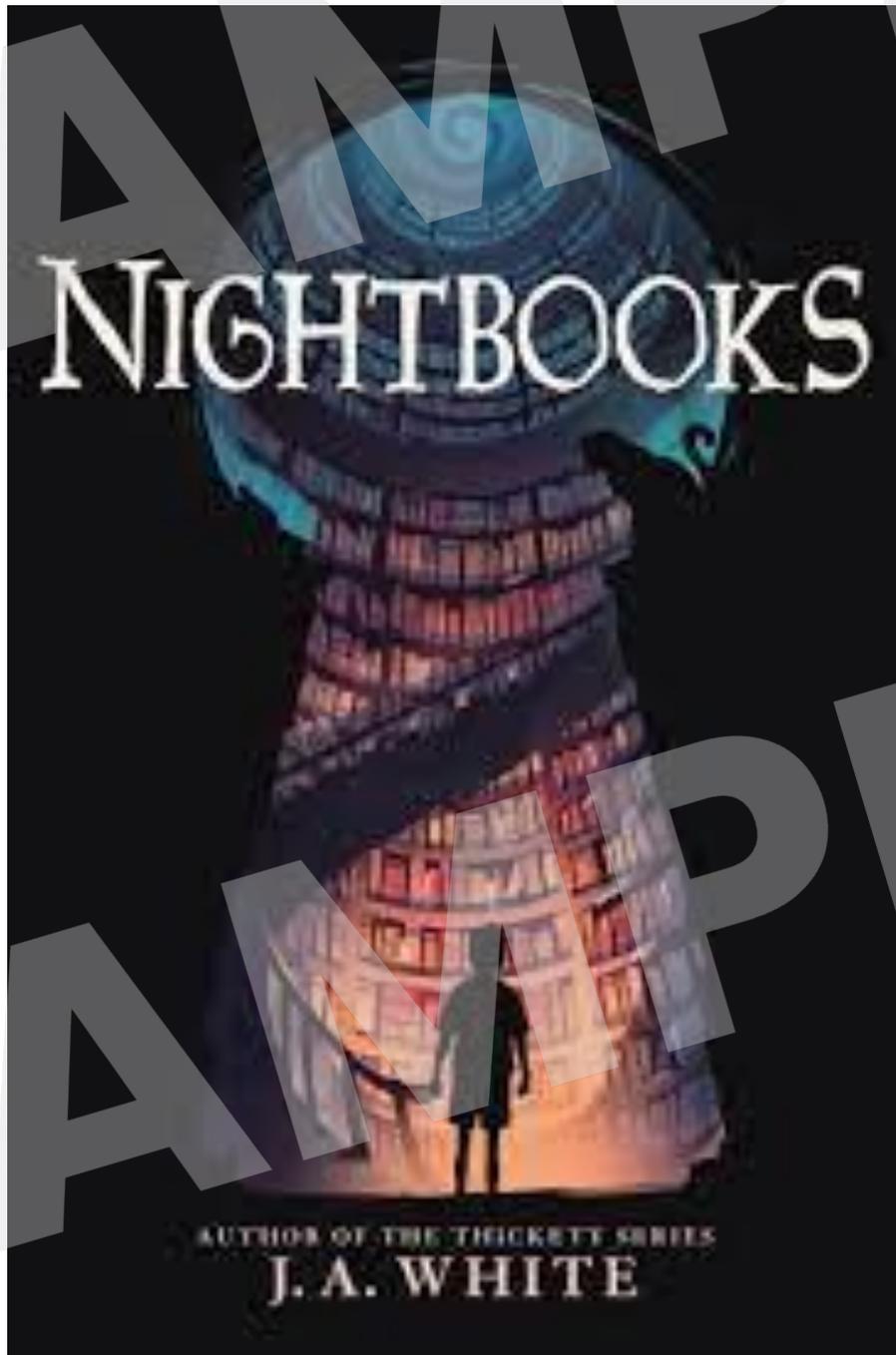


# READ ALOUD

a comprehensive guide



## VOCABULARY

- Lingered (page 1)
- Snippets (page 2)
- Grimy (page 2)
- Piqued (page 4)
- Exhilarated (page 5)
- Entranced (page 8)
- Gawking (page 8)

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Page 3: What do you think Alex is trying to get rid of?
- Page 5: Why does Alex like creepy things so much?
- Page 7: Do you think the lady lured Alex to her apartment? Why?
- Page 10: Why do you think the witch trapped him? What does she want from him?

## AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

- Class Discussion: Do you think you would have fallen for the witches trick? Why or why not?

# CHAPTER 1: The Wrong Floor

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- “During the day, snippets of his neighbors lives leaked through the thin doors...” (page 2)
- “The only sounds were a grimy lightbulb that buzzed like an angry hornet...” (page 2)
- “At the time, it was like his body was not his own, but a moth drawn to the flickering lights of the television.” (page 8)

## MENTOR SENTENCE

“He turned in his seat, moving impossibly slow, hoping to make a mad dash for the door.”  
(page 9)

## VOCABULARY

- Dread (page 12)
- Ferocity (page 13)
- Morbid (page 13)
- Gruesome (page 19)

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- **STOP after Page 15:** Why does the apartment shake when Alex screams? Is there an earthquake or was it the magic apartment?
- Page 18: Why do you think Natacha won't let Alex go?
- Page 19: What does Alex mean when he says that there is a difference between story scary and real scary?
- Page 20: Make a prediction: what is Alex going to do with the information the strange figure gives him? "She likes stories."

## AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

# CHAPTER 2: The Voice at the Door

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- "Curious what would happen, Alex lifted his backpack and watched its twin rise into the air like a prop in a haunted house." (page 14)
- "The wheels of his brain spun madly, trying to process the giant wrecking ball that had just tilted his world askew." (page 15)

## MENTOR SENTENCE

"He slammed the door shut with such ferocity that the empty hangers tinkled together in response." (page 13)

## VOCABULARY

- Adversity (page 21)
- Resignation (page 22)
- Absentmindedly (page 29)

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Page 21-22: What plan does Alex come up with to get out of the apartment? Do you think it will work?
- Page 25: The title of the story is *Nightbooks*. What are nightbooks according to Alex?
- Page 26: What was Alex's first story about? What did you think of it?
- Make a prediction: What does Natacha mean when she says "Tomorrow your real work begins?"

## AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

- Writing Activity: Finish the story *Lost Dog*. Add at least one more paragraph describing what happens after the roller coaster starts to go down the hill. Make sure your content is school appropriate.

# CHAPTER 3:

## The Thing Inside the Backpack

### FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- After a painful landing, Alex looked behind him and saw the legs of the bed wrapped around his ankles like vines." (page 22)

### MENTOR SENTENCE

"She continued to stare at him, absentmindedly tweezing a strand of shadows from the arm of the magic chair and spooling it around her index finger." (page 29)

## VOCABULARY

- Vantage (page 33)
- Accentuated (page 33)
- Condescending (page 34)
- Tomes (page 35)
- Embossed (page 35)
- Paraphernalia (page 36)

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Page 34: How was the room different in the morning than it was yesterday? How does Alex find this out?
- Page 36: How does Alex feel about creepy things? How is this different from a lot of other children?
- Page 37: What did the cat get upset about? Why was the cat there to begin with?
- Page 40: Make a prediction: Is Natacha trying to unlock the door to the coat closet? Who else could it be?

## AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

# CHAPTER 4:

## A Room of Dark Wonders

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- “It gazed down at Alex like a queen from her throne.” (page 33)
- “It did not purr, or show any sign of pleasure whatsoever, but rather bore his touch like some kind of foul-tasting medicine best swallowed as quickly as possible.” (page 34)

## MENTOR SENTENCE

“It wasn’t a metallic sound like a normal key would make---more like chalk clicking against a blackboard.” (page 40)

## VOCABULARY

- Mulled (page 42)
- Vizier (page 43)
- Grappled (page 48)

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Page 44: Who is Yasmin? How is she similar to Alex?
- Page 45: Who is Lenore? What does she do around the house for Natacha?
- Page 49: What is behind the door that Yasmin opened with the bone key?
- Page 50: What will Alex be doing “all day, every day?”

## AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

# CHAPTER 5: The Other Prisoner

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- “Yasmin rolled her eyes, like an older sister saddled with babysitting duty.” (page 46)
- “Dust motes falling like snow. The musty smell of pages begging to be turned.” (page 49)

## MENTOR SENTENCE

“A narrow wooden staircase wound upward in tight spirals past hundreds of book-lined shelves, the ceiling a barely visible dot in the distance.” (page 48)

## VOCABULARY

- Sauntered (page 54)
- Tantalizing (page 54)
- Languorously (page 55)

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Page 58: What does Alex try to do when Natacha returns to the apartment? How does that go for him?
- Page 64: Why did Alex want to destroy his nightbooks? Have you ever felt like Alex did?

## AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

- Mr. Boots Writing Activity: Write an alternate ending OR continue the story of Mr. Boots.

# CHAPTER 6: The Misting Room

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- “It made a big sucking sound, like a shoe embedded in mud, but refused to budge.” (page 57)

## MENTOR SENTENCE

“Alex thought it was how a cobra might smile if equipped with lips and two full rows of teeth.” (page 62)

# lingered

Nightbooks Vocabulary: CH 1

# snippets

Nightbooks Vocabulary: CH 1

# grimy

Nightbooks Vocabulary: CH 1

# piqued

Nightbooks Vocabulary: CH 1

# exhilarated

Nightbooks Vocabulary: CH 1

# entranced

Nightbooks Vocabulary: CH 1

# gawking

Nightbooks Vocabulary: CH 1

# dread

Nightbooks Vocabulary: CH 2

**C**

“The only sounds were a grimy lightbulb that buzzed like an angry hornet...”

- (A) Idiom                      (B) Metaphor  
(C) Alliteration              (D) Simile

Nightbooks Figurative Language

**A**

“During the day, snippets of his neighbors lives leaked through the thin doors...”

- (A) Simile                      (B) Idiom  
(C) Metaphor                (D) Hyperbole

Nightbooks Figurative Language

**D**

“Curious what would happen, Alex lifted his backpack and watched its twin rise into the air like a prop in a haunted house.”

- (A) Metaphor                (B) Hyperbole  
(C) Simile                    (D) Personification

Nightbooks Figurative Language

**B**

“At the time, it was like his body was not his own, but a moth drawn to the flickering lights of the television.”

- (A) Pun                        (B) Onomatopoeia  
(C) Metaphor (D) Idiom

Nightbooks Figurative Language

## G

“It gazed down at Alex like a queen from her throne.”

- (A) Idiom                      (B) Metaphor  
(C) Alliteration              (D) Simile

Nightbooks Figurative Language

## E

“The wheels of his brain spun madly, trying to process the giant wrecking ball that had just tilted his world askew.”

- (A) Simile                    (B) Idiom  
(C) Metaphor              (D) Hyperbole

Nightbooks Figurative Language

## H

“It did not purr, or show any sign of pleasure whatsoever, but rather bore his touch like some kind of foul-tasting medicine best swallowed as quickly as possible.”

- (A) Metaphor              (B) Hyperbole  
(C) Simile                    (D) Personification

Nightbooks Figurative Language

## F

“After a painful landing, Alex looked behind him and saw the legs of the bed wrapped around his ankles like vines.”

- (A) Simile                    (B) Onomatopoeia  
(C) Metaphor              (D) Idiom

Nightbooks Figurative Language

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# NIGHTBOOKS FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# MENTOR SENTENCE

Complete each section below using your mentor sentence.

He turned in his seat, moving impossibly slow, hoping to make a mad dash for the door. ~Page 9 (Nightbooks)

## NOTICE

He turned in his seat , moving

impossibly slow , hoping to make a mad

dash for the door .

## REVISE

## IMITATE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# MENTOR SENTENCE

Complete each section below using your mentor sentence.

“He slammed the door shut with such ferocity that the empty hangers tinkled together in response.” ~Page 13 (Nightbooks)

## NOTICE

He slammed the door shut with  
such ferocity that the empty hangers  
tinkled together in response .

## REVISE

## IMITATE

# NIGHTBOOKS: The Lost Dog

## LOST DOG

The first time that Greg saw the dog was at his friend Eric's house. The two boys had been hanging out all day, and after finally getting bored of video games they went outside to throw the Frisbee around. The dog was sitting on the front porch. It was a medium-sized animal with mangy white fur, like an old undershirt that had been worn one time too many. Neither boy recognized the breed.

"Hey there," said Eric, bending down to scratch the dog's neck. The dog didn't wag its tail. It stared up at Eric with sad eyes.

"Must be lost," Greg said, keeping his distance. (His mother, who had been bitten when she was a girl, had always warned him to stay away from strange animals.) "Check the tag. Maybe he belongs to one of your neighbors."

Eric inspected the tag on the chain collar. It was a shiny black triangle without any name or address.

"Weird," said Eric, pinching the strange tag between his fingers. "Feel this. It's as cold as ice."

"I'm good," Greg said, backing away. The dog was looking at him with those sad eyes. Greg couldn't say why, but he suddenly wanted to get out of there as quickly as possible. "I'm heading home."

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The next morning, his parents sat him down at the dining room table and gave him the tragic news: There had been an electrical fire while Eric and his family were sleeping. None of them had survived.

A year passed. Greg was still sad when he thought about Eric, but not as sad as he used to be. One day he was walking home from school when he passed the Wilsons' house. The lawn hadn't been mowed in a while and mail was overflowing from the mailbox. No one held these things against them. Their daughters, Renmae, was sick. Not stay-home-from-school sick, but the bad kind that required overnight stays at the hospital.

A white dog stared out at him from the Wilsons' front window.

Until that point, Greg had forgotten all about the lost dog that he had seen at Eric's house the day of the fire. Now the memory came rushing back. *It can't be the same one, he thought. Can it?* He crossed the lawn to get a closer look. The dog sat as still as a statue and stared back at him with sad eyes.

A black triangle dangled from its collar.

Greg ran home. The next morning, his mom got a phone call that made her break down into tears.

Renmae Wilson had died in her sleep.

After that, Greg started looking for the white dog everywhere he went. He never saw it. Eventually he became convinced that the dog had just been a figment of his imagination.

One beautiful summer day, Greg went to an amusement

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park. They had just built a new roller coaster. It was one of the tallest in the world, and Greg had been waiting all year to ride it. At first his mom said no—there had been stories online about some safety concerns—but Greg finally talked her into it. He waited for hours to get the front seat. As he pulled the shoulder harness over his chest, he knew that it had been worth it.

The car climbed the hill ever so slowly, higher and higher and higher. Greg looked down and gasped at how small the people had gotten below him. He grinned.

*This is going to be great,* he thought.

There were tiny steps along the side of the tracks, just in case a worker needed to get up there and fix something. At the very top of the hill was a small platform just big enough for someone to stand on. The white dog was there, watching the coaster ascend. Its eyes looked sadder than ever. Sunlight glinted off its triangular collar.

Greg knew that the dog's presence could mean only one thing.

"Stop the ride!" he shouted, struggling against his shoulder harness.

It was too late. The roller coaster was already plunging down the first drop. All around Greg, people started to scream.

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