



The Ninja Club Sleepover

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Teacher's Guide

After reading *The Ninja Club Sleepover* aloud to your class, here are some activities and writing prompts to try with your students:

1) Choose one of the following prompts and write a paragraph or share your story with a partner:

a) Author Laura Gehl wrote this book to remind kids that ALL of us are weird in our own special ways. What makes YOU weird?

b) Have you ever had a secret that your friends didn't know? Did you worry they wouldn't like you anymore if they knew your secret? Did your friends ever find out? What happened?

b) Have you ever found out a secret about a friend? Did your friend tell you, or did you find out another way? Did your feelings about your friend change when you found out the secret?

2) Which would YOU want to be—a vampire, a fairy, or a werewolf? Why? By yourself or with a group, make an advertisement to convince your class that your choice is the best. You could make a commercial, a poster, a Powerpoint presentation, or any other type of advertisement.

3) Many kids are nervous about going on a sleepover for the first time. Have you been on a sleepover? Write about your first sleepover or about something else you did for the first time. Were you scared? How did you get over your fear?

4) Willa and her friends play ninja club at school. If you were going to start a club at your school, what club would you want to start? Why? Write about the club you would want to start, or make a poster for your imaginary club.

5) Turn the classroom into a ninja maze! With crepe paper or painter's tape, make a ninja course in your classroom or library. Tape from desk to desk, from desks/tables to the wall, etc. so that there are pieces of tape (or crepe paper) that students must step over and crawl under.

6) In the dark, ninjas need to use their sense of hearing. Can you? Blindfold one student at a time. Another student will approach the blindfolded student and say "Hi _____" in a normal voice (no disguising voices allowed!). If the blindfolded ninja correctly guesses the student who spoke, the speaking student then becomes the next blindfolded ninja.

7) Phases of the moon.

Werewolves turn from human form into wolf form when there is a full moon. When is the moon full where you live? For one month, look outside each night and draw the shape of the moon. How long does it take for the moon to change from a full moon to a crescent moon to a new moon (when you can't see the moon at all) and back to a full moon again?