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GUIDES FOR THE TEACHER

<i>Title</i>	<i>Secret of the Lonely Grave</i>
<i>Author</i>	Albert A. Bell, Jr
<i>Copyright</i>	2007 (paperback) ISBN: 978193215853793
<i>Awards</i>	Evelyn Thurman Young Reader's Award Mom's Choice Award – Silver Medal
<i>Genre</i>	Historical Fiction
<i>Setting</i>	Kentucky
<i>Time Period</i>	Modern -- but references to the 1850-60s
<i>Synopsis</i>	<p>Steve (a baseball freak) and Kendra (a sassy Sherlock Holmes wannabe) were friends "before they knew they were not supposed to be." They discover flowers on the "lonely grave," an isolated headstone in the corner of an old graveyard they pass walking home from the school bus. They quickly discover who put the flowers there, but his reasons raise more questions. Dirty tricks by a bully put the answers and their lives in danger.</p> <p>Their investigation literally tunnels through the history of Kentucky, the Civil War, slavery and the Underground Railroad and discovers secrets even their parents would prefer remain hidden.</p>
<i>Most Compelling Points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The friendship between Kendra, African-American and Steve, white○ The history of the area and how it impacts today○ The issues of bullying and child abuse
<i>Lexile</i>	630
<i>Ties with Curriculum</i>	<p>SS: The NCSCS includes the Civil War in US History in grade five. This book is an appropriate tool for discussing how our world is still impacted today.</p> <p>ELA: Students can use the strategies in Competency Goal 2 to analyze the structure of the story and the author's intent.</p> <p>PE: Steve is a "baseball freak."</p>
<i>Learning Activities</i>	<p>Discussion questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kendra and Steve were friends "before they knew they were not supposed to be." How did they become friends? Why would some people think "they were not supposed to be" friends? Should such reasons matter to friends?2. Why are some people afraid to walk through a cemetery? Would you be afraid?3. When Kendra fell, should Steve have gone for help or stayed with her? What are some reasons for each choice?

4. What was the smartest thing Steve or Kendra did in the book? What was the dumbest thing?
5. Did you feel sorry for Dwayne? Should Steve have stood up to him earlier?
6. If you find out that someone in your class is being abused like Dwayne was, what are some things you can do?
7. Can we do anything today to make up for bad things that happened in the past?

Become an Expert: The novel is full of things we might be interested in. Choose a topic inspired by the story, become an expert, and present your research to the class -- either as individuals or in groups. (Technology, such as PowerPoint may be used to assist effective communication.)

To make the presentation more interesting, present "in character" -- a character inspired by the novel or the setting or time period.

Possible topics include:

- The Jefferson Davis monument. When was it built? Why?
- Toys and games of the 1860s
- Harriet Tubman
- The Underground Railroad
- The Drinking Gourd song
- Which states seceded? Why didn't Kentucky secede? Did North Carolina? Were all people of the state in support of this decision?
- The political situation in North Carolina during the Civil War
- The Emancipation Proclamation. Which states were affected?
- Museums or other resources in your area to learn about its history

Map Activities: Examine some of the following:

- Civil war states in the Confederacy and the Union
- The route of the "Underground Railroad."

Sensitive issues with suggested ways to present them

- Child abuse and bullying: Dwayne is an abused child who becomes a bully. Discuss with students the resources available in your community to deal with both kinds of issues.
- Remnants of stereotypes and prejudices about people of other races. Discuss with your students how to overcome such problems.

Other Resources

- Author's website: www.albertbell.com
- Publisher's website: www.ingallspublishinggroup.com