Rhode Island Center for the Book

KIDS READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND

2020 RESOURCE GUIDE
Magic is fading from the Wild Wood. To renew it, goblins must perform an ancient ritual involving the rarest of their kind—a newborn changeling. But when the night arrives to trade a human baby for a goblin one, something goes terribly wrong. After laying the changeling in a human infant’s crib, the goblin Kull is briefly distracted. By the time he turns back, the changeling has already perfectly mimicked the human child. Too perfectly: Kull cannot tell them apart, so he leaves both babies behind.

Tinn and Cole are raised as human twins, neither knowing what secrets may be buried deep inside one of them. When they are thirteen years old, a mysterious message arrives, calling the brothers to be heroes and protectors of magic. The boys must leave their sleepy town and risk their lives in the Wild Wood, journeying through the Deep Dark to reach the goblin horde and uncover who they truly are.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William Ritter is an Oregon author and educator. He is the proud father of the two bravest boys in the Wild Wood, and husband to the indomitable Queen of the Deep Dark. The Oddmire is Ritter’s first series for middle-grade readers. He is also the author of the New York Times bestselling, award-winning Jackaby series for young adult readers. Visit him online at rwillritter.wordpress.com and find him on Twitter: @WillowtheWords.
WELCOME TO THE 11TH YEAR OF KIDS READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND!

Kids Reading Across Rhode Island is a partnership between the RI Office of Library and Information Services and the RI Center for the Book, made possible through a vibrant collaboration of librarians, teachers, and student readers from across the state. The State House event serves as a kickoff for the annual statewide library summer reading program, which has a 2020 theme Mythology and Fairytales and the slogan “Imagine Your Story.” All summer, libraries statewide will offer free programs inspired by Changeling.

GET THE BOOK
Sets of books are available for to schools and public libraries by contacting danielle.margarida@olis.ri.gov Further reading lists, book discussion guides, the author’s website, audio interviews and other supplementary material may be found on the websites of Rhode Island Center for the Book (www.ri.book.org) and the Office of Library and Information Services (www.olis.ri.gov).
Common Core Connections and Interdisciplinary Opportunities Reading and discussing this book will help students meet several of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, including the reading literature standards for key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL), and the speaking and listening standards for comprehension and collaboration and for presentation and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL). The questions in this guide can also be used as writing prompts for independent work. Across disciplines, there are many opportunities to utilize the ideas in this book.

1. What clues does the author give us in the Prologue that this book is a fantasy?
2. The story takes place in a town called Endsborough located near the city of Glanville which is getting modern due to its fancy electric streetlights. List two or more reasons why you think it’s important for the author to set this story with a long ago feel. Why do you think he may have given the town that name?
3. Cole and Tinn are being raised as twins even though their Mom, and pretty much everyone else, knows that one of them is probably a changeling. On p. 32 Cole says, “I just want to be special sometimes.” This is followed by a reference to Hercules and his twin brother, Iphicles. How were Hercules and his brother alike or different? Does this compare to Cole and Tinn’s odd situation? If so, how?
4. In many fantasy stories goblins have a pretty bad reputation. In chapter 5 it says that they usually solve their problems by violence, theft, or running away. Make a list of how Kull does or doesn’t fit this profile.
5. On p. 64-65, Cole and Tinn have a very funny and confusing conversation with Fable about languages. Do you, or anyone you know, speak another language? Explore some words that are used in the English language you may share in common with that language OR find some words that we generally use that are from another language. (e.g., there are many foods that come from the Italian language!) Challenge yourself to find at least 10. You can try different language sources. Explore with your classmates.
6. Draw a map of the route Cole and Tinn were supposed to take as Kull laid out and then draw another map of the route they wound up taking when Fable led them.
7. On p. 71-72, Cole and Fable get into another confusing conversation about how to know what you are on the inside and how that may be different than what is seen on the outside. There was a Disney Pixar movie called Inside Out that dealt with a range of emotions. Get together with a partner and write a few lines to describe your partner as though you would be introducing them to someone new. Share together and take turns commenting on how accurate you each feel the descriptions were. Do you think that “the inside you” is more visible or hidden to others based on this exercise?

8. On p. 83 Fable says: “Tact was the thing that people did to make their words behave. Tact kept other people from feeling bad because of the things you said.” She says tact was hard. Give an example of when being tactful was a hard thing to do.

9. Tinn has a long conversation with Fable as well and admits some things he worries about. On p. 84 he tells her: “Everyone else seems to know what they want and what will make them happy all the time—but I have no idea.” Do you agree with Tinn’s view? Why or why not?

10. On p. 95-96, Annie tells Kull in no uncertain terms that Cole and Tinn are her boys. From lullabies to tying bowties and everything in between she makes her point. Make a list some of the little things that you have done for someone else to show that you care.

11. Candlebeard is a hinkypunk that is described rather well (p.102). Now try drawing him!

12. As loving mothers, what strong qualities do the Queen/Witch and Annie both have? Give examples of how they exhibit these qualities from the text.

13. On p.154-156 the Queen/Witch and Annie have a conversation about stories that also focuses on the protection of forest and its wildlife. Make a list some of the things being done to address them. What are some local issues and what might you be able to do to make a positive impact?

14. Tinn had often wished he’d been invisible but it had never worked before. This time was different. He discovers something about himself. Make a chart listing pros and cons of having the ability to become invisible.

15. How did the character of Candlebeard continue to surprise or disappoint you as the story progressed? Do you find him more as a favorable character or a negative one? Support your answer with examples from the text.

16. The Thing says: “Hope is such a tantalizing torment.” (p. 208) Explain why he thinks this.
17. In the end, the Thing is no larger than a mouse, and while Tinn talks to it, it bites down hard on Tinn’s hand, causing him to drop it, and allowing it to get away. Imagine that this bite will cause problems in the future. Write a scenario featuring this.

18. Draw a scene from the Queen/Witch’s re-telling of her life on The Other Side. Do you think Annwyn is The Other Side? Can you think of a song/musical piece that evokes this?

19. Why can Fable successfully “punch the universe?”

20. Why do you think the Queen/Witch makes a distinction between being “always welcome in the Wild Wood” and “being safe” there? Why the difference?

BOOKS ON RELATED THEMES

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Compiled by Brooke Strachan, Wheeler School; Lee-Ann Galli, North Kingstown Free Library, Tina Ladika, South Kingstown Public Library

Aru Shah and the End of Time by Roshani Chokshi
12 year old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon. This kick-off to the Pandava series is an adventurous dive into Hindu mythology – a great choice for Rick Riordan fans!

Breadcrumbs by Anne Ursu
Once upon a time, Hazel and Jack were best friends. But that was before he stopped talking to her and disappeared into a forest with a mysterious woman made of ice. Now it’s up to Hazel to go in after him. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Snow Queen,” Breadcrumbs is a stunningly original fairy tale of modern-day America, a dazzling ode to the power of fantasy, and a heartbreaking meditation on how growing up is as much a choice as it is something that happens to us.

Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell
This upbeat graphic novel follows the summer adventures of a group of neighborhood children who create costumes from cardboard and use their imagination in adventures with knights, robots, and monsters.

The Curse of the Werepenguin by Allan Woodrow Woodrow
All orphan Bolt Wattle has ever wanted was to find his true family. When a mysterious baron in far-off Brugaria sends for Bolt, he wonders if he’s getting closer to finding his long-lost parents. But Baron Chordata appears to be a twelve-year-old boy who wears tuxedos all the time, shouts at everyone, and forbids Bolt from asking questions. Things couldn’t get any
worse…until midnight, when the Baron bites Bolt and turns him into a half boy, half penguin.

**Dragon Masters series** by Tracey West

This fully illustrated series has it all - Dragons, a Dragon Stone, a king, a wizard, and magic!

**Emily Windsnap and the Sirens Secret** by Liz Kessler

Emily Windsnap enjoys a peaceful existence with her fellow merpeople friends on Allpoints Island, but when she learns that they need to return to Brightport, where construction projects threaten a secret mermaid community, Neptune asks the Windsnap family to solve the problem.

**Gregor the Overlander** by Suzanne Collins

Life hasn't been the same for 11-year-old Gregor since his father disappeared without a trace. But when Gregor follows his younger sister into the air duct of the laundry room in their apartment building, his life changes more than he could ever imagine. He finds himself in the Underland, where a battle is brewing between strange looking humans, rats, spiders, and cockroaches.

**Kingdom of Wrenly series** by Jordan Quinn

Journey to the magical Kingdom of Wrenly and join Prince Lucas and his best friend Clara on plenty of adventures with this fantastical illustrated chapter book series!

**Maybe a Mermaid** by Jospehine Cameron

A summer romp full of mystery, new friends, and maybe a mermaid!

**Night of the HowlingDogs** by Graham Salisbury

Eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, in 1975, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami.

**Odd Frost and the Giants** by Neil Gaiman

An unlucky twelve-year-old Norwegian boy named Odd leads the Norse gods Loki, Thor, and Odin in an attempt to outwit evil Frost Giants who have taken over Asgard.

**Princess in Black series** by Shannon Hale

Who says princesses don’t wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

**Rick Riordan Presents (Series)**

These books are written by various authors and include the mythology of the Maya and Aztec and the countries of India, Africa and Korea.
Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin by Liesl Shurtliff
This funny fractured fairy tale goes behind the scenes of Rumpelstiltskin. Learn why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller’s daughter-turned-queen. Also check-out other fairytale adaptations by Shurtliff, including Grump and Red!

A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz
Follow Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. A darkly humorous spin on the Grimms’ fairytales, also see In a Glass Grimmly and The Grimm Conclusion!

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon. Inspired by Chinese folklore, also see the companion novels: Starry River of the Sky and When the Sea Turned to Silver.

Wings of Fire series by Tui T. Sutherland
Journey to the dragon-inhabited continents of Pyrrhia and Pantala, and follow the quests of young dragons to fulfill prophecies. Also check-out the new Wings of Fire graphic novel series!

PICTURE BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS
Compiled by Babs Wells, Greenville Public Library

The Garden of Abdul Gasazi by Chris van Allsburg
Sometimes the very thin line between illusion and reality is not so clearly defined. It certainly wasn’t the day that Alan Mitz stumbled into the garden of Abdul Gasazi - where strange topiary trees loomed.

Looking for Atlantis by Colin Thompson
When a seafaring grandfather returns home for the last time, his ten-year-old grandson searches for the great treasure hidden in the sailor’s old wooden chest. It holds the promise that the imagination holds the mightiest treasure of all.

Nobody Likes a Goblin by Ben Hatke
Goblin, a cheerful homebody lives a cozy dungeon with his friend Skeleton. But one day, a gang of marauders burst in and steal all of his treasures. Goblin has to leave the dungeon to go on a quest to find his friend.

The Rainbow Goblins by Ul de Rico
Sweeping landscapes are filled with treacherous goblins in the search of
the most beautiful rainbow in the world. After several goblins try to steal it, the Rainbow is careful to never touch the earth again.

NON-FICTION
Complied by Anne McLaughlin, West Warwick Public Library and Edna Hutchins, Cranston Public Library

The Atlas of Monsters: Mythical Creatures From Around the World by Sandra Lawrence
An illustrated catalog with maps of the world’s fantastical beasts and creatures of myth and legend.

Discover Gnomes, Halflings, and Other Wondrous Fantasy Beings by Aaron Sautter
A Field guide to goblins, gremlins, and other wicked creatures.

Fairy Spell: How Two Girls Convinced the World That Fairies are Real by Marc Tyler
The true story of how two girls fooled the world with their photos of fairies.

Fairy World: Enter the Magical and Mysterious realm by Stella Caldwell
The truth behind the fairies, goblins, boggarts and other creatures in legends, myths and folklore.

Fingerprint Monsters and Dragons and 100 adventurous Creatures/Illustrations by Ilona Molnar
Fingerprint art activities for creating trolls, and other fantasy creatures.

Forest Fairy Crafts: Enchanting Fairies from Simple Supplies by Lenka and Asia Vodicka-Paredes
Enchanting projects designing and sewing basics for creating flower fairies, zombie sprites, and treasure keepers.

Look at My Book: How Kids Can Write and Illustrate Terrific Books by Loreen Leedy
Ideas for how to write, design, and bind your own book.

Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse by Marilyn Singer
A collection of creative reverso poetry based on fairytales with different points of view.

Monday’s Troll by Jack Prelutsky
A poetry collection about unsavory characters such as witches, ogres, wizards, giants and goblins.
Super Simple Fairy Gardens: A Kid’s Guide to Gardening by Alex Kuskowski
The basics of creating a fairy garden starting with plants and tools and creating themes.

Trolls by Stephen Klepeis
Trolls from Viking times in myth, folklore and more until present day.

Twin Tales: The Magic and the Mystery of Multiple Birth by Donna Jackson
Explores aspects of twins including identical and fraternal twins, twin telepathy and more in 48 pages.

Watchers in the Woods by Stephen Krensky
Learn about the history and pop culture surrounding dwarfs, elves, and other woodland creatures.

Wild things: Over 100 Magical Outdoor Adventures by Jo Schofield
Activities to do outdoors in nature to discover fantasy creatures of the natural world and imagination. Are you ready to track a dragon, discover trolls, or bring a tree monster to life?

FOLKTALES
Compiled by Susan Lepore, Retired Children’s Librarian, Warwick Public Library

Mightier Than the Sword: World Folktales for Strong Boys by Jane Yolen
A collection of folktales from around the world that demonstrate the triumph of brains over brawn.

Not One Damsel in Distress: Heroic Girls from World Folktales by Jane Yolen
13 traditional tales with strong, fearless and resourceful women.

Once Upon a Time: Traditional Latin American Tales = Habia una Vez: Cuentos Tradicionales Latinoam by Ruben Martinez
A collection of tales from Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain told in English and Spanish.

The People Could Fly: American Black Folk Tales by Virginia Hamilton.
African American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and the desire for freedom.

What If….by Samantha Berger
Stunning mixed-media illustrations and lyrical text tell this imaginative tale
about a young creative who is determined to express herself!

**Zathura** by Chris Van Allsburg

Left on their own for an evening, two boisterous brothers find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious space adventure board game.

**ACTIVITIES**

*Created by Lisa Lesinski, Barrington Public Library*

**Character Map & Character Analysis**

Describe things that the character wants, thinks, feels, does, and says.

Analyze a character and discuss how the he or she develops and changes over the course of the novel by completing a character map. The same character can be analyzed several times throughout the novel to show how the character is changing.

To analyze a character, focus on 4 things that can change:

1. Their physical appearance
2. Their intelligence
3. Their social abilities
4. Their feelings

Keep track of a character’s development by recording evidence found in the text, categorized into these 4 main character changes.

**Character Instagram**

Create a fictitious Instagram account for a book character of their choice. Kids should consider the following questions:

- What kind of content would this character post?
- How would this character explain each post?
- What kind of language would this character use?
- Who would this character follow on Instagram?
- Who would follow this character on Instagram?
- What kind of comments would people leave on this character’s posts?
- How would this character comment on other posts?
- Who is friends with this character?
- What are key events and issues from the story that might appear on this character’s Instagram feed?
- Who is related to this character?
The character's Instagram page should include the following elements:
- The character’s profile
- A profile pic of the character
- 2-3 Insta Story Highlight Covers (images, text, etc.)
- 3+ posts from the character
- Each post must include a relevant caption that relates to the story
- Each post must contain 2-3 relevant comments from followers
- An explanation of how the IG account connects to the book (typed & turned in separately)

“YOU HAVE THREE WISHES”

A genie lands in the midpoint of the story you have just read and grants the two main characters three wishes.

What do they wish for and why? Finally, would their wishes have changed anything about the story? How so?

https://www.bespokeclassroom.com/blog/2018/10/2/5-innovative-activities-for-any-novel-unit
## What's Your Spirit Animal?

### 1. Use your first initial to find your descriptive name...

- A = White-throated
- B = Pallid
- C = Scaled
- D = Big Eared
- E = Golden-mantled
- F = Hog-nosed
- G = Blue-footed
- H = Big Brown
- I = Horned
- J = Hairy
- K = Bearded
- L = Yellow-faced
- M = Naked
- N = Hoary
- O = Black-tailed
- P = Bald
- Q = Silky
- R = Yellow-bellied
- S = Blind
- T = Free-tailed
- U = Red-breasted
- V = Toothless
- W = Spotted
- X = Fat
- Y = Ladder-backed
- Z = Cut-throat

### 2. Use your middle initial to find your habitat...

- A = Burrowing
- B = River
- C = Sea
- D = Savanna
- E = Martian
- F = Mountain
- G = Forest
- H = Lake
- I = Desert
- J = Canyon
- K = Dune
- L = Cave
- M = Taiga
- N = Rainforest
- O = Tundra
- P = Tropical
- Q = Karst
- R = Riparian
- S = Swamp
- T = Bog
- U = Alpine
- V = Urban
- W = Prairie
- X = Lunar
- Y = Tidal
- Z = Jungle

### 3. Use your last initial to find your animal...

- A = Beaver
- B = Lizard
- C = Hawk
- D = Koala
- E = Snake
- F = Bear
- G = Squirrel
- H = Porcupine
- I = Wombat
- J = Mole Rat
- K = Wallaby
- L = Lemming
- M = Rabbit
- N = Kangaroo
- O = Oppossum
- P = Toad
- Q = Deer
- R = Gazelle
- S = Otter
- T = Gorilla
- U = Skunk
- V = Owl
- W = Raccoon
- X = Panda
- Y = Crane
- Z = Zebra

BOOK DISCUSSION COOTIE CATCHER

- Blue
  - Summarize the story
  - What was your favorite part of the story?
  - What was your favorite character?
  - If you could change the ending, what would happen?

- Orange
  - What was the setting?
  - How did the main character change?
  - What is the main character's conflict?
  - If you could change the ending, what would happen?

- Yellow
  - Describe the main character
  - Describe the main character
  - Recommend the story to a friend
  - Recommend the story to a friend

- Pink
  - Give the story a rating (1-5) and explain why you chose it.
  - Give the story a rating (1-5) and explain why you chose it.

Laptops and Literacy 2016

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/173247916899162360/
TO FIND OUT ABOUT KIDS READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND PROGRAMS IN YOUR AREA, GO TO RIBOOK.ORG.

This booklet presents resources the Kids Reading Across Rhode Island committee has gathered to enrich and expand this reading.

ABOUT RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR THE BOOK
Rhode Island Center for the Book is a statewide organization devoted to promoting personal and community enrichment by celebrating the art and heritage of reading, writing, making, and sharing books. The Center was founded in 2003 as the state affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
The Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) is the state library agency for Rhode Island. OLIS supports and strengthens library and information services in the state to ensure that all residents will benefit from free and convenient access to library and information resources and services. OLIS supports children’s library services statewide by facilitating reading promotion and educational activities, through support for children’s library services, and through collaboration with other state agencies and non-profit organizations, including school/public library cooperation. www.olis.ri.gov

Program design by Amy Barrett