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## Katie & Kimble: A Ghost Story

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For Classroom or Group Use with  
*Katie & Kimble : A Ghost Story* and  
*Katie & Kimble: The Magic Wish*

contact Linda Thieman  
(pronounced TEE-mun)  
teachers@katieandkimble.com

## **Class/Group Activities**

### **Sequencing**

This exercise should take place halfway through the book or at the end of the book (works for both books).

Divide readers up into groups. If they have read 6 chapters, each group should have 6 separate small pieces of paper. Each group will write the main event from one chapter on one piece of paper until they have completed six main events on six pieces of paper. Groups should not number the main events.

When this is finished, the pieces of paper should be passed to another group. The new group will arrange the pieces of paper so that the main events are in order.

### **Diorama**

Divide readers into groups. Each group will create a diorama of a scene from one of the Katie & Kimble books. Readers may wish to download the coloring pages to cut up and use in their scenes. The coloring pages for *Katie & Kimble: A Ghost Story* are located on the right sidebar of the Katie & Kimble blog, at <http://www.katieandkimbleblog.com>.

## Reading/Writing Activities

### Reports

Have the students do a report on something that interests them in relationship to the Katie & Kimble story. Students can research topics online or in the library.

1) Kimble lived from 1908 to 1918. What kind of clothing did children wear back then? Print out or photocopy an example to go with your report.

Did fashions change from time to time, or did the clothes look the same every year? Choose two years and compare them.

2) In 1918, the Great Influenza made many people sick. Kimble and her mother died when this big flu spread. Write a report on the Great Influenza of 1918. In what parts of the country was the flu the worst? What kind of people died from the flu?

3) Kimble lived from 1908 to 1918. Do you think she had a bike? Look up the history of bicycles. Were bikes common like they are now? What did bikes look like back then? Print out or photocopy an example to go with your report. Explain your opinion.

4) Kimble gives Katie a Jewish toy called a dreidel. This is a game played by Jewish children during a holiday called Hanukah. Look up information about Hanukah. When is Hanukah? What do Jewish people do to celebrate Hanukah? (There are several different ways to spell Hanukah.)

5) At the beginning of *Katie & Kimble: A Ghost Story*, Katie and her family move into an old house out in the country. Have you ever moved before? What was it like? Interview one or two people who have moved. What was it like for them? Did they like it or did they hate it? Was it easy for them to make new friends?

6) Kimble is the ghost of a ten-year-old girl. Find a true ghost story in the library or online and write a report. Where does the ghost live? How did the ghost die? Why is the ghost staying there? How many people have seen the ghost? Is it a scary ghost?

## **Childhood Stories**

Linda Thieman has published three funny stories from her childhood, with true-life pictures. They are posted on the right sidebar of the Katie & Kimble blog for anyone to read. Students can read one of these stories and relate text to self.

<http://www.katieandkimbleblog.com>

- When I Was 7: My Dog
- When I was 8: My Piano
- When I was 9: The Baseball Player

When I Was 7: My Dog

Do you have a dog?  
What kind of dog do you have?  
What is your dog's name?  
How did you choose that name?  
Where did you get the dog?  
How old were you when you got the dog?

When I Was 8: My Piano

Do you like music?  
Do you play a musical instrument?  
What kind of musical instrument do you play?  
Do you practice a lot?  
Do you like to practice? Why or why not?  
What is your favorite song to play?  
Are you a member of a band?

When I Was 8: My Piano

Do you like to laugh?  
Do you like jokes?  
Did you ever play a joke on someone?  
What did you do?  
Did that person think the joke was funny?  
What did that person do after the joke?

When I Was 9: The Baseball Player

Do you like sports?  
What is your favorite sport?  
What is your favorite team?  
Is your team good or bad? Why?  
Do your family members like the same team?  
Did you ever meet a sports hero?