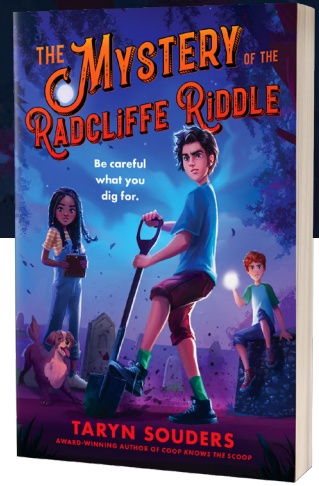


THE MYSTERY OF THE RADCLIFFE RIDDLE

Discussion Guide



From the Edgar-nominated author of *Coop Knows the Scoop* comes an exciting mystery perfect for fans of *Holes* and *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*.

When Grady and his dad learn that the town oddball, Eudora “Kooky” Klinch left something for them in her will, they can only imagine what it might be. When it turns out it’s an old scrap of three-hundred-year-old tapestry, they are bitterly disappointed. But the cloth comes with a note saying, “This is no ordinary piece of needlework. It’s a treasure map. Riddles and Clues. To the victor go the riches.” Grady’s dad dismisses it, but Grady thinks this could be the chance of a lifetime. With the help of his friends Thad, Clemmie, and the town dog Ophelia, Grady is determined to crack the clues and find the treasure.

But when someone tries to break into Grady’s house one night, and then the local antiques expert who examined the tapestry is found unconscious, Grady realizes that he’s not the only one who knows about the treasure map. There’s more at risk than he bargained for, and solving this mystery just got a lot more dangerous.

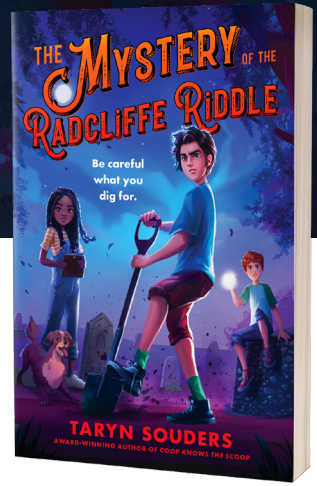


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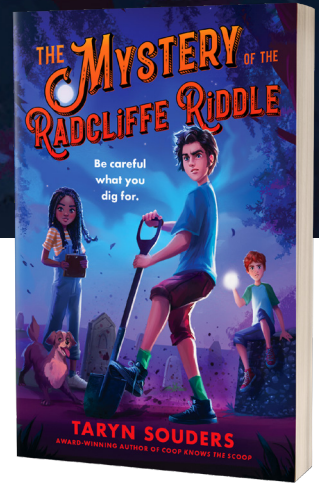
Post-Reading Discussion Questions

1. Grady and his dad had very little money. Grady wore shoes found in the church donation box, lived in a run-down mobile home, and rode in a truck that rarely worked. How do you think that made him feel? Did you think he let those things bother him? Would they bother you? Why or why not?
2. Even though Grady was very similar to his mama, and his parents' relationship with each other was strong, he and his dad just can't seem to see eye-to-eye on anything. Throughout *The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle*, Grady notices relationships in which opposites attract and work well together, like with Thad and Clemmie, or Arliss and Arlene McGinter. Why do you think Grady's relationship with his dad was strained? Are you more similar to one parent than the other? If so, which one? What can you do to strengthen your relationship with those whom you are "opposite" from?
3. If you inherited something from a long-lost relative (and it wasn't money), what would you want it to be? Why?
4. Kevin Judd, Grady's dad, tells Grady to take the sampler to the antique store and pawn it. How does Grady feel about this? What does he do? What would you have done if you were in Grady's shoes? Do you think it was an honest or dishonest thing to do?
5. Gifton, Georgia, is a small town. According to the mayor's sign, its population is "small enough to mind our business and yours." Would you want to live in place like that? Why or why not?
6. When Grady helps Arlene McGinter clean up the antique store after Arliss' funeral, he shares with her how he felt the day his mom died, and then asks Miss Arlene why she's not mad. She replies with, "I'm devastated. Heartbroken. Hollow. Part of me is gone and I won't get it back... But you're right. I'm not mad. I choose not to fill my glass with anger and regret, but with forgiveness, life, and hope." Why do you think she says this?
7. What do you think Arlene McGinter means when she says, "But whether you're a half-full or half-empty type of person isn't important. What's important is to remember the glass is refillable." Do you consider yourself a half-full (optimistic) person, or a half-empty (pessimistic) person?
8. As Grady, Thad, and Clemmie are going through Eudora Klinch's house with Arlene McGinter, they notice little notes left all over the house. Who wrote them? Why were the notes there?
9. Have you ever known/met anyone suffering from Alzheimer's Disease? How did you feel? How do you think they felt? What do you think they struggled with the most? How do you think you might be able to help? The National Institute on Aging offers this advice:
 - Keep things simple.
 - Have a daily routine, so the person knows when certain things will happen.
 - Reassure the person that they are safe and you are there to help.
 - Focus on their feelings rather than words.
 - Don't argue or try to reason with the person.
 - Try not to show your frustration or anger.



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10. Even though gravestones don't have a ton of information on them, sometimes—as with the Radcliffes' graves—there are still some things you can deduce about a person's life, like if they were married or had children or served in the military. Have you ever been to an old or historic cemetery? Have you ever made rubbings of the gravestones? What was the oldest stone you remember?
11. Grady has two very good friends with very distinct personalities and sometimes opposite points of view, but they still manage to get along, and they are there for him through thick and thin. What are some qualities that you look for in friendships?
12. What was Muggie Shore's motive for stealing the sampler? Sometimes when we dwell in the past too much, we don't appreciate the present. Muggie wasn't the only character who struggled with this. Can you think a couple more?
13. Do you think it was fair that Grady, Thad, and Clemmie couldn't keep the treasure? Who do you think the treasure rightfully belonged to? How would you feel if you were in Grady's shoes?
14. Throughout *The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle*, Grady refers to a poem written by Emily Dickinson, "Hope is the thing with feathers." Why does he do this?
15. Riddles can be tricky because sometimes it seems there can be more than one right answer. It took Grady a few tries before he got the correct location of the treasure. What are some riddles you remember?
16. If you were going to open your own store/shop like Kevin Judd decides to do at the end of the book, what would you sell? What would the name of your shop be?

