality	Grant responds to Mimi’s optimism by reminding her of all the problems that could occur with this real estate purchase. Grant is expressing pessimism, the opposite of optimism.

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 39      Vocabulary      To embark is to begin a course of action, especially one that is important or demanding.
- 42      Business      Mimi hopes the old funeral home will be a good investment, something that is worth buying because it may be profitable or useful in the future. Can you think of something your family has purchased in hopes that it will be a good investment?
- 43      Vocabulary      Intuition can be described as an inner knowing without deduction or reasoning, or a gut feeling. Can you think of a time when you had an intuition about something?
- 45      Legal Issues      Many legal proceedings require that a witness be present to verify that the signature on the document belongs to the person whose name is on the document. A witness should be someone not related to either party, and who does not benefit from the contract.
- 46      Business      Mimi is excited that she has purchased her first piece of commercial property, which is buildings or land intended to generate a profit.
- 46      Background Information      A skeleton key most likely got its name from its resemblance to a skeletal figure. These keys were used in the U.S. from colonial times through the 1940s. Have you ever seen a skeleton key?
- 47      Idioms      To have “cold feet” means you become nervous or frightened about doing something.
- 48      Figure of Speech      Christina explains to Grant what Mimi means by “a pig in a poke.” A poke is a bag. The term dates back as early as the 1500s, where a buyer was advised not to buy a pig unless he could see it!
- 49      Nature      A lightning bug is a winged beetle commonly known as a firefly. A chemical reaction takes place within dedicated light organs in their abdomens to produce light with almost no heat. Have you ever seen a lightning bug?
- 51      Figure of Speech      To do something “first-class” means to do it with the highest quality or excellence. In other words, Mimi’s book shop was going to be *really* nice!

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 52 Human Body The writing on the brittle tag looked as if it had been written by an old person with “arthritic” hands. Arthritis is a painful joint disorder that causes inflammation of one or more joints.
- 56 Vocabulary A parlor is a room in a home set aside for greeting or entertaining visitors.
- 59 Architecture A gazebo is a freestanding, roofed, usually open-sided structure that provides a shady resting place.
- 60 Writing A diary is a daily record of personal activities, reflections, or feelings. Today, many people use the term “journal” for a diary. Do you keep a journal or a diary?
- 61 Idioms When the author writes that “Mimi made a beeline to the gazebo,” she means that Mimi headed straight towards something, in the same way a bee would fly quickly to its destination.
- 63 Figure of Speech Someone who is “chicken-livered” is cowardly. The term comes from observations that chickens are easily frightened and an ancient belief that the liver was the seat of love and passion. So, a person who is “chicken-livered” lacks vigor, spirit, and courage!
- 64 Vocabulary A mote is a tiny speck of something. Have you ever seen motes of dust floating in the air when sunlight streams through a room?
- 64 Vocabulary To fret over something is to be uneasy, or worried, about it. Can you think of something you have fretted over in the past?
- 66 History The name “Bone-a-part” is a reference to Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821), a great military leader and emperor of France.
- 66 History The name of Mimi’s mummy, “Toot ‘n come in,” refers to a famous Egyptian pharaoh named Tutankhamen, or King Tut. His mummy was discovered in the 1920s.
- 67 Language The term “an attic attack” is an example of alliteration, where the first letter of each word in a phrase begins with the same sound or letter. Can you think of an example of alliteration? Don’t you think alliteration is just fun to listen to?

## Page-by-Page Guide

71	Science	A test tube is a finger-length glass tube open at the top and rounded into a U-shape at the bottom. Chemists commonly use test tubes to hold, mix, or heat chemicals for experiments.
72	Vocabulary	Ventilation is the intentional movement of air from the outside of a building to the inside.
76	Figurative Language	The author is using a simile when she writes that Papa’s tummy “growled as loud as a foghorn.” How does that use of language really help you “hear” the noise coming from Papa’s stomach?
77	Vocabulary	When Mimi “downed” her glass of iced tea, she swallowed it quickly.
78	Figure of Speech	When something is “out of kilter,” it is not working or adjusted properly. Have you ever heard that expression? Can you use it in a sentence?
79	Vocabulary	A confab is an informal, private discussion.
80	Figure of Speech	To “chicken out” is to give up doing something out of fear. Christina worries that both she and Mimi might “chicken out”!
81	Language	The term “under the guise of” means an appearance or presentation concealing the true nature of something.
83	Language	An “ulterior motive” is a motive that is intentionally kept concealed. So, is Christina wondering if whoever left the notes has a secret motive?
84	Writing	The writer uses initials like “BD,” “RH,” and “CC” to represent mystery terms. Did you like that technique? Were you curious as to what each term meant?
86	Character Development	McKenzie gets irritated when Grant teases her and wiggles his fingers in front of her as he makes ghost sounds. Why do you think she got so upset?
87	Body Language	Grant “had his hands on his hips and his face up to her face.” How does he feel right then?



## Page-by-Page Guide

- 88 Language The kids decide to yell “GERONIMO” if they run into any problems. The word is typically yelled by someone when they are going to jump from a great height. It is said this all started in 1940 when a U.S. Army paratrooper yelled “GERONIMO” to show he was not afraid to jump out of a plane. He had watched a movie the night before featuring the famous Apache Indian chief Geronimo.
- 89 Vocabulary “Doom” refers some type of terrible fate, so Grant fears that something bad will happen to him as he goes up to the second floor.
- 94 Writing Technique When the author says that Thomas’ hand is quivering, what does that tell you about how Thomas feels?
- 95 Human Body McKenzie waited at the attic doorway until her eyes adjusted to the lack of light. The pupils of her eyes were widening to let in as much light as possible so she could see better in the dim light.
- 95 Vocabulary A tremulous sigh is one marked by shaking or slight quivering from uneasiness or fear.
- 95 Language A “helter-skelter” pattern is one marked by disorder or confusion.
- 96 Body Language McKenzie clenched her arms tight and clamped her front teeth down on her lower lip when she was stressed. Do you do any particular things with your body when you are stressed or under pressure?
- 96 Vocabulary Burlap is a strong, coarsely woven cloth used to make bags. Twine is strong string made of two or more strands twisted together.
- 97 Writing Technique When Grant leaned against the wall and it shuddered, what did you think was going to happen next? Did you anticipate what actually happened?
- 98 Vocabulary To activate means to cause something to function or operate.
- 99 Home Decorating Damask is a rich patterned fabric of cotton, linen, silk, or wool often used for curtains. Sheers are thin curtains that allow a good amount of light into a room, but still provide privacy for people inside.

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 99 Science Fiction A “time machine” is a fictional device that moves a person into the past or the future. Would you like to go into a time machine and travel to a different era? If so, what time period would you choose?
- 100 Science Hunters often like to mount the heads of deer or other animals on a wall in their home or office. The process used to preserve the animals is called taxidermy. An animal’s skin is removed, treated chemically, and then placed over a mannequin made of wood, wire, or foam.
- 100 History An inkstand is a tray or rack for pens and bottles of ink. The fountain pen, and later the ballpoint pen, eventually eliminated the need for an inkstand.
- 100 Vocabulary A ledger is a book in which the financial information of a business is recorded.
- 103 Behavior Why did the kids react in such a frightened manner when Christina appeared at the gazebo?
- 105 Imagery Can you “hear” the scene where the kids listen to “frogs burp and crickets chirp”?
- 105 Character Analysis When Christina squeezes Grant’s shoulder, what character trait is she displaying? How does this act show how she feels about her little brother?
- 106 Reasoning Why does Christina suggest the kids search the house one last time? What does this tell the reader about how she feels about Mimi’s book shop?
- 106 Behavior Why do some people dislike the dentist? How do you feel about going to the dentist? Why is it important to take care of your teeth?
- 109 Imagery What descriptive words does the author use to paint the scene where the girls find the secret panel?
- 110 Architecture A spiral staircase is a staircase that is tightly curved. They are often used in tight spaces where there is not enough room for standard stairs.
- 110 Vocabulary Something that is sturdy is strongly and solidly built.

## Page-by-Page Guide

- 111 Behavior Why did Grant and Thomas sneak on tiptoe around to the front of the building where the door was located?
- 111 Science A crematorium, or crematory, is a place where bodies are reduced down to basic chemical compounds by burning at high temperatures.
- 112 Vocabulary A warren is a maze-like place where one may become easily lost.
- 113 Senses Humans can distinguish more than 10,000 different smells, which are detected by specialized receptor neurons lining the nose. Can you think of a smell you really love, and one you truly dislike?
- 115 Vocabulary To be petrified is to be paralyzed or numb with fear.
- 115 Figure of Speech A “sticky wicket” is a metaphor used to describe a difficult situation. It comes from the game of cricket. When the central part of the cricket field (known as the pitch or the wicket) gets wet, the path of the ball becomes unpredictable—therein creating a difficult situation, or a “sticky wicket.”
- 116 Vocabulary Synonyms for the word “tentative” are “uncertain” or “hesitant.” When Christina takes one tentative step at a time, what does that tell you about how she is feeling?
- 118 Vocabulary To cackle is to laugh or talk in a shrill manner. Do you know what shrill means?
- 123 Idioms Something that is the “center of attention” is someone or something everyone notices. Do you like to be the center of attention? If not, do you know someone who does like it?
- 125 Character Analysis Why do you think Wilbur started to cry when Grant asked him if he used to play around the building when he was a kid?
- 127 People Wilbur was elderly but had the mind of a child. Do you know anyone like that? What can you do to help someone like that?
- 129 Vocabulary Wilbur “beamed” when the new sign for Wilbur’s Place was put up. That means he smiled a really big smile! Can you think of something that made you so happy you beamed?

## *Page-by-Page Guide*

- 131      Character Analysis      Mimi wanted a writing desk by the front window in the turret so she could look out and see customers come and go as she worked. What does that tell you about Mimi?
- 133      Business      A new business often has a grand opening and/or ribbon cutting ceremony to attract attention. In a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a ribbon is often stretched across the front of a business. The owner or another important person (like the mayor) cuts the ribbon to symbolize the opening of the business.
- 136      Business      Grant was given the task of creating Mimi’s website. Why is a website so important to a business? What are some things customers can learn when they go to a company’s website?

## Discussion Questions

1. Christina mentions that she and Grant have attended a few summer camps. Have you ever been to a summer camp? If so, what type of camp was it, and what did you do? If not, is there a particular summer camp you would like to go to?
2. Mimi was able to visualize how the old funeral home could be turned into a book shop. What are some character traits that Mimi possessed that enabled her to turn this negative into a positive?
3. The old funeral home appears to be a spooky place to Grant and Christina, but funeral homes have a very important purpose. Can you think of several ways they help families who have lost a loved one?
4. Mimi's family comes over to "The Shop" to help clean up the old funeral home and the grounds. Why is it often more productive and enjoyable to have a big group tackle a big project like a cleanup?
5. The author describes Christina and McKenzie exploring the attic, and Grant and Thomas exploring the basement. Can you easily picture the scenes? What are some words the author uses to help set the scenes?
6. Would you like to start a business like Mimi did? If so, what type of business would you start? Why did you choose that business?
7. The old funeral home had lots of spooky rooms and secret passages. What was your favorite place and why?

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Beat Summer Boredom!**

Try these ideas to beat summer boredom:

Invent a board game

Organize a scavenger hunt

Volunteer at a local charity

Fly a kite

Go to a museum

Make an obstacle course in your back yard

Make a movie

Learn a new sport

Bake a cake or cookies

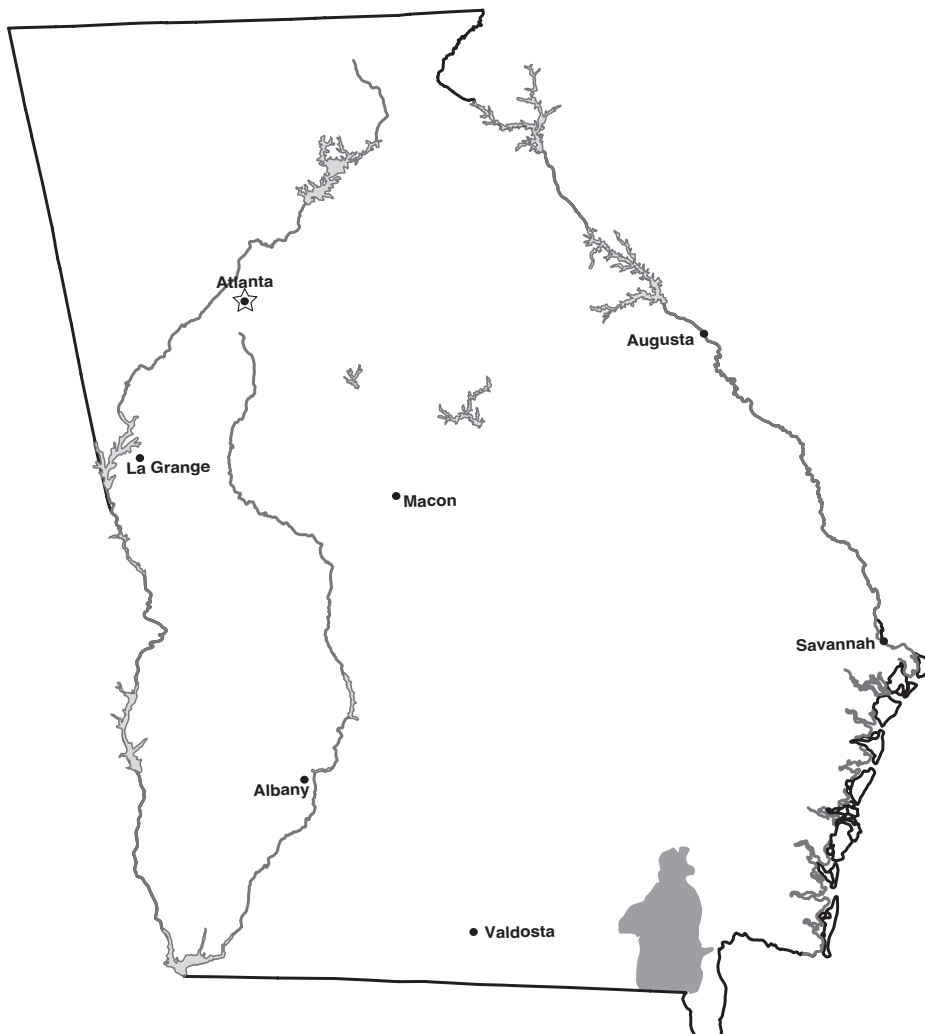
Use a compass/GPS to map your neighborhood

Play in the sprinkler

Make a terrarium

# Geography: Find It!

1. Use resources on the Internet to help you locate Peachtree City, Georgia, on the map below. Label its location. Then, circle the capital of Georgia on the map. Is Peachtree City north or south of Georgia's capital city?
2. Plan a visit to Peachtree City. Use a highlighter to trace your journey on a map. How will you get there—will you fly on an airplane or drive? How many miles will you have to travel?
3. What resource can you use to find the latitude and longitude of a particular location? Find the latitude and longitude of City Hall in Peachtree City, Georgia.
4. Find Georgia on a map of the United States. List the states that share a border with Georgia.



## **Bonus Info!**

### **Peachtree City Fast Facts**

- The population of Peachtree City is about 37,000.
- Peachtree City was founded in 1959.
- Peachtree City has a system of golf cart paths stretching for more than 90 miles throughout the city. Many households use their golf cart as an extra vehicle, and many businesses have special parking spaces for golf carts.
- Peachtree City's regional airport hosts an air show every year.
- In 2011, Family Circle magazine listed Peachtree City in its list of the Top 10 Cities for Families.
- "Plan to Stay" is the city's slogan.
- Peachtree City is located in Georgia's Piedmont Region, and is considered part of metro Atlanta.

## *Mathematics: Calculate It!*

1. There are about 10,000 golf carts used by the citizens of Christina and Grant's hometown of Peachtree City. It costs \$60 to register a golf cart each year. If 90 percent of the golf cart owners register their vehicles, how much does the city earn in registration fees?
2. Pretend you are a book shop owner. You have purchased 50 copies of a new adventure book from your distributor. You paid \$7.50 for each book and plan to sell each book for \$16.99. If you sell all 50 books, how much profit do you make?
3. Mimi's Haunted Book Shop needs new carpet. If the book shop requires 2,225 square yards of carpet installed at a cost of \$13.99 per square yard, how much will Mimi have to pay?
4. Christina has planned all the food for the Grand Opening of the Book Shop. She needs 22 pounds of strawberries at \$2.25 per pound and 12 pounds of bananas at \$0.65 per pound for her strawberry/banana tarts. If Papa gives her a \$50 dollar bill, will Christina have enough money to buy the fruit?
5. When Christina and Grant met Wilbur in 2011, he was 92 years old. If Wilbur had already had his birthday in 2011, in what year was he born?
6. Mimi, Papa, Grant, and Christina went to a fancy restaurant in Atlanta to celebrate Mimi's opening of the book shop. If there were four place settings on the table that each included a salad fork and a dinner fork, how many forks were on the table?

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **So You Want to Open a Book Shop?**

- Here's a list of things to consider if you want to become a book shop owner:
- Decide what kind of store to open (new, used, specialty)
- Make a business plan
- Choose a name for your store
- Find financing like a small business loan
- Choose a great location
- Set up your floor plan
- Design your store's interior
- Decide if you want a café inside your store
- Hire great employees
- Purchase equipment and supplies like book shelves, bags, and cash registers
- Create a website to sell your books online
- Organize a Grand Opening event
- Create advertising for your store

## English: Write It!

1. Pretend you are the editor of the Peachtree City newspaper. Write an article about the grand opening of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop. Pretend you have interviewed Mimi, Christina, and Grant. Write your main story and a sidebar about something you found particularly interesting—like Wilbur living on the grounds. Don't forget to add headlines to attract your readers!
2. Choose a character in the mystery. Use your imagination to write a detailed description of that person. For example, if you choose Christina, describe what she looks like, what her personality is like, what her favorite school subject is, what she likes to do in her spare time, etc. If you'd like, write your description in the first person, like Christina is describing herself.
3. Write a new ending for *The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop*. Come up with another idea about who left the clues for the kids and why.
4. Use the Internet to find Peachtree City's website. Do some research on the city's golf cart system. Pretend you are visiting a friend there and get to tour the city on a golf cart. Write a journal entry about where you go, what you see, and how much fun it is to ride around on the beautiful, tree-lined golf cart paths! When writing, consider all five senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell.
5. Pretend you are Miss Emma, the real estate agent. Your boss is surprised that you finally sold the old funeral home and wants to know who bought it and why. Write a letter to him or her describing how the old funeral home was transformed into a thriving book shop.
6. Write five new names for Mimi's Haunted Book Shop. Make sure they are spooky—after all, this place used to be a funeral home!

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **All About Georgia, Home of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop!**

State Capital: Atlanta

State Reptile:  
Gopher Tortoise

State Nickname:  
The Peach State

State Wildflower:  
Azalea

State Bird:  
Brown Thrasher

State Tree: Live Oak

State Flower:  
Cherokee Rose

State Fish:  
Largemouth Bass

State Vegetable:  
Vidalia Sweet Onion

State Insect:  
Honeybee

State Motto: Wisdom,  
Justice & Moderation

State Song:  
"Georgia on My Mind"

State Fruit: Peach



# Vocabulary: Use It!

Use the clues to unscramble the words taken from the mystery book. Use these words and their definitions to increase your vocabulary!

1. What Miss Emma used to drive Mimi and the kids to the funeral home:  
OFGL TACR      O        C
2. Another name for old spider webs covered with dirt and dust:  
BOEBWCS                W                  S
3. What Grant found inside the leather box lined with black silk:  
LSEOKTEN EYK  
  K        L                            K
4. The type of locks Papa wants to put on the doors:  
DDABLOET                          B
5. Who Christina explored the attic with:  
CEMZEKNI                E        Z
6. Grant and Thomas were locked in this place while the picnic was going on:  
MAESETBN      B                            M
7. The kids agreed to yell this word if they ran into any problem:  
RGNOIEMO                R                            O
8. Grant found this after he accidentally opened a hidden wall:  
LSAPRI SCTRAISAE  
  P                                            
            A                  C
9. The kids met here after their individual searches for clues:  
BGZAE0                                    B
10. Wilbur said he lived in this building:  
MCAMERTIUOR  
  C                                      R

## Bonus Info!

### Book Facts!

- The United Kingdom and the United States are the top two countries in books published each year.
- On average, a book store browser spends 8 seconds looking at a book's front cover and 15 seconds looking at the back cover.
- Women buy 55% of the fiction books sold.
- The most popular setting for a fiction book is New York City, followed by London.
- In 2010, publishers sold 2.56 billion books in all formats (hardback, paperback, or e-book).
- 114 million e-books were sold in 2010.
- E-books are becoming more popular due to the declining prices of readers like Amazon's Kindle or the Nook from Barnes and Noble.
- The favorite fiction category is mystery and suspense.

## Art: Create It!

1. What do you think Wilbur looks like? He is in his nineties, but has the mind of a child. Draw a sketch of Wilbur tending to the vegetables in his garden.
2. Make some Mimi's Haunted Book Shop cupcakes! You'll need a chocolate cake mix, cupcake papers, vanilla icing, and little candies like M&Ms or Skittles. With an adult's help, make a batch of chocolate cupcakes (Mimi loves chocolate!). Ice them with vanilla frosting. Then, use candies to write the first initial of each character on each individual cupcake. For example, Grant's cupcake would have a G on the top. Christina's cupcake would have a C on it, etc. Don't forget the cats (Dewey and Decimal), and Bookie, the English sheepdog!
3. Create a full-page newspaper advertisement for Mimi's Haunted Book Shop. Make sure to include the store hours, address, and telephone number. Don't forget this is a "haunted" book shop, so make your ad spooky and scary, as well as attention-getting!
4. Pick a room that has been remodeled in the book shop, like the embalming room turned into the Tombstone Tea Room, or the basement turned into a place kids could come for a story hour or craft time. Then, create that room in a shoebox diorama. Use construction paper, small toys, modeling clay, craft supplies like pipe cleaners or cotton balls—whatever you need!
5. Use the Internet to find pictures of Georgia's state flag and the Peachtree City flag. Draw and color each flag. Which one do you like better?
6. Make a "GRAND OPENING" banner for Mimi's Haunted Book Shop. If you don't have any long sheets of paper, you can staple or tape 8-1/2 x 11" sheets together. There's one important thing to remember: Mimi's favorite color is red!

### **Bonus Info!**

#### **Writing Tips**

Every story has to have characters, a plot, and a setting.

Characters are the people in the story. Who are the main characters in *The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop*?

A plot is what happens in the story. Without a plot, the story has no action and no meaning. What is the plot of this mystery?

A setting is where the story takes place. What is the setting in *The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop*?

There are many different types of stories you can write. Mysteries (like this story!), adventure, comedy, drama, romance, non-fiction (that means it's true!), and the list goes on and on!

## A Gingerbread Book Shop

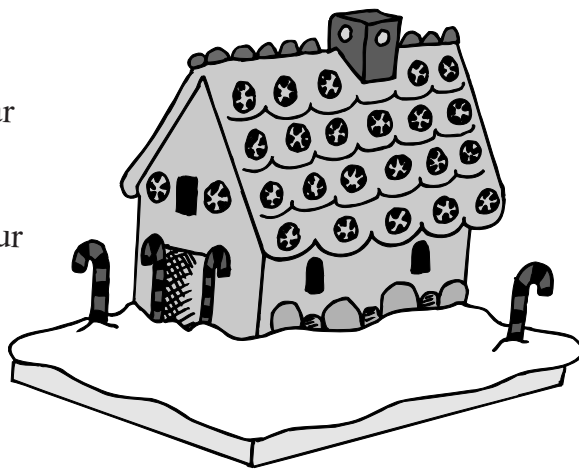
You can make Mimi's Haunted Book Shop out of gingerbread by following the recipe below. And remember to ask for an adult's help!

### Gingerbread House

Cream 1/2 cup butter (softened at room temperature) and 3/4 cup packed brown sugar with a fork or an electric mixer. Mixture should be light and fluffy. Add 2 eggs, one at a time, and mix. Beat in 3/4 molasses and set bowl aside. In another bowl, stir 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 1/4 teaspoons baking soda, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, 2 teaspoons ground ginger, and 1/2 teaspoon allspice. Gradually mix the wet and dry ingredients together. Finish mixing with your hands. Separate the dough into two parts, flatten into a pancake shape, and cover in plastic wrap to chill 2 hours or more. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface and cut into rectangular and triangular shapes to make a small house. Bake on a cookie sheet at 350 degrees F for about 10-15 minutes. Remove and allow to cool. Decorate the house with squeeze icing tubes, candies, and frosting.

### Ingredients

1/2 cup butter (softened)  
3/4 cup packed brown sugar  
2 eggs  
3/4 cup molasses  
4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1-1/4 tsp baking soda  
1 T cinnamon  
2 tsp ground ginger  
1/2 tsp allspice  
vanilla frosting  
candies or squeeze icing tubes for decoration



### Bonus Info!

#### Peaches on My Mind!

Mimi's Haunted Book Shop is located in Georgia, the Peach State! About 40 different varieties of peaches are grown there today, and about 60 streets in Atlanta, the capital city, have "Peachtree" in their name! Spaniards first introduced peach plants to the New World. The Lower Creek Indians established a Georgia tradition when they planted peach orchards in the southwest part of the state.

Follow the recipe below for a tasty Georgia specialty—peach cobbler!

#### Easy Bake Cobbler

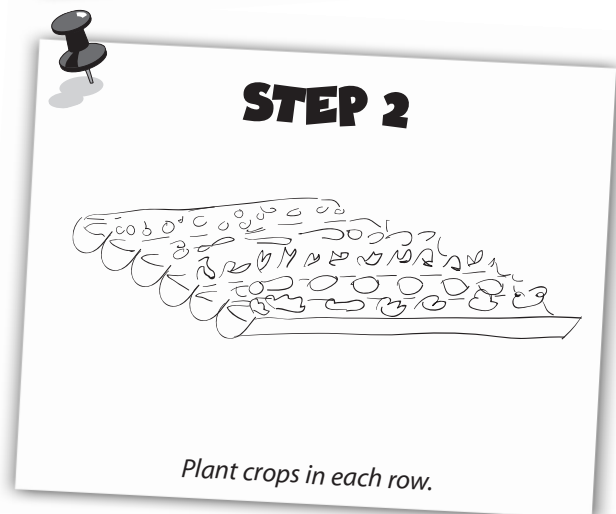
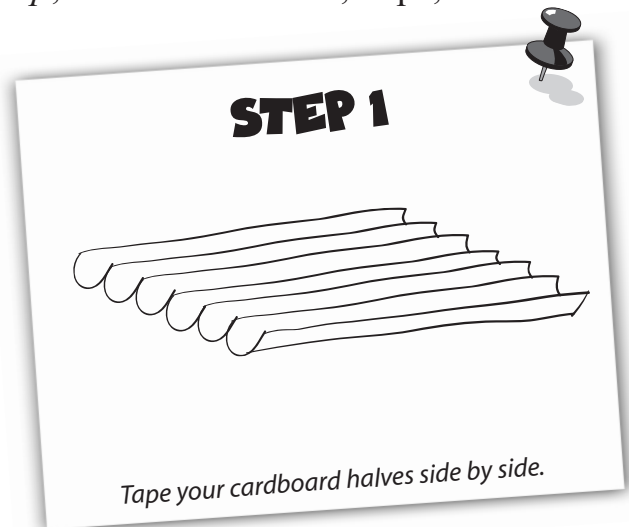
Grease a square baking pan with butter and add 2 cups canned peaches, drained, 1 tablespoon flour, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, and 1/2 cup sugar. Stir. Using a can of crescent roll dough, roll out gently until flat. Cut out cookie cutter shapes and arrange atop peaches. Sprinkle with a little sugar and cinnamon and bake at 425 degrees F in toaster oven until crust is golden, about 35 minutes.

# Activities

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

In *The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop*, Wilbur tells Mimi, Papa, and the kids that he grows vegetables. Crops grown in Georgia are very important to the state's economy. Use the Internet to find six crops grown in Georgia. Be sure to include ones that are especially important to the state's economy.

Cut three paper towel rolls in half lengthwise so you have six curved channels. Tape your pieces side by side to create plowed rows in a field. Use construction paper, plants, fabric, or other materials to create rows of crops. Use cotton balls for cotton, yellow fabric scraps for corn, or orange construction paper scraps for carrots. Use your creativity! Make each row a different crop that grows in Georgia and label them all. Build a scarecrow in your field to keep the birds away!



# Activities

## The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop Word Search

Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!

M	G	A	U	J	M	I	E	R	I	T	L	S	F	I
G	G	R	A	N	D	O	P	E	N	I	N	G	U	G
S	O	N	A	L	H	R	P	G	V	C	W	B	N	N
C	H	L	Z	N	U	M	E	G	R	T	P	A	E	I
E	S	Y	F	B	D	R	A	E	R	O	O	S	R	M
E	S	B	L	C	O	M	M	N	H	M	B	E	A	L
A	S	I	E	N	A	A	O	S	S	K	E	M	L	A
T	W	A	I	W	T	R	K	T	U	E	Z	E	H	B
T	L	M	C	O	B	O	T	D	H	A	A	N	O	M
I	O	L	R	R	O	O	Z	P	R	E	G	T	M	E
C	U	I	Y	B	I	U	C	V	C	R	R	B	E	G
T	U	N	N	E	L	A	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N
M	Q	A	P	B	Y	R	T	W	J	B	J	Z	J	M
G	O	D	P	E	E	H	S	S	X	B	C	T	Y	R
N	T	H	G	I	L	H	S	A	L	F	A	V	C	D

### WORD BANK

ATTIC  
BASEMENT  
BOOK SHOP  
COBWEBS  
CREMATORIUM

EMBALMING  
FLASHLIGHT  
FUNERAL HOME  
GAZEBO  
GERONIMO

GOLF CART  
GRANDMOTHER  
GRAND OPENING  
KUDZU  
MANSE

SHEEPDOG  
SKELETON  
STAIRCASE  
TUNNEL  
WILBUR

# Chapters 1-4 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. hammock
2. discouragement
3. real estate agent
4. reluctantly

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. When she came up with her book shop idea, what assignment did Mimi give Grant?
6. What are some things that residents of Peachtree City use golf carts for?
7. How did Christina and Grant react when Miss Emma suggested they take a look inside the old funeral home?
8. What is the name for the fancy woodwork across the top of the porch, common to Victorian houses?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

9. \_\_\_\_ Mimi was concerned that Papa would not be in favor of opening a book shop.
10. \_\_\_\_ Christina thought the old funeral home was perfect for Mimi's shop from the first moment she saw it.

# Chapters 5-7 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. contaminated
2. smug
3. intuition
4. arthritic

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. Why did Mimi give Papa a bear hug and a big kiss?
6. What did Grant find in the black box Mimi gave him at the closing?
7. What did the kids think Papa would do to make Mimi feel better about her purchase of the funeral home?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_\_ Even when Mimi reassured him, Grant felt that the old funeral home was one spooky place.
9. \_\_\_\_ Mimi was sure Papa would love her idea of buying the funeral home.
10. \_\_\_\_ Grant and Christina found their first clue hanging on the skeleton key.

# Chapters 8-11 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. involuntarily
2. parlor
3. ventilation
4. budge

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. Who did Christina want to invite to help clean up the funeral home?
6. What did Miss Emma bring to Mimi on the day the family started to clean up the place?
7. What name did McKenzie suggest they give to the skeleton in the attic?
8. After Grant found the paper on top of the barrel, where did he put it?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

9. \_\_\_\_ Christina wanted to work in the attic but McKenzie was not happy about it.
10. \_\_\_\_ Mr. Manse kept a diary for almost one hundred years.



# Chapters 12-15 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. muffled
2. stubborn
3. accomplice
4. ominous

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. Who noticed that Grant and Thomas were not at the picnic?
6. Where did Mimi and Papa go, leaving the kids alone to look for more clues?
7. What rooms did Christina search, calling them the “scary rooms”?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_\_ The kids met in the basement for their “confab.”
9. \_\_\_\_ When Christina spoke about the “RG’s,” she was talking about the rest of the group.
10. \_\_\_\_ The kids decided to yell “Geronimo” if they found a clue.

# Chapters 16-19 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what this word means? Write the definition in the space provided.*

1. perimeter
2. sanctum
3. methodically
4. petrified

*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. Thomas was ready to head back and report to the others until he found what in the basement?
6. What made Christina scream when she entered the office?
7. What did the boys find in the crematorium that made Thomas think someone lived there?
8. After they collided with each other, what else frightened the kids in the tunnel?

*Write T for True and F for False.*

9. \_\_\_\_ Grant was afraid to go down the spiral staircase by himself.
10. \_\_\_\_ The brick building, also known as the crematorium, was almost covered in kudzu.

# Chapters 20-23 Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.*

1. resourceful
2. eavesdropping
3. fiction
4. nonfiction

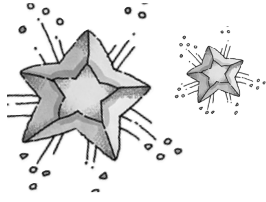
*Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

5. Who was the fifth person Papa shined the flashlight on?
6. Where did Wilbur live on the grounds of the funeral home?
7. Which room did Aunt Cassidy and Ella turn into the Tombstone Tea Room?

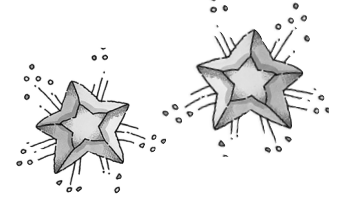
*Write T for True and F for False.*

8. \_\_\_\_ After Mr. Manse's will was re-executed, Wilbur decided he did not want Mimi to own the house and land.
9. \_\_\_\_ Visitors to the book shop's Grand Opening enjoyed fried chicken, potato salad, and iced tea.
10. \_\_\_\_ Papa surprised Mimi by installing a dance floor in the gazebo.

# *The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop*



## *Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Using the word bank, fill in the correct vocabulary word in the sentences below.*

### WORD BANK

CONTEMPORARY  
ARCHITECTURE

DINGY  
KUDZU

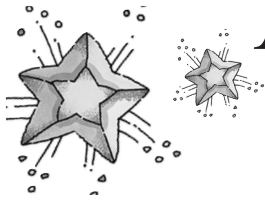
ENVISIONED  
SPIC-AND-SPAN

SECLUSION  
PEDESTAL

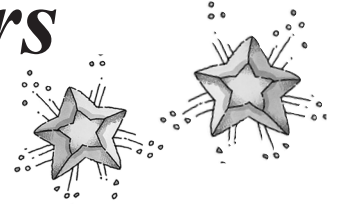
CANDID  
LISTLESS

1. Because Christina was interested in \_\_\_\_\_, Mimi asked her to help with the design of the book shop, including choosing paint colors and furnishings.
2. Christina could tell that Mimi was bored because she was so \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The sheer drapes in many of the funeral home rooms were \_\_\_\_\_ because they were so old and neglected.
4. While Mimi \_\_\_\_\_ the old funeral home as a newly decorated, vibrant book shop, Christina and Grant were not so sure it would turn out that way.
5. Even though the funeral home was old, Christina hoped the book shop would turn out to be fashionable and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Mr. Manse's diary was put on a \_\_\_\_\_ in the accounting office because it was so old and valuable.
7. Grant was \_\_\_\_\_ when he told Mimi how he imagined her purchase of the old funeral home would turn out.
8. Wilbur was in \_\_\_\_\_ because people rarely set foot on the grounds of the old funeral home.
9. Mimi could not wait to get the funeral home \_\_\_\_\_ so she could start setting up the book shop.
10. The building where Wilbur lived was just about covered with a fast-growing plant called \_\_\_\_\_.

# *The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop*



## *Matching Characters End-of-Unit Quiz*



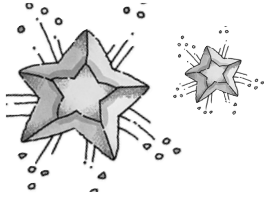
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

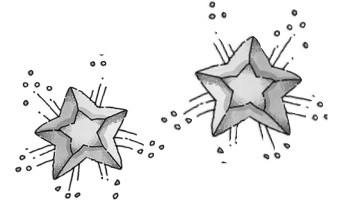
*Match the mystery characters with their descriptions.*

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Grant         | A. had the mind of a child                |
| ___ 2. Christina     | B. decided to buy deadbolt door locks     |
| ___ 3. McKenzie      | C. came up with the code word "Geronimo"  |
| ___ 4. Papa          | D. prepared a tasty picnic lunch          |
| ___ 5. Mimi          | E. originally owned the funeral home      |
| ___ 6. Thomas        | F. in charge of the book shop website     |
| ___ 7. Miss Emma     | G. wanted to open a book shop             |
| ___ 8. Wilbur        | H. drove a six-passenger golf cart        |
| ___ 9. Mr. Manse     | I. explored the attic with Christina      |
| ___ 10. Aunt Cassidy | J. got trapped in the basement with Grant |

# The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop



## Fill-in-the-Blank End-of-Unit Quiz



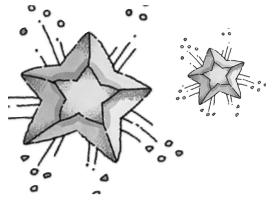
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

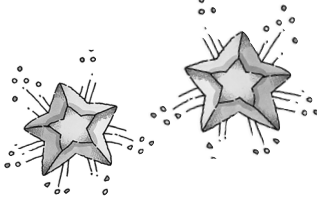
*Fill in the blanks to complete the following:*

- Grant suggested they play this sport when he, Christina, and Mimi were bored:  
\_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_
- Town where Mimi, Papa, Christina, and Grant live:  
\_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal procedure necessary when buying real estate:  
\_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_
- Type of hat Papa likes to wear:  
\_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_
- Papa suggested that Mimi's purchase of the funeral home was this:  
\_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ K \_\_\_\_\_
- When Christina used the abbreviation "CC's," she was referring to:  
\_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_\_
- Christina found the name "Wilb" written on this:  
\_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_
- Grant likes this person because she gives him stickers and suckers:  
\_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_
- The kids used these while exploring the funeral home, but they stopped working:  
\_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_
- A new sign was made for Wilbur's living area that said:  
\_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ R' \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

# *The Mystery of Mimi's Haunted Book Shop*



## *True or False End-of-Unit Quiz*



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write T for True and F for False.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Christina and Grant often traveled on great mystery adventures in Papa's *Mystery Girl* airplane.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Papa was furious when Mimi told him her idea about buying the old funeral home and turning it into a book shop.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Christina loved the old Victorian funeral home the minute she laid eyes on it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mr. Manse died intestate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The electricity was not on at the funeral home when the family first visited it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Aunt Cassidy tugged open the heavy door to release Grant and Thomas from the basement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Thomas forgot to put the stick under the basement door so he got trapped there a second time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The kids all ran into each other in a tunnel and yelled, "Geronimo"!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Wilbur was Mr. Manse's son.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Papa brought a sheepdog to the shop for security and to keep Wilbur company.

# Answer Key

## *Page 15, Mathematics: Calculate It!*

1. \$540,000; 2. \$474.50; 3. \$31,127.75;
4. No; her fruit cost is \$57.30; 5. 1919; 6. 8

## *Page 17, Vocabulary: Use It!*

1. golf cart; 2. cobwebs; 3. skeleton key;
4. deadbolt; 5. McKenzie; 6. basement;
7. Geronimo; 8. spiral staircase; 9. gazebo;
10. crematorium

## *Page 22, Chapter Worksheet 1-4*

5. to build a website; 6. used by parents to take kids to school and activities, and to run errands;
7. they did not want to go inside; 8. gingerbread;
9. T; 10. F

## *Page 23, Chapter Worksheet 5-7*

5. he had called the bank and arranged for a loan to buy the funeral home; 6. a skeleton key;
7. promise to give her all the money she needed to fix it up; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T

## *Page 24, Chapter Worksheet 8-11*

5. a couple of friends; 6. Mr. Manse's diary;
7. Bone-a-part; 8. in his shorts pocket; 9. T;
10. T

## *Page 25, Chapter Worksheet 12-15*

5. Christina; 6. to take trash to the dump;
7. rooms like Embalming Room and Makeup Room; 8. F; 9. F; 10. F

## *Page 26, Chapter Worksheet 16-19*

5. torn screens on the basement windows;
6. stuffed and mounted animal heads on the walls; 7. a cot, table, and chair; 8. a cackly voice; 9. T; 10. T

## *Page 27, Chapter Worksheet 20-23*

5. Wilbur; 6. Crematorium; 7. Embalming Room; 8. F; 9. F; 10. T

## *Page 28, Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz*

1. architecture; 2. listless; 3. dingy;
4. envisioned; 5. contemporary; 6. pedestal;
7. candid; 8. seclusion; 9. spic-and-span;
10. kudzu

## *Page 29, Matching Character End-of-Unit Quiz*

1. F; 2. C; 3. I; 4. B; 5. G; 6. J; 7. H; 8. A;
9. E; 10. D

## *Page 30, Fill-in-the-Blank End-of-Unit Quiz*

1. miniature golf; 2. Peachtree City; 3. closing;
4. cowboy; 5. a pig in a poke; 6. Creepy Clues;
7. yellowed notepad; 8. dentist; 9. flashlights;
10. Wilbur's Place

## *Page 31, True/False End-of-Unit Quiz*

1. T; 2. F; 3. F; 4. F; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F; 8. T;
9. F; 10. T