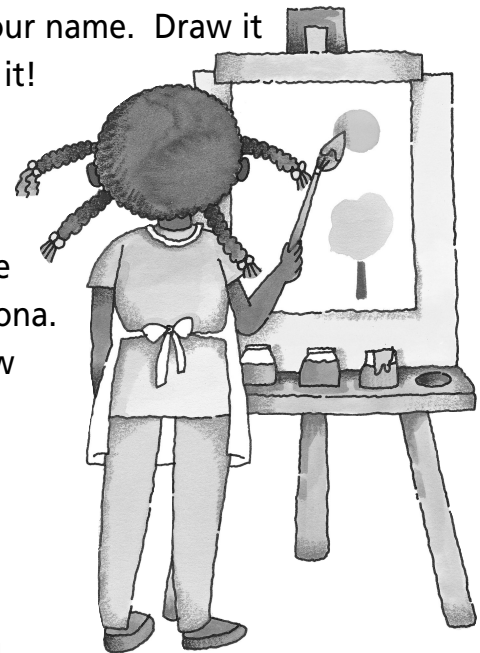


Online Book Club

The Ghost Town Mystery

Bring It To Life!

1. Create your own tombstones! Christina and Grant read some clever inscriptions on the tombstones at Boot Hill. Gather art supplies and poster board and create some tremendous tombstones! Cut your tombstones out of the poster board and glue stands to the back of them. Set them around your book club meeting and take a tour of your own spooky graveyard!
2. Find out about mines! Mines are very dangerous places to work, but mining is a very important industry. Divide your book club into groups. Use the Internet to determine some natural resources that are found in mines. Assign several natural resources to each group. Then, ask each group to research their natural resources and list the products made from those natural resources. You will probably be amazed at what can be found deep in the ground!
3. Brand it! Back in the old days, there were no fences on the western prairie. Cattle roamed on an "open range." Brands were used to identify cattle from different ranches. Create your own brand, using letters from your name. Draw it on a piece of poster board. Then, name it...and claim it!
4. Map it out! Bring in a large map of the United States. Find your town and your state. Find Tombstone, Arizona. List all the states you would have to travel through to get from your home state to Arizona. If you have a mileage key on your map, figure out how many miles you would have to travel!





Fact or Fiction

The Ghost Town Mystery

Write Fact or Fiction next to each sentence below.

- _____ 1. Christina believed she would see real ghosts on their visit to the ghost town in Arizona.
- _____ 2. The men at the Lazy H Diner were upset, because their horses kept getting sick.
- _____ 3. Someone drew a strange animal on the back of Mimi and Papa's SUV.
- _____ 4. Shoe Mountain Graveyard is where many famous cowboys are buried.
- _____ 5. Farmers brand their cattle to tell how old they are.
- _____ 6. A Coyote is a magical animal that means a change is coming—good or bad.
- _____ 7. The two men in the ghost town liked to drink sweet tea.
- _____ 8. The poison in the water was caused by the old mine shafts.

Online Book Club

The Ghost Town Mystery

Pop Quiz!

1. What is the name of the restaurant where Christina, Grant, Mimi, and Papa ate “vittles” when they first arrived in Sunshine Gap?
2. What was the name of Rosita and Jorge’s father?
3. What animal was drawn on the back of Papa’s rented SUV?
4. What does RIP mean?
5. True or False? A tarantula crawled out from under a paper plate onto Christina’s sleeve.
6. Why were the stars so bright out in the desert?
7. What attacked Grant and Christina in the mineshaft?
8. How many fingers did Dusty have on his right hand?



Know your SAT Words!

Mystery Name: **The Ghost Town Mystery**

SAT Words



1. Constrain_____
2. Covert_____
3. Desolate_____
4. Flaccid_____
5. Kudos_____

Write a sensational sentence using all five SAT Words from this mystery.



Online Book Club

The Ghost Town Mystery

Talk About It!

1. What kind of animal did Christina spot on the ground as the Mystery Girl prepared to land in Arizona? Why did it upset her so much? How would you feel if you had witnessed that scene?
2. Big Jim got his nickname because he was such a large person. Do you know anyone with a nickname that describes something about that person? Talk about how nicknames can sometimes be fun and sometimes be hurtful.
3. Christina and Grant were hot while visiting Sunshine Gap. What is the climate like where you live? Is it hot most of the time, or cold most of the time? Which type of weather do you prefer? Why?
4. Christina and Grant learned that ranchers brand cattle to identify them. Can you think of any other ways they might identify their own animals besides branding?
5. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
6. Eureka Gulch felt spooky to the kids. Have you ever seen an abandoned house or even an abandoned office building? Did it seem spooky to you? Why or why not?
7. Have you ever been on a camping trip? If so, what did you like about it and what did you dislike about it?
8. In this mystery, Christina used her cell phone to call for help, and Grant used his digital camera to video the bad guys. Do you have similar high-tech devices in your home? How do you use them?
9. Which character did you like best in the mystery? Why?
10. Jorge was upset because his colt got sick. How can you help someone when they are sad?



Online Information

The Ghost Town Mystery

Fascinating Facts

Tombstone and Arizona

- Tombstone founder Edward Schieffelin discovered silver in the area in 1877. Silver and gold mining was big business over the next seven years until rising underground water forced a stop to mining operations.
- By 1863, one in every four people in Arizona was a miner.
- The famous gunfight at the OK Corral was an example of the lawlessness that marked Tombstone in the late 1800s. President Chester Arthur even threatened to send in military troops to restore order!
- Tombstone's nickname is "The Town Too Tough to Die!"
- Tombstone supplied manganese to the government during World War I, and lead during World War II.
- In 1884, the Boot Hill Graveyard was declared to be full and officially closed to burials.
- On September 30, 1962, Tombstone was named a National Historic Landmark.
- Arizona has more than 100 ghost towns, including Bumble Bee, Gunsight, Ruby, Copper Creek, Crown King, Fort Misery, and Jerome.
- Arizona leads the nation in copper production. Copper is used in wiring and in coins, like pennies!
- A saguaro cactus grows arms only after it is about 15 feet tall and about 75 years old! The biggest saguaro cacti are about 200 years old.
- The town of Bisbee is known as the "Queen of the Copper Mines."
- Arizona leads the nation in copper production. Copper is used to make wiring and coins, like pennies!

