

tales from the house of bunnacula

Tales from the House of Bunnacula: A Delightful Blend of Mystery and Humor

tales from the house of bunnacula have captivated readers and listeners alike for decades, blending a unique mix of mystery, humor, and a touch of the supernatural. These charming stories revolve around an unusual family pet—a vampire rabbit named Bunnacula—and the adventures that unfold within the cozy confines of an ordinary household. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to the series, exploring the world of Bunnacula offers a fascinating glimpse into how children's literature can combine suspense with wit to create timeless entertainment.

Understanding the Origin of Tales from the House of Bunnacula

The tales began with the original book **Bunnacula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery**, written by James Howe and illustrated by Deborah Howe. Published in 1979, this book introduced readers to the peculiar Bunnacula, a bunny who drains the juice out of vegetables, leading the family dog and cat to suspect he might be a vampire. What sets this story apart is its clever use of animal perspectives, particularly through Harold the dog as the narrator, crafting a narrative that's both humorous and engaging for children.

The Howe Siblings and Their Storytelling Magic

James and Deborah Howe collaborated to create the initial concept; after Deborah's untimely death, James continued the series solo, expanding the universe while maintaining the original's charm. Their storytelling style is notable for its gentle suspense, which keeps readers intrigued without ever becoming frightening. This balance is crucial in making **tales from the house of bunnacula** accessible and enjoyable for young readers.

Key Themes and Characters in Tales from the House of Bunnacula

At the heart of these stories are themes of friendship, curiosity, and the humorous misunderstandings that arise from the characters' differing viewpoints. The cast is small but memorable, with each character adding depth to the unfolding mysteries.

Meet the Main Characters

- **Bunnicula:** The enigmatic vampire bunny whose vegetable-draining antics spark the central mysteries.
- **Harold:** The loyal dog and narrator, whose observations provide much of the humor and suspense.
- **Chester:** The suspicious and dramatic cat, always convinced that Bunnicula is up to no good.
- **The Monroe Family:** The human owners who remain blissfully unaware of the supernatural happenings.

These characters interact in ways that highlight the contrast between skepticism and belief, often leading to amusing situations and heartfelt moments.

Why Tales from the House of Bunnicula Remain Popular Today

Decades after its debut, **tales from the house of bunnicula** continue to resonate with audiences, and there are several reasons for this enduring appeal.

Blending Humor with Mystery

One of the standout features of the series is its ability to mix lighthearted comedy with intriguing mystery elements. The stories never take themselves too seriously, allowing children to enjoy the suspense without fear. This approach makes the series a perfect introduction to mystery genres for young readers.

Relatable Animal Perspectives

By telling stories from the point of view of pets, the series taps into the universal love many children have for animals. Harold's earnest and sometimes comical narration helps readers connect emotionally with the characters, making the tales more immersive.

Timeless Appeal Through Simple Storytelling

The straightforward yet imaginative storytelling style ensures that the books remain relevant, even as tastes and trends in children's literature evolve. The combination of mystery, humor, and family dynamics creates a formula that continues to delight new generations.

Exploring the Expanded Universe: Sequels and Adaptations

The success of the original *Bunnicula* book led to a series of sequels and various adaptations that have expanded the narrative and introduced Bunnicula to wider audiences.

Sequels and Spin-offs

James Howe penned numerous follow-up titles, such as *Howliday Inn* and *The Celery Stalks at Midnight*, which continue the blend of mystery and comedy. These books often feature new adventures and introduce additional quirky characters, enriching the world of Bunnicula.

Television and Multimedia Adaptations

The charm of *tales from the house of bunnicula* found its way to the small screen as well. Animated series and audiobooks have brought the stories to life, combining visual and auditory elements that further engage children. These adaptations maintain the original's witty tone and accessible storytelling, making them a favorite for family viewing.

Tips for Introducing Tales from the House of Bunnicula to Young Readers

If you're considering sharing these stories with children, here are some suggestions to make the experience even more enjoyable and enriching:

- **Read Together:** The humorous and suspenseful elements make for great shared reading sessions, fostering discussion and laughter.
- **Discuss Themes:** Talk about themes like friendship, fear, and curiosity to deepen understanding beyond the text.

- **Explore Creative Activities:** Encourage kids to draw their favorite characters or write their own spooky-but-funny tales inspired by Bunnacula.
- **Pair with Related Books:** Introduce other animal-centered mysteries or humorous stories to expand their reading horizons.

These approaches can help children develop a love for reading while appreciating the unique qualities of *tales from the house of bunnacula*.

The Enduring Legacy of Tales from the House of Bunnacula

What started as a simple children's book about a vampire bunny has blossomed into a beloved series that continues to entertain and inspire. The blend of mystery, humor, and relatable characters makes *tales from the house of bunnacula* a standout example of how children's literature can be both fun and meaningful. Whether discovering the series for the first time or revisiting it after many years, the adventures within the house of Bunnacula offer a delightful escape filled with laughter, suspense, and heart.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main premise of 'Tales from the House of Bunnacula'?

The series follows the adventures of a vampire bunny named Bunnacula and his friends as they encounter supernatural and mysterious events in their household.

Who are the primary characters in 'Tales from the House of Bunnacula'?

The main characters include Bunnacula, a vampire rabbit; Chester, a cautious cat; Harold, a dog; and the Monroe family who own them.

Is 'Tales from the House of Bunnacula' suitable for children?

Yes, the series is designed for children and features lighthearted, spooky fun with themes of friendship and adventure.

How does 'Tales from the House of Bunnacula' relate to the original 'Bunnacula' books?

The series is inspired by the original 'Bunnacula' books by James Howe but expands the story with new tales and characters, maintaining the spooky yet humorous tone.

Where can I watch or read 'Tales from the House of Bunnacula'?

The series is available as a TV show on streaming platforms like Cartoon Network or Boomerang, and related books can be found in bookstores and online retailers.

Additional Resources

Tales from the House of Bunnacula: A Closer Look at the Beloved Children's Series

tales from the house of bunnacula represent a captivating segment of children's literature that blends humor, mystery, and a touch of the supernatural. Originating as a spin-off from the classic "Bunnacula" series by James Howe, this collection extends the adventures of the vampire bunny and his quirky household companions. Through its unique narrative style and engaging characters, Tales from the House of Bunnacula has carved out a distinctive niche in middle-grade fiction, appealing both to young readers and nostalgic adults.

Exploring the Origins and Context of Tales from the House of Bunnacula

The "Bunnacula" series first captivated audiences with its original premise: a seemingly ordinary rabbit with a mysterious thirst for vegetables, hinting at vampire-like traits. Building upon this foundation, Tales from the House of Bunnacula expands the universe by introducing new characters and perspectives, often narrated by Chester the cat or Harold the dog. This approach provides fresh insights into the household's whimsical dynamics, enriching the narrative with humor and suspense.

Published by Scholastic, the Tales spin-off maintains the original's charm while adapting to contemporary themes and sensibilities. The series targets children aged 7 to 12, a demographic that benefits from stories combining lighthearted mystery with lessons in friendship, courage, and curiosity. The interplay between the supernatural elements and everyday life in the household creates a compelling setting that encourages readers to engage both their imaginations and critical thinking.

Narrative Style and Character Development

One of the defining features of *Tales from the House of Bunnacula* is its use of multiple narrators, primarily animals with distinct personalities. Chester, the skeptical and somewhat pompous cat, provides a voice of reason tempered with humor, while Harold, the loyal dog, offers innocence and enthusiasm. This multi-perspective storytelling enriches the narrative depth and makes the series accessible to a wider audience.

Character development is nuanced yet accessible, with each installment exploring different facets of interpersonal relationships within the household. The characters' interactions often mirror real-world social dynamics, making the stories relatable despite their fantastical elements. Furthermore, the inclusion of mild suspense and mystery encourages young readers to deduce clues and anticipate outcomes, fostering engagement and cognitive development.

Comparative Analysis: *Tales from the House of Bunnacula* vs. Original *Bunnacula* Series

While both series share a common universe and cast, their tonal and structural differences warrant examination. The original *Bunnacula* books focus primarily on the central mystery of the vampire rabbit, emphasizing suspense and the unknown. In contrast, *Tales from the House of Bunnacula* adopts a broader narrative scope, incorporating multiple storylines, side characters, and episodic adventures.

The spin-off series often utilizes shorter chapters and simpler language, aligning with evolving reading preferences and educational standards for middle-grade readers. This accessibility helps maintain relevance in a competitive children's literature market, where engagement is crucial. Additionally, *Tales from the House of Bunnacula* integrates contemporary themes such as teamwork, problem-solving, and empathy more overtly than its predecessor.

Pros and Cons of the *Tales from the House of Bunnacula* Series

- **Pros:** Engaging multi-narrator format; humor infused with mystery; relatable character dynamics; promotes critical thinking; suitable for diverse reading levels.
- **Cons:** Some critics suggest the episodic nature may lack overarching plot cohesion; the supernatural elements might be too subtle for readers

expecting traditional vampire tales; less emphasis on horror may disappoint fans of genre-specific fiction.

Despite these considerations, the series' strengths in fostering imagination and literacy remain widely acknowledged.

Educational Value and Impact on Young Readers

Tales from the House of Bunnacula serves as more than mere entertainment; it functions as a valuable educational resource. Teachers and librarians often utilize the series to encourage reading fluency and comprehension, thanks to its approachable prose and captivating narratives. The stories' embedded moral lessons—such as the importance of kindness, open-mindedness, and resilience—resonate with children navigating social challenges.

Moreover, the animal narrators provide a unique vehicle for discussing perspective-taking and empathy, critical skills in social-emotional learning. By presenting scenarios through the eyes of different characters, the series invites readers to consider multiple viewpoints and develop a more nuanced understanding of conflict and resolution.

Adaptations and Multimedia Extensions

The popularity of Tales from the House of Bunnacula has led to various adaptations, including audiobooks and animated series. These formats enhance accessibility, particularly for reluctant readers or children with learning differences. The audiobooks, often narrated by voice actors who capture each character's distinct personality, add an additional layer of engagement.

Digital platforms hosting the series have also incorporated interactive elements, such as quizzes and reading guides, further supporting educational goals. This multimedia presence ensures that Tales from the House of Bunnacula remains relevant in an increasingly technology-driven learning environment.

Marketing Strategy and Reader Reception

Tales from the House of Bunnacula benefits from a marketing strategy that leverages nostalgia while appealing to new generations. Publishers emphasize the series' blend of humor and mystery in promotional materials, targeting parents, educators, and young readers alike. Social media campaigns and author events encourage community building among fans, fostering ongoing interest.

Reader reviews often highlight the series' ability to balance lighthearted storytelling with meaningful themes. On platforms such as Goodreads and Amazon, *Tales from the House of Bunnacula* consistently receives favorable ratings, with particular praise directed at its wit and character-driven plots.

The series' success underscores the enduring appeal of well-crafted children's literature that respects its audience's intelligence and curiosity.

As the literary landscape evolves, *Tales from the House of Bunnacula* exemplifies how classic themes can be revitalized through innovative storytelling and thoughtful character development. Its place within children's fiction continues to inspire both readers and educators, affirming the power of stories that blend fantasy with the nuanced realities of growing up.

Tales From The House Of Bunnacula

tales from the house of bunnacula: Bud Barkin, Private Eye James Howe, 2013-01-15 Dear Reader, The guy who usually writes these letters asked me to do it instead. Maybe he was having a bad writing day. Maybe he wanted me to play the sap for him. Or maybe he ran into Trouble with a capital T. Well, Trouble's in my business. I'm a dog. I'm a detective. The name's Bud Barkin. And this book is about the case I had involving a dame named Delilah Gorbish, whom I would call Trouble with a capital T except I've used that metaphor already, and the clown named Crusty Carmady whose calling card is a teakettle that he heaves through windows. Nice pair of birds. The mystery deepens with another character called the Big Fish, who isn't really a fish and who's addicted to the Home Shopping Network. Hey, I don't write 'em—I just solve 'em. Yours truly, Bud Barkin, P.E.

tales from the house of bunnacula: It Came from Beneath the Bed! James Howe, 2013-01-15 Dear possible reader of this book, I want to be a writer, just like my uncle Harold, who wrote a bunch of books about our friend Bunnacula. So I wrote this story. And boy! Did I ever get into trouble! My friend Delilah stopped speaking to me because I put her in my book. Uncle Harold stopped speaking to me because I didn't put him in my book. A writer's life isn't easy! But back to my story: It's about how a talented and lovable (not to mention smart) wirehaired dachshund puppy named Howie saves the world from a disgusting, evil menace named...oops, that would give away the story. But trust me, this menace is disgusting and evil, all right!!! Your friend, Howie

tales from the house of bunnacula: *Tales from the House of Bunnacula* James Howe, 2003

tales from the house of bunnacula: *The Mystery of the Stolen Statue* George E. Stanley, 2004-11 The Third-Grade Detectives investigate when a fifteenth-century statue is stolen from and art museum and destroyed.

tales from the house of bunnacula: *Return to Howliday Inn* James Howe, 2012-01-24 First there is the omen: A relentless rain stops suddenly at 3:00 am and Chester shows Harold and Howie a cat carrier, open and waiting, by the front door. Chester, who has been reading avidly about the paranormal, predicts that they will soon be traveling someplace, and chances are they are not going to like it. Indeed they are not, as the very next day, with the sun shining bright and clear, the Monroes finally leave for their vacation, dropping Chester, Harold, and Howie off at the scene of some previous harrowing experiences -- Chateau Bow-Wow, the boarding kennel that Chester so aptly had dubbed Howliday Inn. And this visit promises to be no less harrowing than the last one.

The three are greeted by a whole new group of temporary residents. There's Hamlet, the Great Dane, whose sadness grows deeper with his certainty that his beloved master Archie will never return to pick him up. And Bob and Linda, a pair of yuppie puppies from fashionable Upper Centerville who have been left at Chateau Bow-Wow with a more than adequate supply of gourmet treats, also seem to have been left with a more than adequate supply of worries. Then there are Felony and Miss Demeanor, sinister sisters in crime who pride themselves as cat burglars, and The Weasel who tries almost too hard to make a good impression. Chester is certain that nothing bodes well and he is right. Unexplained voices, buried bones, a collar with the name Rosebud on it, and a secret code all make for a paranormal experience that none of the guests at Chateau Bow-Wow will ever forget.

tales from the house of bunnacula: The Case of the Bank-Robbing Bandit George E. Stanley, 2004-07 Ted and Noelle's only clue to catch a bank robber is a sweaty handkerchief. They also have to prove their abilities to the new police chief.

tales from the house of bunnacula: Howie Monroe and the Doghouse of Doom James Howe, 2003-09-01 Continuing his search for fame as a writer, Howie the wire-haired dachshund creates a story remarkably similar to the popular one he has heard about a heroic boy wizard.

tales from the house of bunnacula: The Case of the Smiling Shark P. J. McMahon, 2010-05-11 There can be only three in the Freaky Joe Club Those are the rules, set down by Freaky Joe himself in the big red book, slightly chewed on one corner and wrapped in a locked bicycle chain. The newest chapter of the Freaky Joe club consists of Conor, Timmy, and Jack, and their mission is to solve crimes and fight evil in Ship's Cove, Texas -- if they can only convince anyone that there is evil in Ship's cove. In their latest case, the freaky Joe Club has to found out who wants to keep the Ship's Cove Octopi's from winning a charity swimathon. What happened to the Octopi's life-size cutout of Sam Houston? Who could have taken it except their archrivals the Sylvan Glen Sharks.? How can you compete against Sharks when you have a really stupid theme song? And most of all,... Who is Freaky Joe?

tales from the house of bunnacula: The Odorous Adventures of Stinky Dog James Howe, 2013-01-15 Dear possible reader of this book, What's faster than a speeding bullet and more powerful than a pound of Gorgonzola cheese? It's Stinky Dog, the hero of my new book. By a stroke of fate (or is it destiny?) the lovable (not to mention cute) Howie Monroe is transformed into Stinky Dog, protector of the innocent. (Don't worry, he's still lovable.) (Not to mention cute.) The secret of Stinky Dog's power is Super Stench—an odor so strong it can bend steel! (Am I good or what?) Joined by a smart-mouthed sidekick, a sparrow named Little D, Stinky Dog tries to save Center City from villainous, low-life, miserable, rotten, wicked, kindergarten-scissors-stealing gangs who roam the streets, knocking down little old ladies and running off with their handbags! Your friend, Howie

tales from the house of bunnacula: Howie Monroe and the Doghouse of Doom James Howe, 2013-01-15 Dear possible reader of this book, My editor asked me to write a third book in my series, Tales from the House of Bunnacula. And did I have trouble getting started! I was afraid I used up all my ideas. But faster than a writer can say "What if?" I came up with a story! It's about a lovable and smart (not to mention cute) orphan wirehaired dachshund puppy named Howie, who has a mysterious pain in his leg and is mysteriously invited to attend the Dogwiz Academy for Canine Conjurers. Together, Howie and his best friend, the very, very, very smart Delilah, who speaks in a British accent in this book for some reason, discover they must fight a sinister foe...The-Evil-Force-Whose-Nam-C'not-Be-Spoke!!! Your friend, Howie

tales from the house of bunnacula: Writing Like Writers Pamela V. Westkott, Kathryn L. Johnson, 2021-09-30 Build a classroom of excited, talented young writers. This wonderful teaching resource offers a complete approach to creating a classroom of enthusiastic, skillful student writers. The authors provide a comprehensive approach to teaching writing in the classroom. This book offers the strategies teachers need to teach writing skills that meet national standards and to produce excellent results from children. Topics addressed in this guidebook include: creating the writing classroom, teaching the writing process, teaching effective writing strategies, teaching

elements of story structure, teaching the advanced craft of writing, and using a writer's workshop to teach good writing. Writing is a great differentiator. During the writer's workshop, each student is engaged in meaningful ways. Pulling together more than three decades of practical experience and research on the best strategies for teaching writing, Writing Like Writers offers a friendly, easy-to-use guide for any teacher seeking to build a classroom of successful writers. Grades 2-6

tales from the house of bunnacula: Invasion of the Mind Swappers from Asteroid 6!

James Howe, 2013-01-15 Dear possible reader of this book, After I wrote my first book, It Came from Beneath the Bed!, my editor asked me to write another one. (Another one! This is hard work! I'd like to see him write another one!) So anyway...in this book the lovable and smart (not to mention talented) wirehaired dachshund puppy named Howie and his friend, the beautiful and brilliant Delilah, face their biggest challenge yet: the Mind Swappers from Asteroid 6!™ Along the way Delilah gets turned into a squirrel and has to beg for acorns. (Hey, don't ask me! Read the book!) Your friend, Howie

tales from the house of bunnacula: Screaming Mummies of the Pharaoh's Tomb II

James Howe, 2013-01-15 Dear possible reader of this book, I wasn't sure I'd be able to write a book ever again after Canine Quarterly reviewed my series, Tales from the House of Bunnacula. They said I would never win the Newbony Award. Was I depressed! And I didn't even know what a Newbony was! Luckily Delilah's read a lot of Newbony books, so she helped me write this one. It's about a poor (but very cute) orphan dachshund puppy named Howie Monroe, who lives on the prairie and yearns for a chicken bone. (I know. Trust me.) Things really get exciting when Howie and his best friend, the smart and well-read Delilah, find a time machine and travel back to ancient Egypt where they uncover...the mystery of the Pharaoh's tomb!!! Your friend, Howie

tales from the house of bunnacula: Writers Read Better: Narrative

M. Colleen Cruz, 2019-05-24 When It Comes to Reading, Writers Have an Advantage We know that writing skills reinforce reading skills, but what's the best way to capitalize on this beneficial relationship? By flipping the traditional reading lesson first, writing lesson second sequence, Colleen Cruz ingeniously helps you make the most of the writing-to-reading connection with carefully matched, conceptually connected lesson pairs. The result is a healthy reciprocity that effectively and efficiently develops students' literacy skills. Backed by long-term academic and field research, Writers Read Better: Narrative presents a series of 50 tightly interconnected lesson pairs that can be implemented either as a complete curriculum or as a supplement to an existing program. Each pairing leads with a writing lesson, used as a springboard for the reading lesson that will follow. Throughout the book's four sections, organized to help you teach tightly aligned lessons and units on reading and writing narrative, you'll discover Kid-friendly approaches to virtually every matter of craft, including symbolism, tenses, the role of first and last words, dialogue as character fingerprint, giving weight to what's important, and much more Clear guidance on the intention of each lesson, the type of narrative genre it's ideally suited for, and step-by-step plans Sample teacher language for introducing and coaching each lesson Mentor text excerpts to use as models for personal narrative, memoir, and story writing Tips on building and organizing a contemporary classroom library filled with inspiring, illustrative texts, and how you can incorporate the tools, technology and media available in your classroom to make each lesson most effective Sample student work, online videos and other supporting resources Complete with practical suggestions on adapting the lessons to suit the particular needs of your classroom as well as individual students, Writers Reader Better: Narrative offers a solid foundation for giving your students the advantage of powerful, transferable literacy skills.

tales from the house of bunnacula: The Vampire Book

J Gordon Melton, 2010-09-01 The Ultimate Collection of Vampire Facts and Fiction From Vlad the Impaler to Barnabas Collins to Edward Cullen to Dracula and Bill Compton, renowned religion expert and fearless vampire authority J. Gordon Melton, PhD takes the reader on a vast, alphabetic tour of the psychosexual, macabre world of the blood-sucking undead. Digging deep into the lore, myths, pop culture, and reported realities of vampires and vampire legends from across the globe, The Vampire Book: The

Encyclopedia of the Undead exposes everything about the blood thirsty predator. Death and immortality, sexual prowess and surrender, intimacy and alienation, rebellion and temptation. The allure of the vampire is eternal, and The Vampire Book explores it all. The historical, literary, mythological, biographical, and popular aspects of one of the world's most mesmerizing paranormal subject. This vast reference is an alphabetical tour of the psychosexual, macabre world of the soul-sucking undead. In the first fully revised and updated edition in a decade, Dr. J. Gordon Melton (president of the American chapter of the Transylvania Society of Dracula) bites even deeper into vampire lore, myths, reported realities, and legends that come from all around the world. From Transylvania to plague-infested Europe to Nostradamus and from modern literature to movies and TV series, this exhaustive guide furnishes more than 500 essays to quench your thirst for facts, biographies, definitions, and more.

tales from the house of bunnacula: Encyclopedia of the Vampire S. T. Joshi, 2010-11-04 An exhaustive work covering the full range of topics relating to vampires, including literature, film and television, and folklore. Encyclopedia of the Vampire: The Living Dead in Myth, Legend, and Popular Culture is a comprehensive encyclopedia relating to all phases of vampirism—in literature, film, and television; in folklore; and in world culture. Although previous encyclopedias have attempted to chart this terrain, no prior work contains the depth of information, the breadth of scope, and the up-to-date coverage of this volume. With contributions from many leading critics of horror and supernatural literature and media, the encyclopedia offers entries on leading authors of vampire literature (Bram Stoker, Anne Rice, Stephenie Meyer), on important individual literary works (Dracula and Interview with the Vampire), on celebrated vampire films (the many different adaptations of Dracula, the Twilight series, Love at First Bite), and on television shows (Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel). It also covers other significant topics pertaining to vampires, such as vampires in world folklore, humorous vampire films, and vampire lifestyle.

tales from the house of bunnacula: Tales for the House of Bunnacula Steps To Literacy Staff, 2005-01-01

tales from the house of bunnacula: Nighty-Nightmare James Howe, 2012-01-24 An overnight camping trip! Not Harold's idea of fun. Too many mosquitoes, ticks and cockleburrs. But when the Monroe family set out, their faithful dog Harold was with them, mostly because he remembered that camping could also bring s'mores and toasted marshmallows. Howie, the other family dog, and Chester the cat were also included in the trip. Only Chester thought the idea was completely insane. The woods, he informed Harold, were not only full of cockleburrs and ticks, but of spirits, evil spirits who prey on the innocent. And on this, the worst night of the year -- St. George's Eve, when all spirits are set loose -- who knew what could happen. What Harold knew was that Chester was a well read, over-stimulated cat, full of weird ideas. He did not take Chester's worries too seriously. He had s'more to think about. But then, the Monroes set up camp near two strange men and their even stranger dog, and things began to happen that made even Harold wonder. Could Chester be right? This begins a long night, full of terrors and alarms, full of Chester's horrifying tale of how Bunnacula, the vampire bunny, was born and came to America, full of storms and a total sense of danger; and at the end came surprises that even Chester could not have predicted. Once again, the Monroe family may be the victims of evil forces or only of Chester's strange imagination. But whichever, the result is suspenseful and very, very funny.

tales from the house of bunnacula: The Misfits James Howe, 2011-11-01 Kids who get called the worst names oftentimes find each other. That's how it was with us. Skeezie Tookis and Addie Carle and Joe Bunch and me. We call ourselves the Gang of Five, but there are only four of us. We do it to keep people on their toes. Make 'em wonder. Or maybe we do it because we figure that there's one more kid out there who's going to need a gang to be a part of. A misfit, like us. Skeezie, Addie, Joe, and Bobby -- they've been friends forever. They laugh together, have lunch together, and get together once a week at the Candy Kitchen to eat ice cream and talk about important issues. Life isn't always fair, but at least they have each other -- and all they really want to do is survive the seventh grade. That turns out to be more of a challenge than any of them had anticipated. Starting

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