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GUIDES FOR THE TEACHER

<i>Title</i>	<i>Windmaster's Bane</i>
<i>Author</i>	Tom Deitz, illustrations by the author, cover art by Val & Ron Lindahn
<i>Copyright</i>	2006, (hardcover(ISBN: 1932158715 (paperback) ISBN: 1932158723
<i>Awards</i>	Georgia Author of the Year Award for Young Adult Fiction
<i>Genre</i>	Historical Fantasy
<i>Setting</i>	Southern Appalachian small towns and the land of Faerie
<i>Time Period</i>	Present day
<i>Synopsis</i>	David Sullivan, a southern Appalachian teenager, reads about the gods of Irish myth and enjoys fantasies drawn from these stories. When a chance encounter with a funeral procession – viewed from an eccentric angle – gifts him with Second Sight, however, the reality of the world of Faerie proves as dangerous as it is fantastic. When David's brother is stolen and his beloved uncle felled by Faery magic, David enlists friends Alec McLean and Liz Hughes as companions on the quest to save their lives. Readers will recognize the names and attributes of the gods of Celtic myth, with a light admixture of legends from the Cherokee and familiar superstition.
<i>Most Compelling Points</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Honor, heroism, courage in the face of fear, friendship○ The difference and the "overlap" in fantasy and "reality"
<i>Lexile</i>	910
<i>Ties with Curriculum</i>	E/LA: As with any complex fictional narrative, this novel provides opportunity for evaluative and interpretive processes. Determining the fantasy and historical aspects of the novel is a valuable exercise. SS: Mythology of a European culture relates to the NCSCS for sixth grade; the setting, mythology of an immigrant culture (Irish) and native (Cherokee) relates to NCSCS for eighth grade. Art: The illustrations are in a style more often seen in the 19 th century books.
<i>Learning Activities</i>	Discussion Questions: 1. David gains "second site" by viewing a funeral procession "from an eccentric angle." What superstitions can you find out about in your culture that say that if you do something in a particular way, something else will happen? Do you knock on wood for luck?

2. Technology, including cell phones and internet access, doesn't work well in the rural valley where David lives. How does this technology or the lack of it impact your life?
3. David inherited his car from an uncle who died in a war. This uncle's backpack has almost a mythical significance to David. Stories about his grandfather also have great importance to David. Why? What stories about relatives and ancestors are important in your family?
4. When David starts seeing "strange" things, he first conceals his "visions" from his friends. Why? Why does he eventually share with them?
5. What purpose does the fortuneteller serve in the novel? Is she a fake?
6. Uncle Dale has a stroke (elf stroke?). The incident has several different explanations in the novel, depending on which "reality" is being addressed. What are the explanations? What does this tell us about how our beliefs influence our "reality"?
7. David faces the "Hero's Trial" to save his brother. Is David the only one tested? How do Liz and Alec figure into the trial?
8. Do the characters get what they deserve in the end? Why or why not?

Become an Expert: 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, or as a current character such as an archaeologist.

- Celtic mythology
- Celtic gods & heroes
- Cherokee myths
- Immigrants to your area and myths of their/ your culture
- Communication technology and the effect on your everyday life

Dramatic Presentations: Students can write dramatizations based on the action of the story or do dramatic readings of dialogue scenes. Costumes can be student-created and based on research of the time and place of the story (and may be a separate project.) Background and setting may be student created and/or may involve digital images projected on a screen

Sensitive issues with suggested ways to present them

- Jealousy. David and Alec have been friends for a long time; Liz is a new friend, and there is evidence of jealousy between them. This could be a good opportunity to discuss similar experiences in the lives of the students.

Other Resources

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