

## Reading Resource Library Guide: Supernatural/Suspense

The following high-interest books were selected to support an exploration of Supernatural/Suspense books. Each book has a summary and additional information, such as book trailers and links to reviews, in a separate slide deck. Visit [this link](#) to access the books.

### Suggestions for using the text sets and slide deck:

- ▶ Choose one of the following four topics from the quarter four slide deck to explore with your class: Supernatural/Suspense, Realistic Fiction, All Stories Tell a Story, and Action/Adventure.
- ▶ Books in the collection span different reading levels. Also included is a separate collection, “Engaging Books for Children and Families,” which offers a selection of books that can be used with children, families, and adults.
- ▶ Explore the slides for your topic in the provided link. Each book listed in the table below has a summary and additional information with links to websites that offer supplemental material. Consider selecting one book to read aloud to learners while they read their own text.
- ▶ Share the slide deck with learners and explore the books and websites. Allow learners individual time to explore the slide deck and choose a book or excerpts from several books to read.
- ▶ Decide how you will interact with these topics and texts. This information guide has suggestions for activities for the classroom, tools for teachers, and activities for families, which are starting points for larger units or creative activities to engage with topics and texts.
- ▶ The “Activities for Families” section may be copied into another document and sent home with families for engagement suggestions while reading the books.
- ▶ Use this tool to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners!

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Bird Box</i>	Josh Malerman	HL 520
<i>Haunted Hospital</i>	Marty Chan	HL 520

<i>The Stalker</i>	Gail Anderson-Dargatz	540
<i>The Lake</i>	Natasha Preston	HL 540
<i>One of Us Is Lying</i>	Karen M. McManus	760
<i>They Both Die at the End</i>	Adam Silvera	870
<i>Leave the World Behind</i>	Rumaan Alam	N/A
<i>The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon</i>	Stephen King	N/A
<b>Engaging Books for Adults and Children</b>		
<i>Suee and the Shadow</i>	Ginger Ly	GN 270
<i>Ghosts</i>	Raina Telgemeier	300
<i>The Spooky Wheels on the Bus</i>	J. Elizabeth Mills	AD 400
<i>Zombies Don't Eat Veggies</i>	Megan Lacera and Jorge Lacera	AD 460
<i>Creepy Carrots!</i>	Aaron Reynolds	AD 490
<i>Pigeon P.I.</i>	Meg McLaren	AD 530
<i>The Forgotten Girl</i>	India Hill Brown	670
<i>Case Closed #1: Mystery in the Mansion</i>	Lauren Magaziner	N/A

## Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ At the start of this unit, ensure that learners understand the complexities of reading books in the supernatural/suspense genres. You will want to make sure that your learners understand the meaning of the bolded words and how authors may use them to build suspense within a story.
  - **Sensory Language:** Words or phrases the author uses to appeal to the readers' five senses (touch, taste, sight, sound, smell).
  - **Figurative Language:** A literary craft move an author may use to help add to the suspense and tone of a text. (See definitions below)
  - **Metaphor:** Comparison without using "like" or "as." Example: "The moon was a glowing white dinner plate in the sky."
  - **Simile:** Comparison using "like" or "as." Example: "The branches looked like thin fingers reaching out to grab us in the moonlight."
  - **Personification:** Giving human qualities to inanimate (non-human) objects. Example: "The trees danced in the light of the moon as the light breeze blew through the forest."
  - **Onomatopoeia:** Words associated with sounds. Examples: "buzz," "hiss," "sizzle," and "bang."

- Supernatural: Something that is unexplained or goes beyond a “natural” understanding of something based on science or law.
- ▶ To help learners understand these vocabulary words further, consider using any of these [mini-lesson ideas](#) to get your learners started with looking for some craft moves authors make in suspenseful/supernatural texts. Explain also how authors use "evidence" (a sign that shows that something exists or is true) and "horror" (type of fiction that is intended to frighten or scare its viewers by invoking feelings of terror) to excite the reader. [This site](#) may also be helpful for your learners.
- ▶ After learners have been immersed in their suspenseful/supernatural texts, help them to become suspense writers themselves. Consider using this [Haunted Mansion](#) activity to help them apply their skills and knowledge to writing.
- ▶ At the end of this unit, consider having learners create their own suspenseful book trailers for the book(s) they read using this [free video production program](#). Then, have a viewing party or upload them all to a [Padlet](#) so they can comment and leave feedback for each other. You may even consider giving out “Emmy” or “Academy Awards” for “best picture,” “most creative,” or other similar categories.

## Tools for Teachers

### **We Are Teachers**

This (free) website offers free pintables, classroom resources, contests, newsletters, and more for educators of all grade levels and contents. If you are looking for classroom ideas, unit ideas, lesson plans, or tools and resources, this is your one stop shop! Put “suspense” in the search bar and you will find lots of ideas about texts to use with readers, unit ideas, and more. You can access this website [here](#).

### **Read Write Think:**

This [website](#) offers a free lesson to help students explore sensory language by creating their own theme poems using the five senses. The poem activity can also help students practice the use of similes and metaphors.

### **Crime and Puzzlement:**

This book series helps readers to solve crimes based on images and a short synopsis of a crime. It supports both writing and reading. Your learners will have a blast acting as detectives to solve the crimes! You can access the link to them on Amazon [here](#). For some free samples, click [here](#).

### **You Dunit:**

This website will help guide you through creating your own murder mystery game party. This may be a great way to introduce the unit to your learners, or culminate the unit with them! If you are really skilled, you may have learners create their own as well. You can access the directions by clicking [here](#).

## Activities for Families

- ▶ Choose a book to explore from the “Engaging Books for Adults and Children” section in the table above.
- ▶ Look at the front cover with your child. Ask them, “What do you notice?” Explore the pictures and text. Have your child guess at what the story may be about using the picture on the front cover. This is called making a prediction.
- ▶ Read and discuss the book. Make connections to the supernatural/suspense books that you are reading. Explore words that your child does not understand.
- ▶ Explain that supernatural is “something created or imagined” and suspense is “a feeling of not knowing what will happen next.” With that in mind, discuss the following questions with your child:
  - What is suspenseful in this story?
  - Are the characters in this story real or make believe?
  - What did the character do in the story? Would you have reacted the same way? Why/why not?
  - Were you able to predict what might happen in the story? Why/why not?
  - Would you like to read other suspenseful or supernatural books? Why/why not?

## Expert Reviewers

Gail Lemley Burnett  
English Instructor  
Portland Adult Education  
Portland, Maine

Sheryl Grant  
Data Specialist  
North Texas Adult Education & Literacy  
Denton, Texas

Delia Watley, M.Ed.  
Director of Adult Education  
Irving Independent School District