

The Graveyard Book – Discussion Questions

1. From the opening lines, Gaiman hooks readers with a distinct narrative voice and a vivid setting. Discuss how both elements serve the story.
2. Discuss how Bod fits into the traditions of orphan stories and child-of-destiny narratives.
3. How does Gaiman challenge traditional ideas of good and evil through characters like Silas, Miss Lupescu, and Eliza Hempstock?
4. How do Dave McKean's illustrations contribute to your reading of the novel?
5. In what ways is The Graveyard Book reminiscent of Kipling's The Jungle Book?
6. How does the theme of embracing the human experience resonate throughout the novel?
7. What does Gaiman mean when he says death is the great democracy?
8. How does the graveyard community come together to raise Bod?
9. How does Bod test boundaries between the living and the dead, and what are the consequences?
10. How do Bod's limited friendships affect his growth?
11. What do you think of Nehemiah Trot's advice about revenge?
12. How does The Graveyard Book compare to Coraline?
13. How does Gaiman blend humor, horror, fantasy, and mystery in the novel?