

Ghost Town

Activity Guide

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Discussion 1: Personal Preferences



“I never eat bake sale food--it’s way too sketchy.”
Ghost Town p. 35

Supplies:

- Large sheet of paper
- Markers
- Pencils

Members of a discussion group pre-write lists of what they would NEVER eat. Each member brings his or her list to the group. Appoint a note taker. Have the note taker mark any items that are repeated. Share your group’s results with another group.

Speaking of “way too sketchy,” what do you think about the “ten second rule”? The ten second rule applies to food dropped on the floor. Some people think that, if food has been on the floor no more than ten seconds, it is OK to eat it. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Writing Activity 2: Making Headlines



“Whoa!” Charlotte exclaimed. “1944?! Right before the end of World War II. These newspapers are ancient!”
-Ghost Town p. 134

Supplies:

- Library or internet access to research a newspaper written in 1944

Find and read newspapers from 1944 either at the library (you can ask for help) or online. Pay attention to the headlines, especially from the front pages of newspapers.

Now write headlines of your own that might have been written at that time in our country's history. What about a possible headline from the bustling “Ghost Town”?

Art Activity 1: Luggage Tags



“But Charlotte Ramsey had done enough world traveling to know that a bright polka dotted ribbon tied to the handle of her bag was a very helpful trick when it came to spotting her luggage.”

-Ghost Town p.43

Supplies:

- Pencil and paper
- Colored pencils
- Markers or crayons

Design a luggage accessory to help you spot your luggage on the airport luggage carousel. You’ll need something bright and distinctive – something “you.” Remember, it should be light in weight, colorful and fun!

Art Activity 2: Finding Recipes



“You city folks got a lot to learn about campfire cooking, don’t you?” JT remarked, adding a little cold water to the hot.

-Ghost Town p. 166

Supplies:

- Campfire cookbooks
- Scout handbooks and/or experienced campers you know
- Index cards
- Shoebox or shoebox- sized plastic storage box
- Craft materials of your choice
- Markers
- Glue

Using campfire cookbooks, scout handbooks and/or friends who are experienced campers, find recipes for cooking over a campfire. Put these recipes on large index cards and use a shoebox or plastic storage box of similar size to hold all your recipes. Decorate your recipe file box with your own drawings, stickers, or other craft materials. Make a section for camp cooking. You can add other recipes later under this section, or any other category.

Bon appetite!

Research Activity 1: **Montana**



“I am hoping that all of you will give me your permission to take the girls on a little Beacon Street Girls adventure, so to speak, to Big Sky Resort in Montana.”
-*Ghost Town* p. 5

Supplies:

- Library, atlas or internet access
- Paper
- Pen or pencils

Using the internet, atlases, or library reference books, find out what you can about Montana. Look at pictures. If you were going to Montana, what would you like to see? Cities? Farm products? Industries? Natural wonders? Famous places? Make a list.

Research Activity 2: Sled Dogs



“We only have two days left so we gotta make the most of it. I want to see those dogs NOW!”

~Ghost Town p. 206

Supplies:

- Internet access
- Books
- Magazine articles

Research some breeds often used as sled dogs, such as Siberian Huskies or Malamutes. Find out about the Iditarod, dogsleds and training dogs for sled duty. Share what you learned with a partner or group of friends.

Research Activity 3: Pet Care



“The kids back at school are NOT going to believe that we saw wild wolf pups and helped save their lives!”
-*Ghost Town* p.184

Supplies:

- Pet care booklets
- Books on wolves
- Wildlife information on wolves
- Internet access

Use books, pamphlets, booklets and the internet to research the care of orphaned baby wolves. What would you need to know in order to help wolf puppies survive without their mother? What foods do they eat? What kind of shelter would they need? What must be done to protect their health? After reading about wolf pups, try to decide if their care is similar to a puppy's care. What do you think? Is the care different or similar?
