



## THE GRAVEYARD BOOK by Neil Gaiman

1. The story begins away from the graveyard, with the brutal murder of three people. How are these people related to Nobody Owens? Did you find this chapter scary? How does it compare with the rest of the book?

How does the baby escape? Is it purely by chance that he arrives in the graveyard?

2. *'It is going to take more just a couple of good-hearted souls to raise this child. It will... take a graveyard.'*

What does Silas mean by this? Who exactly is involved in Bod's upbringing? In what way do they look after him?

Does Silas make a good guardian, do you think?

3. Nobody Owens is given the *'freedom of the graveyard'*. What does this mean? How does it enable Bod to live his life? Are there any restrictions on him? And how useful is 'the freedom of the graveyard' when it comes to the business of making friends?

4. In what way is Bod's friendship with Scarlett Perkins unique? When Scarlett talks about Bod, what do her parents make of it? Why do they assume that Bod is her 'invisible friend'?

Did you have an invisible friend as a child? If you did, can you remember what your friend was called?

5. Does Bod mind living among the dead? Does he ever get scared or frightened? How would you like it? What would be the advantages, and disadvantages?

6. Bod learns some ghostly skills in the graveyard. What are these abilities? In what way are they crucial to him and to his survival? Will they always stay with Bod?

7. What is Bod's real name? Do we ever discover it? What does Scarlett learn about his family, and how does she make her discovery? Why is Bod's family history important to the story?

8. When Bod goes to school and is bullied, he takes one of the bullies, Nick Farthing, for a 'dreamwalk'. What is a 'dreamwalk'? What happens in Nick Farthing's?

If you were sent on a 'dreamwalk', what would yours be?

9. *'What I want to know is, how have you lived in a graveyard for thirteen years without anyone catching wise?'*

What is the answer to Jack Dandy's question? How is it that Bod has managed to remain his anonymity? When he leaves school, for example, how is he remembered? Is he missed at all?

10. In the acknowledgements, the author writes of the 'inspiration' behind the book, his two-year old son riding a tricycle round a graveyard. In what way do you think this image inspired him? What is it that captured his imagination?

Neil Gaiman also talks about the 'enormous debt' he owes to Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. What are the similarities between these two stories? Can you see any obvious links?

