

# THE MANY HAUNTINGS OF THE MANNING FAMILY

Lorien Lawrence



## About the Book

**An action-packed, spine-tingling ghost story about twins with supernatural powers —perfect for fans of Five Nights At Freddy’s and the Goosebumps series**

Thirteen-year-old twins Gabby and Trent Manning are Connecticut’s youngest paranormal investigators. Both have inherited “the gift” from their grandparents, the Mannings, whose legendary ghost hunts inspired several books and movies—but whose names have been nearly forgotten since their untimely deaths years ago.

Armed with EMF machines, flashlights, and recording equipment, the twins’ mom drags them all over New England in an attempt to bring their family back into the limelight. Never mind that Gabby is tired of being known as a Ghost Twin, and Trent finds most of the haunts to be pretty frightening. Their mom thinks their latest destination is exactly what the family needs to go viral: the abandoned Majestic Theater, the site of the late Mannings’ infamous failed exorcism.

However, nothing about this investigation goes according to plan. After a terrifying séance-gone-wrong on the stage, their mother goes missing in the building, and it’s clear that a powerful demon is haunting the theater. Will the twins be able live up to their grandparents’ legacy and vanquish the demon—before it’s too late?

Featuring articles, interviews, and other found media throughout, *The Many Hauntings of the Manning Family* is packed with scares that will leave readers sleeping with the lights on.

## About Lorien Lawrence

Lorien Lawrence is the author of the spooky FRIGHT WATCH series. She teaches 7th grade Language Arts in Connecticut, and when she’s not writing or teaching, she enjoys exploring New England with her family.

# Discussion Guide

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## KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

1. Discuss the relationship between Gabby and Trent. How are they alike and different? How do these differences affect their relationship throughout the book? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.1*

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2. How does Gabby change throughout the story, and why is this change so important? How does Trent change throughout the story, and why is this change so important? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.1, 3*

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3. Why is it so important to Gabby and Trent's mom to continue the ghost hunting? How do her decisions affect her children? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.2*

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4. Discuss the concept of a "legacy". What is it? Why is it so important to the Manning family, especially Gabby and Trent? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.2*

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5. The last line of the book is, "It's time to make our own legacies" (p. 278). How is this phrase proven by Gabby and then Trent? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.2*

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6. What is this story trying to say about bravery? What is an example of one of the characters being braver than they thought they were? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.2*

## **CRAFT AND STRUCTURE**

1. Occasionally throughout the story there are handwritten post-it notes, journal entries, as well as clips from the different message boards and YouTube channel comments. Why did the author choose to include these, and what do they add to the story? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.4*

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2. Why do you think the author decided to tell the story through dual points of view and alternating chapters between Gabby and Trent? How does this structure affect the plot and our understanding of the characters? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.6*

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3. When The Thing speaks through Gabby, the font changes. Why did the author include that, and what affect does The Thing have on both siblings and their relationship? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.2*

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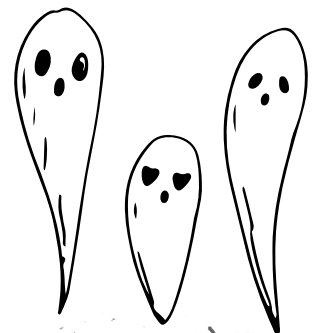
4. What is the significance of the grandparents' book? Why do the kids carry it with them on haunts? What do you think it symbolizes or stands for beyond 'just a book'? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.1,4*

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5. Discuss the setting in the book and how it impacts the plot of the stories and the way the characters interact with each other. *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.3*

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6. What lesson or theme does Gabby learn by the end of the story? What lesson or theme does Trent learn? Why are these lessons important? *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7.1*



## **EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

1. **Ghost Hunting.** Look up information about ghosts, including the different types, and whether or not there is scientific evidence that they exist. Then use this research to form an argument or persuasive paragraph to either prove that they do or do not exist. *ELA-LITERACY.RI.4-7.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.7.8*

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2. **YouTube Fame.** In the story, the twins have a popular YouTube channel, as well as famous grandparents. Do some research about the effects that fame has on kids and young teens. Then formulate a conclusion: knowing what you know, would you still want to be famous? Prove your points during a verbal debate. *ELA-LITERACY.RI.4-7.1*

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3. **Theatres.** The Majestic Theatre plays an important role in THE MANY HAUNTINGS OF THE MANNING FAMILY, as it's the setting of the grandparents famous "Last Haunt", and it's also the place where Gabby and Trent face off against The Thing. This theatre was loosely based off of the real life abandoned Majestic Theatre in Bridgeport, CT, as well as the Sterling Opera House in Derby, CT. Look up both of these theatres and make connections between them and the fictional version. *ELA-LITERACY.RI.4-7.1*

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4. **Ghost Light.** Theatres are FULL of superstitions. Look up some of these superstitions and make a list. Make sure you include ghost lights. *ELA-LITERACY.RI.4-7.1*

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5. **Twinery.** At numerous points in the story, Trent alludes to the fact that he and Gabby are no longer "in sync". He suggests that they used to be able to read each other's minds. What does he mean by that? What is the real-life science behind the relationship between twins? *ELA-LITERACY.RI.4-7.1*