

Kate Klise
M. Sarah Klise

43 Old Cemetery Road



DREADFULLY ENCHANTING DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS AND APPALLINGLY CAPTIVATING
ACTIVITIES AWAIT YOU INSIDE.



Ghost Writer in Residence
43 Old Cemetery Road, The Cupola
Ghastly, Illinois

Dear fellow bibliophiles,

I am tickled to death that you are a fan of the 43 Old Cemetery Road books. These extraordinary books contain the correspondences between me, my family, my friends—and my enemies. Our peculiar adventures come alive through the letters, newspaper articles, e-mails, reports, and transcripts that document our lives and our journey from hopelessness to a loving family and beyond.

As a thank-you for receiving the 43 Old Cemetery Road series with such enthusiasm and helping to make it such a success, I have scared up these discussion questions and activities to make your reading experience more riveting, engaging, and compelling. Please share these pages with anyone you may know who loves reading and writing letters as much as we do.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Gratefully and eternally yours,

Olive C. Spence

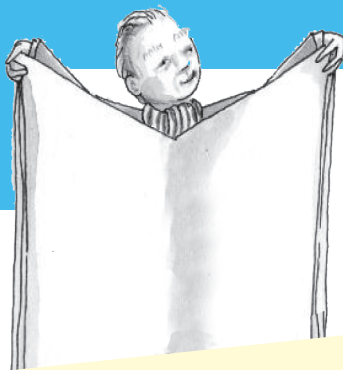
PS. Ignatius and Seymour send their love.



P.P.S. Here is a picture of us so that you can see what we look like.

Common Core Standards addressed in these discussion questions and activities:

- Grade 4:
Reading Literature: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7
Writing: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.9
- Grade 5:
Reading Literature: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7
Writing: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.9
- Grade 6:
Reading Literature: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.6
Writing: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.9
- Grade 7:
Reading Literature: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6
Writing: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.9



BOOK
ONE

43 Old Cemetery Road DYING TO MEET YOU

IGNATIUS B. GRUMPLY

A WRITER IN RESIDENCE

43 OLD CEMETERY ROAD 2ND FLOOR GHASTLY, ILLINOIS

Dear Friends:

Olive tells me that you are a big 43 Old Cemetery Road fan. I'm very glad that you enjoy our books. I thought it would be fun to see if you can answer the questions and complete the activities about *Dying to Meet You*. You can find them below.

Wishing you luck from Ghastly,

I. B. Grumply

Ignatius B. Grumply

- Ignatius B. Grumply is a children's ghost story writer with writer's block. He decided to move into Spence Mansion for a change of scenery to help him finish his next book. Have you ever had a problem finishing something? What did you do, or what could you have done to help you complete your daunting task?

- After Ignatius and Seymour learn that they are stuck with each other for the summer, they come up with a list of house rules. Write ten rules you would want enforced if you were Seymour.

- Why couldn't Seymour's parents see Olive?

- Seymour's parents put their careers first, and abandoned him. What would you have done if you were in Seymour's shoes? Do you think he is better off without them? What are the advantages and disadvantages of Seymour's unusual living situation?

- Olive claims that "we're all characters in our own stories." This is true for Ignatius, Olive, and Seymour, and helped them to finally write and illustrate a bestselling ghost story. Why does this work for them? Do you think any of the three would have been able to become a bestselling author without the others? Why or why not?
- How do all three characters help one another grow and become better people (or a better ghost, in Olive's case)?
- Design a real estate flyer for your ideal writing retreat. Be sure to include a picture, a short description, and a list of all the amenities (practical and supernatural).
- Write a ghost story containing the three most important things that Olive believes a good story needs—setup, complications, and conflict. Be sure to create interesting characters and draw on experiences from your own life too.
- Write a newspaper article for the *GHASTLY TIMES* about a haunted house in your neighborhood. Name the ghost, tell his or her backstory, describe the ghost's actions, give quotes from witnesses, and offer rebuttals from people who don't believe in ghosts. Include an illustration of the ghost causing mischief.
- Draw a map of a fictitious graveyard containing the graves of deceased famous people you admire. Make each grave include the dates each person lived and an epitaph.



43 Old Cemetery Road
OVER MY DEAD BODY

Hey, there!

Thanks for reading our books. It is through support from people like you that I am able to make my living as a children's book illustrator. As part of my arrangement with Mr. Grumpy and Olive, I'm homeschooled. Could you help me answer these questions and finish the activities about *Over My Dead Body* they gave me for homework?

Love,

Seymour Hope



- Seymour's unusual living situation has caught up to him. Do you think Dick Tater was right to remove Seymour from Spence Mansion? Why or why not?
- Seymour's absentee parents were working on a book called *ONLY FOOLS AND CHILDREN BELIEVE IN GHOSTS*. Which characters do you think are the real fools in this book? Why?
- Dick Tater wanted to ban every ghost story ever written. Do you think this was a good idea? Why or why not? Do you think there is a time when people in authority should tell people what they can or cannot read?
- Many of the adults in *OVER MY DEAD BODY* don't believe that Olive C. Spence is a real ghost. Why do you think they aren't willing to believe in her? What happens after Olive proves that she is real? Do you think it was a good thing for the people of Ghastly to know there is ghost in their town? Why or why not?

- Olive could not remember where she left her manuscripts. She finally found them in her coffin. Why do you think they were buried with her?
- Spence Mansion is far from a traditional home. Do you think it is a good home? Why or why not? In your opinion, what makes a home a home?
- Create an acronym like *IMSPOOKY* for an organization that you would like to be the president of someday. Then create a brochure explaining what the organization does and its mission statement. Add some pictures to show its members in action.
- While in the home for the deranged, Ignatius came up with a way to communicate with his neighbor, in which "One knock equals 'a,' two knocks equal 'b,' and so forth." Then he adapted the knocks to numbers, and used it in his letters. Write a letter to a friend using only Ignatius's secret code.
- Pretend you are taken away from your home and mistakenly thrown into an orphanage. Write a letter to your family describing what the orphanage is like, how the other orphans and adults act, what type of food they serve, daily routines and activities, and a plan for your escape.
- Develop an advertisement for a bookmobile. Include a list of books that are available, why people should visit the bookmobile, and its schedule. Draw a picture for your ad as well.



43 Old Cemetery Road

TILL DEATH DO US BARK

NOAH BRETH

Dear Readers,

Please answer the questions and complete the activities about *Till Death Do Us Bark* that follow. There are no directions or instructions, other than these few lines:

After reading a wonderful book, it's fun to wonder and look at what made it so great; was it really just fate, or did the author start with a hook?

Sincerely yours,

Noah Breth



- Seymour is fed up with writing letters all the time. But Olive feels that it is important to keep letter-writing alive and insists that he keep on writing them. Has there ever been a time when a parent or guardian made you do something that you didn't want to do? How did it make you feel? What did you do?
- Do you think that it is ever okay to keep a secret from your parents or guardian? If so, what are the circumstances?
- Seymour wants to keep Secret so much that he lies to Olive and Ignatius. These lies add up and eventually lead Seymour to run away. Could this mess have been avoided? If so, how?
- Noah Breth was very upset that his children, Kitty and Kanine, could never get along. Do you think Kitty and Kanine deserved Noah's money? How would their relationship be different if Noah had just split his money between them in his will the way they wanted him to?
- Do you agree with Noah's decision to put all of his money in coins and have the town search for them? How did this bring the town together? How did it extend Noah's legacy?
- How did Noah Breth and Shadow bring Olive, Ignatius, and Seymour closer together?
- Write a limerick about your family. Remember to follow the AABBA rhyme scheme—and be as silly as possible.
- Pretend you are Kitty or Kanine. Write a speech about Noah to deliver at his funeral. Talk about how he affected your life, why you are a changed person, and what lessons you learned from how he lived his life.
- Create a flyer for a missing pet. Write a description of this pet, mention the last place and time you saw it, and describe the reward you would give to the person who finds it. Make sure to include your contact information (make up a silly name, phone number, and e-mail address) and a picture.
- Write a postcard from Olive to Noah explaining how being a ghost is different from being a human.





BOOK
FOUR

43 Old Cemetery Road

THE PHANTOM OF THE POST OFFICE



P.O. BOX 5
GHASTLY, ILLINOIS

DEAR FELLOW FANS:

DON'T YOU SEE? OLIVE,
IGNATIUS, AND SEYMOUR NEED
YOUR HELP. ANSWER THESE
QUESTIONS AND DO
THESE ACTIVITIES
ABOUT THE PHANTOM
OF THE POST
OFFICE
BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE.

YOURS TRULY,
A FAN



- Many of the adults (and ghosts) in Ghastly believe that modern technology is killing the written word. Do you think they are right? List some advantages and disadvantages of technology.
- Do you think that something like VEXT-mail could ever put the U.S. Postal Service out of business? Why or why not? Can you think of any potential problems if the U.S. Postal Service ever goes out of business?
- Do you think that M. Balm had a right to take away Wy Fye's cell phone for a month? What was he trying to teach her? Do you think his lesson worked? Why or why not?
- How did Weston Peece's stealing the letter *F* hinder correspondence between the people (and ghosts) of Ghastly?
- How does the story of *The Phantom of the Opera* mirror the events in Ghastly?
- Weston Peece once told Olive that he wanted to "help people make friends through letters." Do you think he achieved his goal? Why or why not?
- Write a postcard to a sick friend. Use as many abbreviations as possible (i.e., LOL, or TTYL). Then rewrite the letter, spelling out the full words. Choose which one you like better, and write a paragraph explaining your decision.
- As children, Olive and Weston talked about their ambitions. Write a paragraph describing your ambition in life. What do you want to do more than anything? What do you hope to accomplish by doing so?
- Create a poster advertising the U.S. Postal Service. List its services, benefits, and major contributions to society. Decorate it with illustrations and stamps.
- Write a transcript of a VEXT-mail of you and a friend discussing your favorite book. Keep in mind that VEXT-mail is often unreliable and some of your discussion may be lost in translation.



43 Old Cemetery Road

HOLLYWOOD, DEAD AHEAD

MOE BLOCK BUSTERS
BUSTER BOY ENTERTAINMENT

630 WEST 5TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013
TEL: 555-555-5555

Dear Book Aficionados,
If you are reading this, you must be as big a fan of *43 Old Cemetery Road* as I am. I truly thought this ghastly story would become a movie that people would die to see! Could you please help me make *43 Old Cemetery Road* come to life by answering these questions and completing these activities? Thanks! You're the best!

Reach for the Stars!

Moe Block Busters

Moe Block Busters

- What type of story do you think makes a surefire hit? Do you think that *43 Old Cemetery Road* would make a good movie? Why? What are some books you have read that you would think would be a hit in the film world? Why?
- Do you think Willie Shadow is a good stage name for Seymour? Why or why not? How did the name “Willie Shadow” reflect the way that Seymour acted when he was in Hollywood? If you had a stage name, what would it be and why?
- Olive told Iggy to stop “nitpicking every comma in the contract.” What should she have done instead? What events in *43 Old Cemetery Road: Hollywood, Dead Ahead* could have been avoided if Olive and Iggy read every word of the contract?
- Do you think that it was fair for the Hollywood executives at Buster Boy Entertainment to write Olive, Iggy, and Seymour out of the movie? Why or why not? Do you think that *Evilo Must Go!* would have been a good movie? Why or why not?
- Pretend you are a reporter or paparazzo for the *Daily Scandal*. Write an outrageous story about and draw a picture of a character from *43 Old Cemetery Road: Hollywood, Dead Ahead*.
- Myra Manes predicts that the “death clause” she wrote for Ivana Oscar will be the “finest sentence ever written in Hollywood.” Research movie scripts, and find what you feel is the “finest sentence ever written in Hollywood.” Be sure you have reasons to back up your choice.
- If you were directing the movie version of *43 Old Cemetery Road*, who would you cast to play Seymour, Olive, and Ignatius? Why?
- Upon arriving in Hollywood, Iggy and Seymour were both given head-to-toe makeovers. Pretend you’ve gotten a big break in Hollywood. Draw a picture of how you look today, and then draw a picture of yourself after your glamorous Hollywood makeover.
- Design a movie poster advertising *43 Old Cemetery Road* the movie. Be sure to include at least one scene from the movie, its release date, and names of the actors and director, and give it a rating and tag line.
- Moe Block Buster’s new character, Evilo, gets her name by spelling Olive’s name backwards. Making a new word by spelling a word backwards is sometimes referred to as “mirror writing.” Create a list of new names and words by spelling your favorite words and phrases from *43 Old Cemetery Road Hollywood, Dead Ahead* backwards. Remember—only use words that sound good and are pronounceable in both directions.
- Write a screenplay for your favorite scene of *43 Old Cemetery Road: Hollywood, Dead Ahead*.
- After winning an Oscar, the Best Actor and Best Actress give a speech thanking everyone that helped them along the way. Pretend that you are a nominee for Best Actor or Best Actress in a movie about your life. Write your acceptance speech.

Kate Klise
M. Sarah Klise

43 Old Cemetery Road

THE SERIES

Salutations, readers:

As you know, Olive C. Spence and I write ghost stories together, and our son, Seymour, draws the pictures.

I prefer the word *illustrations*.

Okay. Our son, Seymour, illustrates them. As a special treat, we have come up with even *more* 43 Old Cemetery Road discussion questions and activities.

Use them to extend the lessons presented in our books and foster engaging and entertaining reading and writing experiences.

Love,
Ignatius B. Grumple, Olive C. Spence, and
Seymour Hope

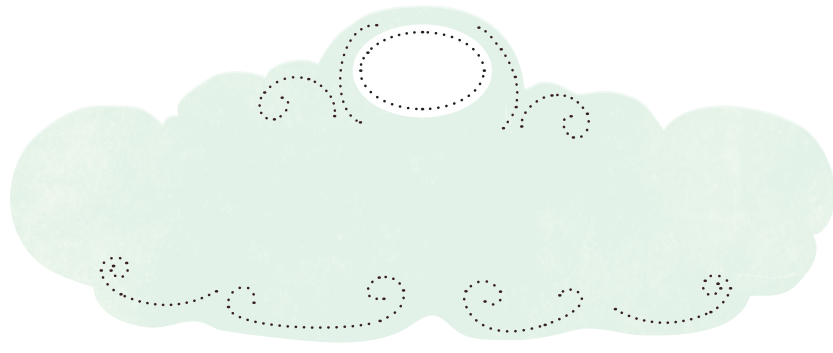
DREADFULLY ENCHANTING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The *43 Old Cemetery Road* books are not written like traditional books. The stories are told through a series of correspondences, such as letters, newspaper articles, transcripts, and even text messages. Does this style work for these books? Why or why not? As a reader, what do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of reading only what the characters write one another, as opposed to traditional dialogue and narration?
- Why do you think Olive loves letter-writing so much? Do you think that the art of letter-writing is dying? Why or why not?
- How would you react if you had to constantly communicate through letters? How would this affect your daily life? Do you think you would like it? Why or why not?
- How does each member of the unconventional family living in Spence Mansion grow and change from when Ignatius first moved to when they are all living together as a family? What does each family member add to the family? Are they just as much a family as a traditional family? Why or why not?

- Through death, the almost-dying written word, and the help of two humans, Olive sees her dreams of becoming an author come true. Is this better or worse than if Olive had been a famous author when she was living? Why or why not? What do you think would have happened if Weston Peece had delivered the letter from the publisher that wanted to publish her manuscripts? Would Olive's life (as both a human and a ghost) have been different? If so, how?

APPALLINGLY CAPTIVATING SERIES ACTIVITIES

- Write a chapter of a 43 Old Cemetery Road book. Make yourself a character in your story. Describe under what circumstances you arrived in Ghostly, and how you met Olive, Ignatius, and Seymour, and create some conflict that you help settle.
- Design a stamp commemorating the success of 43 Old Cemetery Road. You can choose to illustrate your favorite scene from one of the books, or come up with an award you'd like to bestow upon the novel.
- Names of characters in 43 Old Cemetery Road often describe something about each character's personality (they are very comical, too). Come up with names for at least five of your family members and friends that describe their unique characteristics or interests. Depending on the person, they can be humorous or serious.
- Olive, Ignatius, and Seymour love words. Create a list of words that you feel describe the 43 Old Cemetery Road books. Then, using a dictionary, define each word.
- On the following page, write a fan letter to your favorite character from 43 Old Cemetery Road. Tell him or her why you like the books, mention anything you learned from them, and explain why you want them to keep on writing. Be sure to design your own letterhead and decorate your letter with a picture.



YOU MUST BE DYING

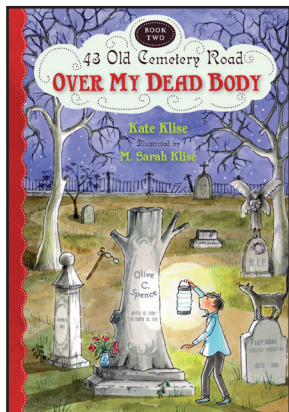
TO READ THEM ALL!

BOOK
THREE

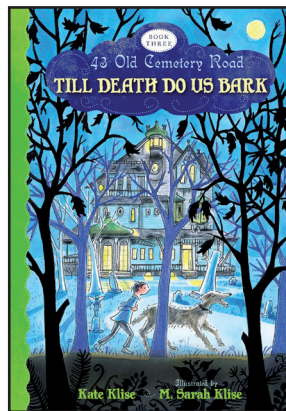
43 Old Cemetery Road THE SERIES



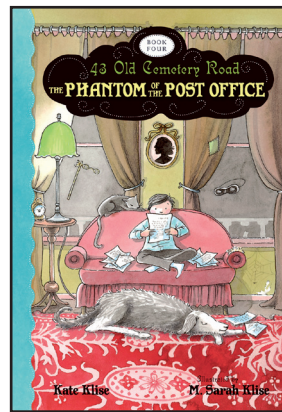
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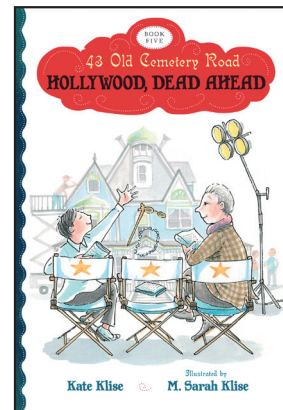
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978-0-547-85283-6, \$15.99 CL

About the Authors

Kate Klise and **M. Sarah Klise** are the creators of *Dying to Meet You*, the first book in their illustrated 43 Old Cemetery Road series, which landed on more than a dozen state award lists and which *Kirkus Reviews* called “a quirky, comedic romp.” Kate lives in Norwood, Missouri, and leads writing workshops all over the country. Sarah teaches art to children and adults in San Francisco, California.

To learn more about Kate Klise and M. Sarah Klise, visit their website at www.kateandsarahklise.com.

You can also find a video about the Klise sisters and their inspiration for the 43 Old Cemetery Road series on the hmhbooks YouTube channel.