

NurtureStore Tween Book Club

Coraline by Neil Gaiman



1 :: If you had to pick just one word to describe the story of *Coraline*, what would your word be?

2 :: What do you think was the creepiest scene in the book?

3 :: One of the child souls says "Peradventure... if you could win your mama and papa back from the beldam, you could also win our souls." Can you research and find some information about beldams?

4 :: Do any parts of the story remind you of other books you have read or films you have seen, or fairy tales you have heard? Which ones?

5 :: The **main idea** of a story is the overall idea of the story, made up of the characters and the plot: Coraline goes through a strange door and has to battle with a beldam. The **theme** of a book is different. The theme is the central message of a book – sometimes it will be the moral of the story or the lesson the story is trying to share. What do you think is the main theme of *Coraline*? Are there any other themes in the book?

6 :: Coraline used several techniques to help her be brave. What are they? (I can think of at least six.) What do you do when you need to be brave?

7 :: Who is the bravest person you know?

8 :: Parents and grandparents have been telling children scary stories (fairy tales and folk tales) for generations. Why do you think these stories often have scary elements? Do you think parents should tell their children scary stories? Why? Why not?

9 :: Neil Gaiman next book is called *Norse Mythology* and is his reincarnation of the old northern tales. Do you think all the stories writers turn into books should be new stories? Or should we re-tell old stories too? Why do you think this?

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