

read-along guide+
activities
for parents teaching
their kids from home

GHOST SQUAD WEEK!

1

GHOST DAY

Dress up like ghosts!
Read chapter 1 of Ghost Squad
Describe chapter 1 using a drawing or emojis

Question of the day: In chapter 1 Lucely is scared of a storm. What scares you? What helps you feel less afraid?



2

FIREFLY DAY

Firefly arts and crafts project (3 choices)
Read chapter 2 of Ghost Squad!
Complete firefly Maze

Question of the day: What do you think is wrong with Mamá Teresa?



3

FRIENDSHIP DAY

Read chapter 3 of Ghost Squad!
Draw a picture of you & your best friend(s)
Write a one page short story about Syd & Lucely using the included writing prompts.

Question of the day: What do you think will happen with Syd's grandmother Babette?

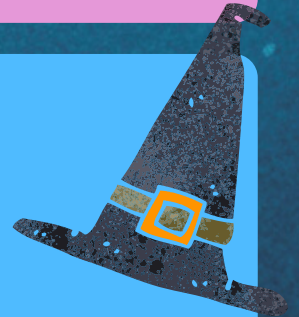


4

WITCH DAY

Dress up like a witch!
Read chapter 4 of Ghost Squad!
Draw a picture of Babette's Baubles & Include 3 things described in this chapter
Word Match Game

Question of the day: Do you think Lucely & Syd's plan will work? Why/why not?



5

CHUNK DAY

Dress up like a cat!
Read chapter 5 of Ghost Squad!
Complete Chunk Word Search

Question of the day: Why do you think the fireflies showed Lucely the vision?



SHARE YOUR GHOST SQUAD WEEK!

- Tag @claribel_Ortega on social media
 - Tag Scholastic
 - Use #GhostSquadBook for a chance to win a skype visit with the author!
- More details at the end of this packet



Chapter One

Emoji or Drawing Challenge

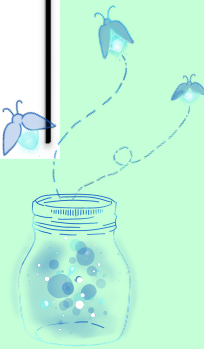
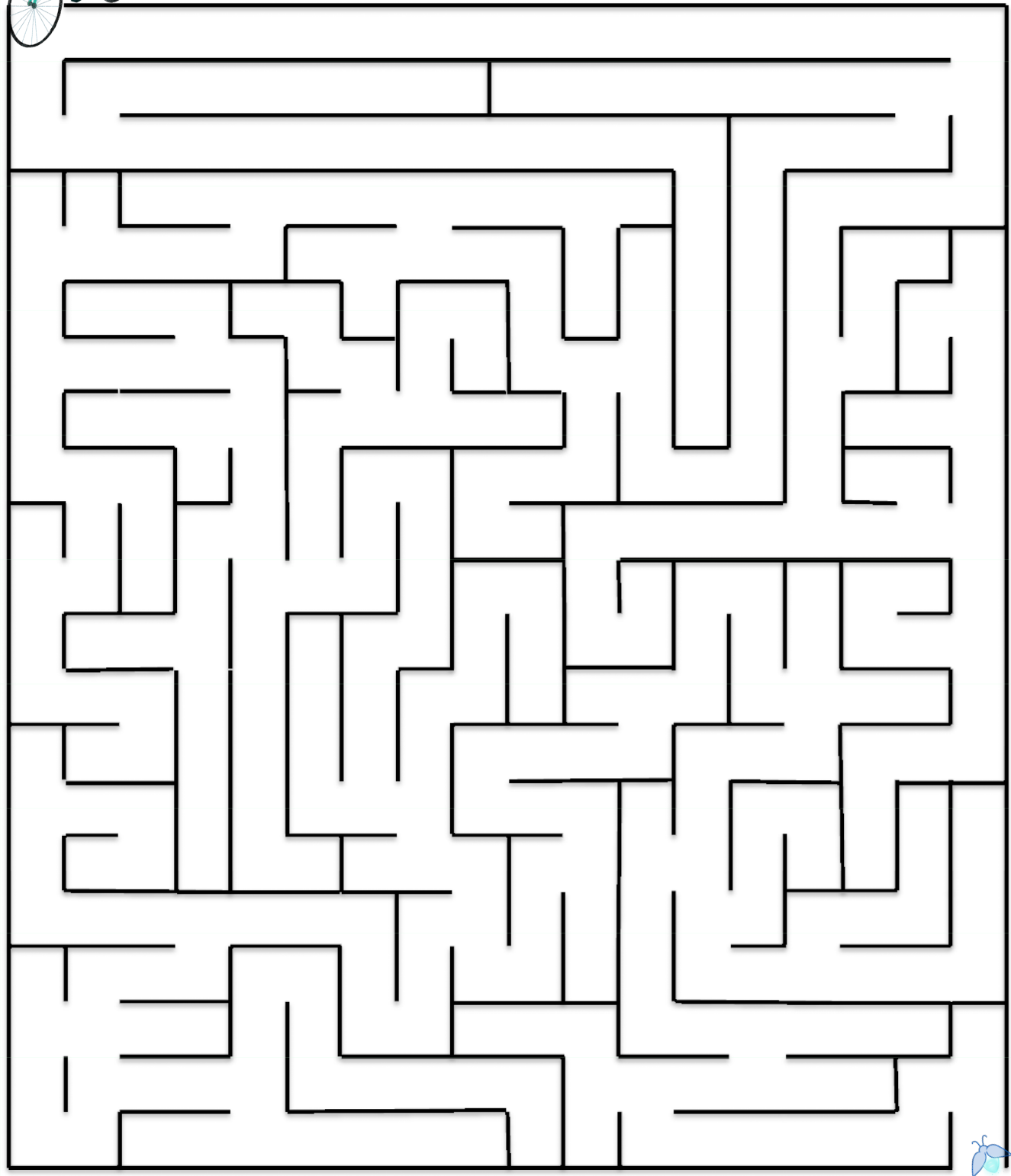
Describe chapter one using emojis

Describe chapter one using a drawing

Firefly Maze

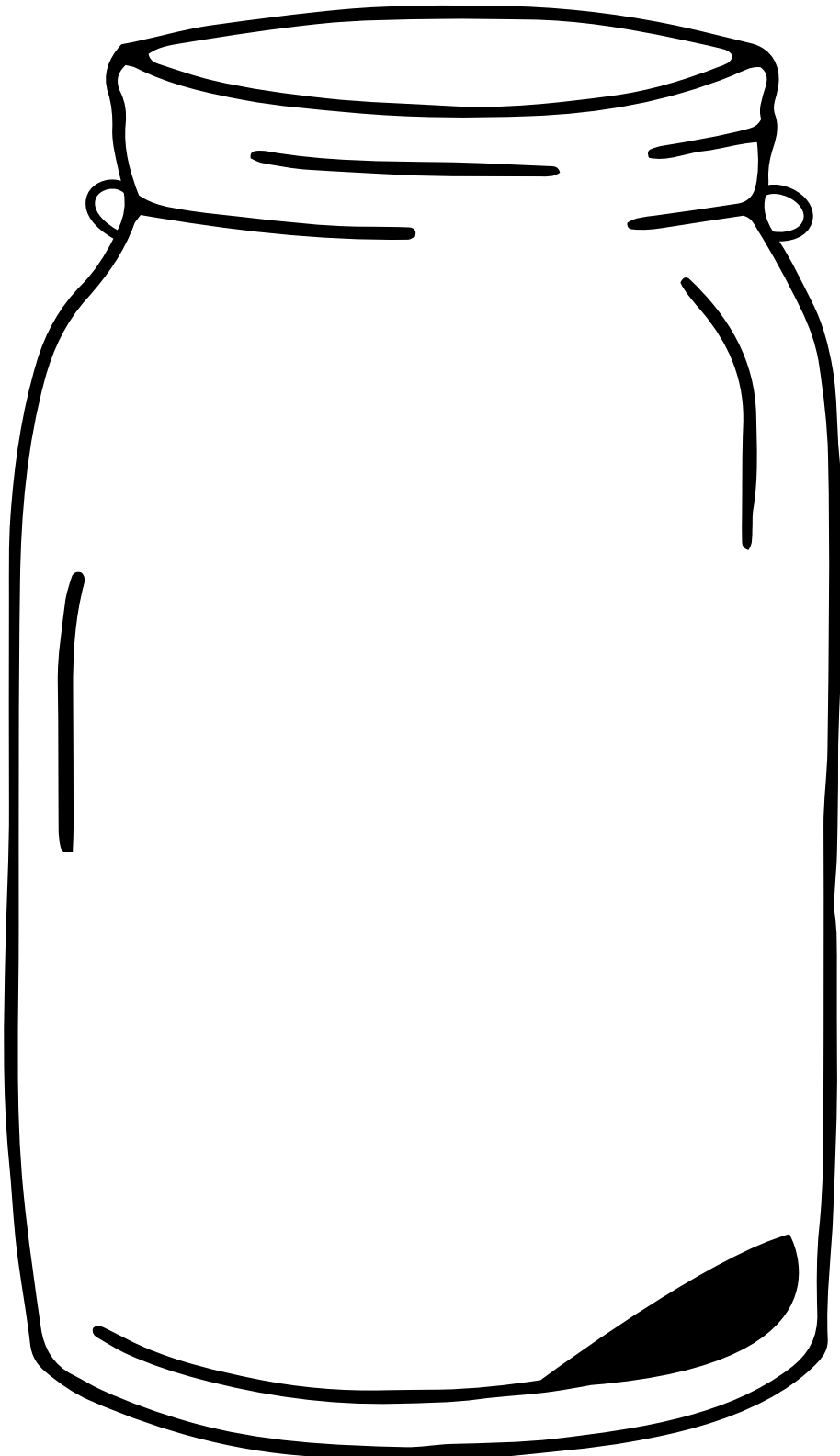


Help Lucely & Syd find the fireflies!



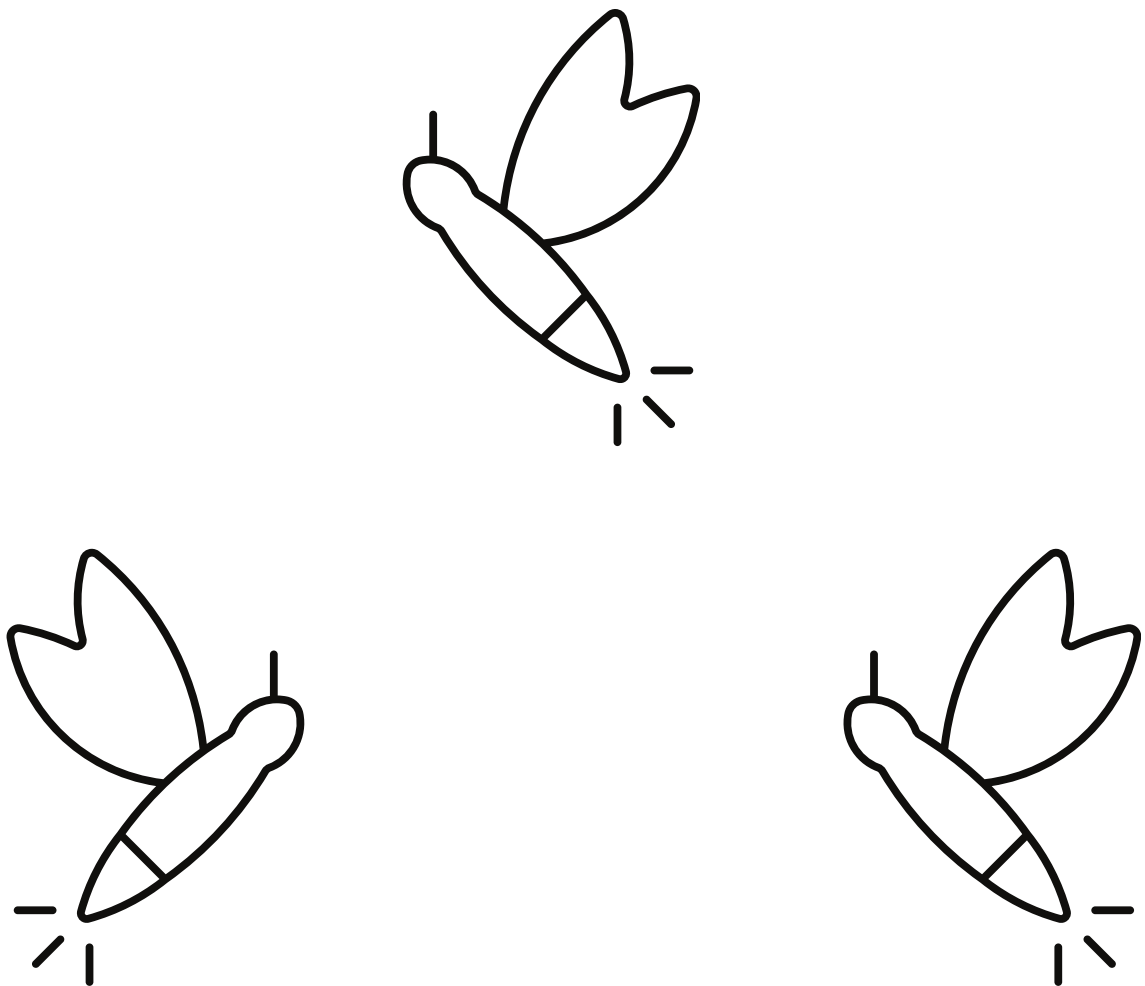
Make your own Ghost Trap

1. Cut out the mason jar



Make your own Ghost Trap

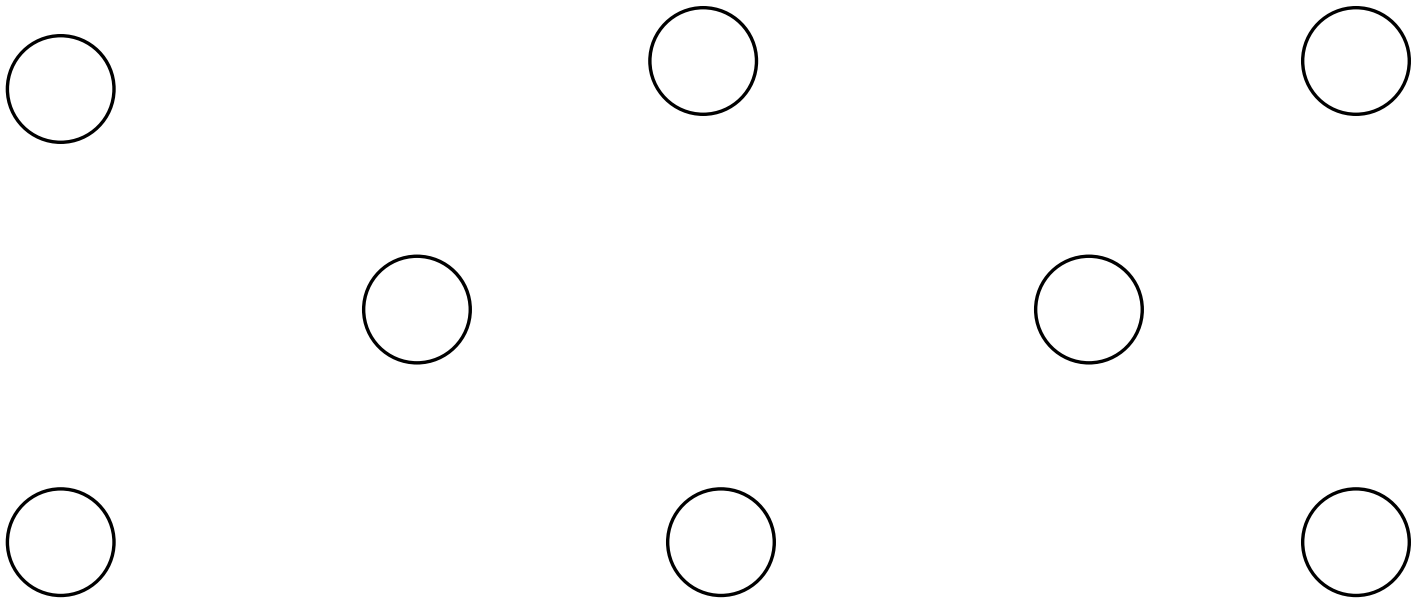
2. Color in & cut out the fireflies



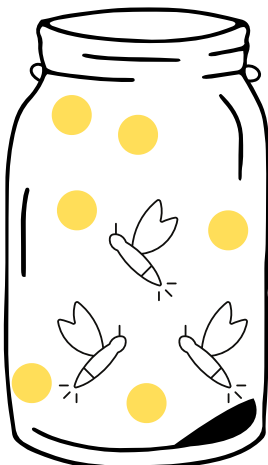
3. Paste the fireflies inside of
your Ghost Catcher

Make your own Ghost Trap

4. Color in & out the fireflies light



5. Paste the colored in lights to
your Ghost Catcher!



Share your creations on social media using
#GhostSquadBook
or email them to author Claribel A. Ortega at
Contact@Claribelortega.com

Firefly Arts & Crafts

All links on www.claribelortega.com/educators-teachers



<https://www.iheartartsn Crafts.com/eric-carle-inspired-firefly-suncatcher-craft/>



<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/86574/firefly-craft/>



Draw a picture of you and your best friend!



A Lucely & Syd short story

Lucely & Syd are in a cemetery looking for a magic spell and encounter a ghost. What happens next?

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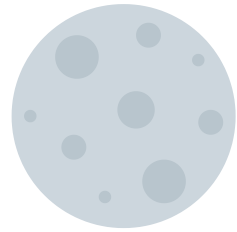
Courtesy of Scholastic

**Draw your own version of the inside or outside of Babette's house.
Include three things mentioned in chapter 4.**

Word Match Game

Match the Spanish word with the picture

Chancla



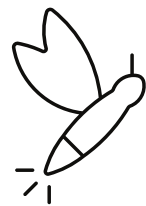
Tía



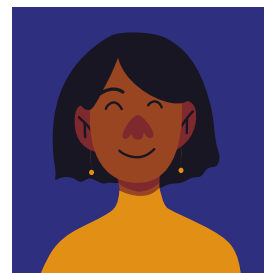
Cucuyo



Bruja



Luna



Chunk's Word Search



U	N	U	G	H	O	S	T	K	W	E	K	T	H	S
O	W	O	F	Y	X	O	I	O	S	S	F	K	U	N
N	E	O	M	C	O	D	L	S	F	W	J	U	R	Y
H	I	Q	S	S	S	P	O	O	K	Y	A	O	R	K
T	V	P	N	Y	T	F	I	R	E	F	L	Y	I	W
C	U	N	U	H	D	A	B	C	V	A	K	L	C	Q
H	I	S	C	R	V	C	U	U	F	L	W	Y	A	Q
X	A	H	Y	W	P	B	H	G	W	S	B	H	N	W
F	N	L	J	W	L	L	D	U	U	R	J	D	E	U
F	O	U	L	N	I	U	E	R	N	S	S	Z	U	O
I	K	N	M	O	P	T	C	C	S	K	T	U	L	W
F	L	A	A	J	W	G	C	E	O	U	Q	I	G	F
C	K	L	C	R	C	E	L	H	L	V	L	O	N	R
L	M	Z	N	L	M	H	E	Q	F	Y	E	W	M	E
F	Q	F	X	O	L	F	H	N	K	K	M	N	G	M

St. Augustine

Halloween

Hurricane

Purple Coven

Firefly

Spooky

Lucely

Chunk

Ghost

Witch

Luna

Syd





DOMINICAN FOLKLORE FIREFLIES OR COCUYOS



The Firefly Folklore that Inspired Ghost Squad

Nimitas, or Fireflies, are a very common sight in the country around the open fields in the Dominican Republic. The males have a bright tail light that flashes hoping to get a return flash saying that the female is interested in getting to know him. Las Nimitas, Luciérnagas and Bichos de Luz are known as Fireflies or Lightning Bugs. Dominican superstition says that the Nimitas are the souls of the dead who are watching out for their loved ones still living. They shine their light reminding all who see that they are there always there....watching. Fireflies are also called Cocuyo which is a Taino Indian word.

Facts about Dominican Republic



- Located in the Caribbean on the Island of Hispañola.
- Approximately 10.5 million people live in DR.
- The colony of Santo Domingo became the site of the first permanent European settlement in the Americas, the oldest continuously inhabited city, and the first seat of the Spanish colonial rule in the New World.
- Music and sport are of great importance in the Dominican culture, with Merengue and Bachata as the national dance and music, and baseball as the most popular sport.
- The population of the Dominican Republic is mostly Spanish-speaking
- Dominican cuisine is predominantly Spanish, Taíno, and African. Mangú (mashed, boiled plantain), deep-fried meat (Dominican salami, typically) and fried cheese are popular dishes.
- Author Claribel A. Ortega is Dominican-American.



DISCUSSION Guide

Claribel A. Ortega



The Luna family is in danger of losing their home. How would you feel if you were in Lucely's shoes?

Simon Luna, Lucely's father, used to be able to see the firefly ghosts but he no longer can. Do you understand why?

Although Simon tells Lucely to focus on being a kid and let him worry about their problems, Lucely decides she must try to save her family. Why do you think she made this decision?

Lucely Luna is not afraid of ghosts or cemeteries because of her firefly family. Why do you think most people are scared of these things and how do you feel about them?

Simon, Lucely's father, tries to keep their financial troubles a secret from Lucely. Why do you think that is?

In the book, Lucely is able to see ghosts. If you could have a similar power, what would it be and why?

Razzle Dazzlers are made of the one thing that means the most to you. Babette's was made of her favorite book, Lucely's of Mamá's mason jar, and Syd's of Chunk's collar. What would your Razzle Dazzler be made from?

Lucely struggles with the idea of having to say goodbye to her ghost family forever. Why do you think it is so hard to say goodbye and what do you think Mamá meant when she told Lucely she would always be with her?

Friendship & family are an important part of Ghost Squad. Why are family & friends important to you?

If you could come up with an alternate ending to Ghost Squad, what would it be?

What was your favorite part of the book and why?

GHOST SQUAD

G L O S S A R Y

Duérmase mi niña

Duérmase mi amor

Duérmase pedazo

De me corazon - A Spanish language lullaby.

translation:

Sleep my little girl

Sleep my love

Sleep piece Of

my heart

Colcha - blanket or quilt

Chancla - slipper

'Cion - abbreviation of "bendicion" which is a sign of respect to elders and translates directly to "blessing. Saying "cion" equates to asking for a blessing.

Mamá - a common term for grandmother.

Niña: little girl

Qué te pasa mi niña? - What's wrong, my little girl?

Abuela: grandmother

Mirabal sisters: The Mirabal sisters were four Dominican sisters known commonly as Patria, Minerva, María Teresa, and Dedé, who opposed the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo (El Jefe) and were involved in clandestine activities against his regime.

Merengue: Merengue is a type of music and dance originating in the Dominican Republic, which has become a very popular genre throughout Latin America, and also in several major cities in the United States which have Hispanic communities.

GHOST SQUAD

G L O S S A R Y

Tía - Aunt

Tío - Uncle

Qué linda: How pretty/cute. Can be used as a sarcastic comment (which is how Tia Milagros uses it)

Ta muy grande, Lucely!: You're getting big, Lucely!

Sinverguenza/sinvergüenza: shameless

Prima - cousin

Con permiso: Excuse me

No ve!: See? Or I told you so.

Chula: Pretty or lovely. A term of endearment.

Taíno: The Taíno were an indigenous people of the Caribbean.

Las Brujas moradas: The Purple witches

Luna: Moon

Cucuyo: Firefly

Suerte y fuerza: Luck & strength (or good luck and strength)

Win a Skype visit for your home or classroom!

HOW TO ENTER:

- Share any of the costumes, completed activities or pictures of you and/or your kids reading GHOST SQUAD using #GhostSquadWeek on Twitter or Instagram.
- Tag the author @Claribel_Ortega !
- Tag Scholastic!
 - @Scholastic on Twitter
 - @scholasticinc on Instagram
- Three winners will be chosen!

