

The Graveyard Book Project

About the Book

When his family is murdered one night by the man Jack, an infant boy toddles unnoticed up the street to the graveyard, where he is taken in and raised by its denizens—ghosts, ghouls, vampires, and werewolves. Such an unusual upbringing affords young Nobody Owens (Bod, for short) just about everything he could wish for, but he still longs for human companionship, news of his family's murderer, and life beyond the graveyard. Bod's pursuit of these things increasingly places him in danger, because the man Jack is still looking for him . . . waiting to finish the job he started.





Guess Who?

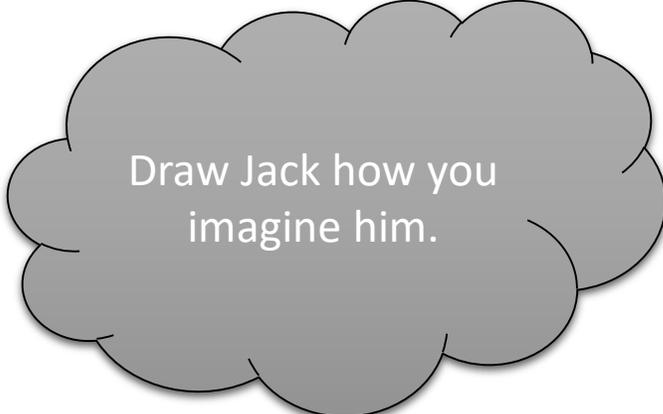
You have 25 staff appearances in our audiobook. Can you complete the table with your guess of which teacher is reading each part?

1)	2)	3)	4)	5)
6)	7)	8)	9)	10)
11)	12)	13)	14)	15)
16)	17)	18)	19)	20)
21)	22)	23)	24)	25)

Discussion Questions- Are you sharing your audiobook experience with someone? Talk to a family member or friend about the following questions.

- Which was your favourite character? Why?
- What was your favourite moment in the book?
- Neil Gaiman and the illustrator Dave McKean often work together. What do the images add to the book?
- If you are familiar with Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, how is this story similar?
- Bod's human interactions are limited to a short-lived friendship with Scarlett and a brief stint at school. Discuss how these experiences change Bod. How do our friendships and associations with others affect us?
- Google the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child'. What does it mean? How does the graveyard come together to raise this particular child? Describe the special mentoring relationships that Bod has with Silas and Miss Lupescu.
- There are often characters who are orphans in novels, as well as child characters who are destined for greatness (e.g Harry Potter). Discuss how Bod fits into both categories.
- The graveyard is populated with characters we typically think of as evil. How does the writer play with this idea, particularly in the characters of Silas, Miss Lupescu, and Eliza Hempstock? What do these characterisations suggest about human nature?
- At the close of the novel, Mrs. Owens sings about embracing the human experience: "Face your life / Its pain, its pleasure, / Leave no path untaken". How else is this shown throughout the novel?





Draw Jack how you
imagine him.

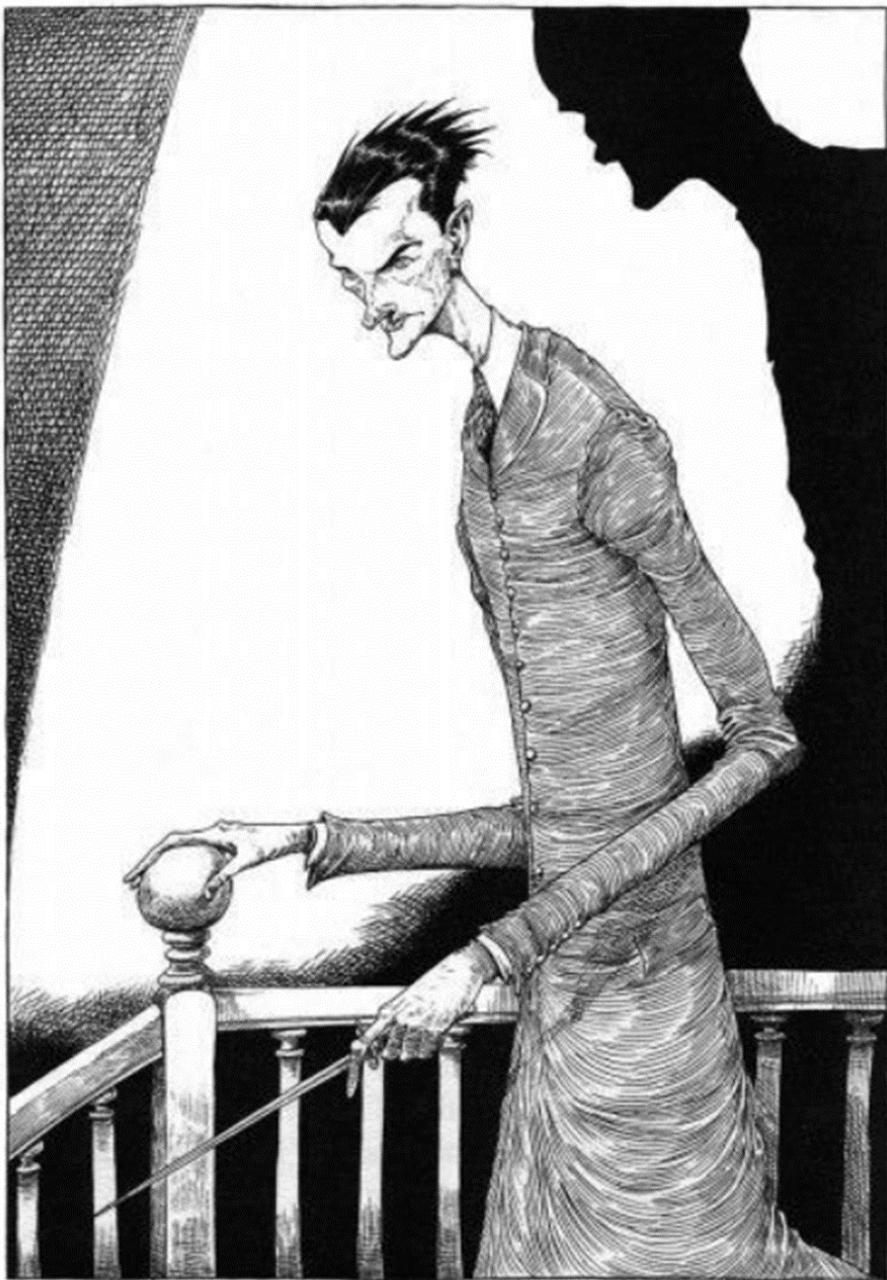
The man Jack paused on the landing.

The man Jack paused on the landing. With his left hand he pulled a large white handkerchief from the pocket of his black coat, and with it he wiped off the knife and his gloved right hand which had been holding it; then he put the handkerchief away. The hunt was almost over. He had left the woman in her bed, the man on the bedroom floor, the older child in her brightly coloured bedroom, surrounded by toys and half-finished models. That only left the little one, a baby barely a toddler, to take care of. One more and his task would be done.

He flexed his fingers. The man Jack was, above all things, a professional, or so he told himself, and he would not allow himself to smile until the job was completed.

His hair was dark and his eyes were dark and he wore black leather gloves of the thinnest lambskin.

The toddler's room was at the very top of the house. The man Jack walked up the stairs, his feet silent on the carpeting. Then he pushed the attic door, and he walked in. His shoes were black leather, and they were polished to such a shine that they looked like dark mirrors: you could see the moon reflected in them, tiny and half full.



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

NOBODY

GRAVEYARD

JACK

MYSTERY

SLEER

DORIAN

MURDER

GHOST

Supernatural Powers



Bod has several supernatural powers: the Slide, the Fade, and the Dreamwalk.

Invent a fourth supernatural power for Bod, draw a picture of him, and label his four special abilities with captions.

Epitaph Poems

Various dead characters in the novel are introduced with their epitaphs. An epitaph is the inscription found on a tombstone that summarises and memorialises the deceased. An epitaph poem, therefore, is a very short (can be witty) poem about the deceased.

Write epitaph poems for Bod, Silas, Jack, and Miss Lupescu, or for yourself, or for a friend.



The short previews of coming attractions (known as trailers in the movie industry) are a great way to entice an audience.

Design a trailer for The Graveyard Book and be as creative as possible. Think about incorporating a script, costumes, props, sound effects, IT skills.



The Graveyard

Name of cartographer: _____ Date: _____



Map Key:

(For example:  = tree)

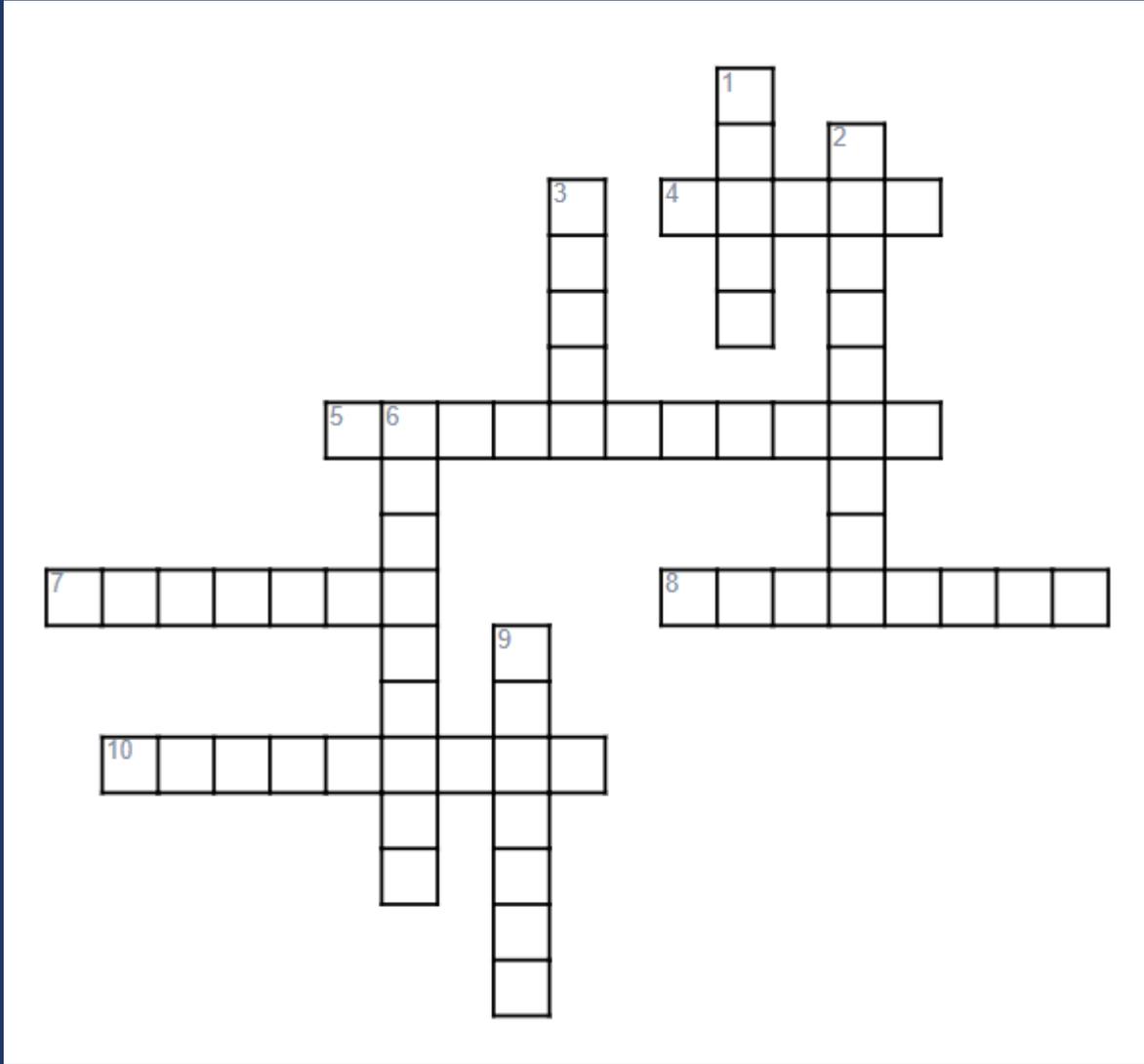
Nobody Owens had a lot of friends (and a few not-quite-friends) in the graveyard where he lived with his adopted parents.

Use this blank worksheet to make a map of the graveyard with Eliza's grave, Silas' chapele, the Owens' crypt, the chamber where The Sler lives, and as many other locations as you can remember. You can use the map key to mark locations with unique symbols, such as a skull or a book.

For an extra challenge, don't write any of the names of the locations next to the symbols and see if a friend can guess what each map marker is.

"You should be continuing the story in your head when it's done," Neil Gaiman says. "You should close that last page, but the characters keep on living. I love talking to young readers who have their own ideas about what happened to Bod after the story is over. ... Everything you need to know for the book is there in the last few pages. He has adventures."

Can you write Bod's next adventure...



ACROSS

- 4. The creature called _____ is waiting for his Master to come.
- 5. The flying creatures whose language Bod knows how to speak are called _____.
- 7. Bod can enter the dreams of others, known as Dream _____.
- 8. Bod learned that Miss Lupescu is a _____ when she saved him from ghouls.
- 10. The Order in which Jack belongs is called the Jacks of _____.

DOWN

- 1. Who is it who makes Jack leave the graveyard and saves Bod from Jack? _____
- 2. Bod is determined to get Liza a _____, but he finds himself in trouble instead.
- 3. Bod learns that Jack's full name is Jack _____.
- 6. Bod's friend Scarlett convinces her parents that he is an _____ friend.
- 9. Bod's ability to pass through solid objects is called the _____ of the Graveyard.