



**ONE STOLEN RELIC.
ONE ANCIENT EVIL.
ONE WILDER
ADVENTURE.**

Grades 3–7

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Fans of Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* and Peter Lerangis’s *Seven Wonders* series will embrace this first epic adventure in a rollicking new series by a *New York Times* bestselling author.

Will Wilder only wants to take a quick ride on the donkey his parents have provided as entertainment for his younger brother’s birthday party. Little does he realize that the ride will fulfill part of an ancient prophecy and set forces in motion that threaten to engulf his friends and family and take over their way of life. As punishment for disrupting the birthday, Will must help plant trees in the local churchyard, unaware that evil lurks in the nearby river. A suspicious new friend entices Will to “borrow” a precious relic from the church, but his great-aunt Lucille soon shows him he has a legacy to fulfill in an ages-old battle with the forces of evil. Can he retrieve the relic before it is used to destroy his town?

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Look up the words *relic* and *reliquary*. What are the different meanings of the word *relic*? Name some objects that have been considered religious relics through the centuries, as well as non-religious relics.

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RI.4-7.4

VOCABULARY


Look up the meaning of any of these words that you do not know before you start the story:

basilica *hallucination* *malevolent* *perilous*
pith helmet *sarcophagus* *undercroft*


QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Key Ideas and Details

1. Why does Aunt Lucille tell the mayor that the town of Perilous Falls is “the last stronghold against the dark madness of the world”? (p. 16) What does this phrase mean to you as you read the story? Why is the mayor antagonistic toward Aunt Lucille?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.1


2. Compare the different reactions that Will’s mother and father have to the strange events in the town and in their home. How do these reactions reflect the personalities of Will’s parents and the things they believe in?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.1

3. What does Tobias Shen mean when he tells Will, “If you don’t know your past, you will never discover your future”? (p. 52) Discuss how this statement reflects what Will learns about his family history as the events of the story unfold.

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.2

4. Discuss the meaning of the phrase: “A relic is a key to unlock our faith.” (p. 186) What does this mean to Will, to Aunt Lucille, to Mr. Shen? Why is it important to keep the relic from being destroyed by the demons?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.2

5. How does Nep Balor convince Will to disobey Shen and Aunt Lucille? What does he tell Will that makes him think it will be acceptable to do what Balor is asking of him? Why can’t Andrew and Simon see Balor?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.3

6. Compare Will to his friends Andrew, Simon, and Cami. What does each of them contribute to the search for the relic? How are they different, and what talents does each of them have to offer? How do each of Will’s siblings and Cami’s brother contribute to understanding the strange events?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.3

Craft and Structure

7. Discuss the author's choices of names for the demons. What connotations do these names bring up in the story—Nep Balor, Sinestri, Fomorii, Bottom Dwellers, Leviathan? Why do these words create a tone of evil? Why does Aunt Lucille tell Will not to say the name of Leviathan?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.4

8. What are the meanings of the different skills possessed by Aunt Lucille and her fellow Brethren: Seer, Summoner, Sensitive, Repeller, Vanquisher. Which of these powers has been used in this first book?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.4

9. Discuss Will's comment when he wakes from his coma: "I did it for a good reason, but . . . it was wrong." (p. 207) How did he allow Balor to take the relic from him? Why is he the one who has to retrieve it? How is Leo able to revive Will and heal his own arm?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7. 5

10. What does Lucille mean when she says: "None of us who encounters evil is left unscathed . . . but you mustn't cling to the terror or it will darken your days and cloud your future"? (pp. 296–297) Discuss this comment in light of all that has happened to Will and his friends in the course of the story. Cite the ways in which "light banishes darkness" (p. 297) and strengths that will help Will in the struggles he will face ahead.

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.5

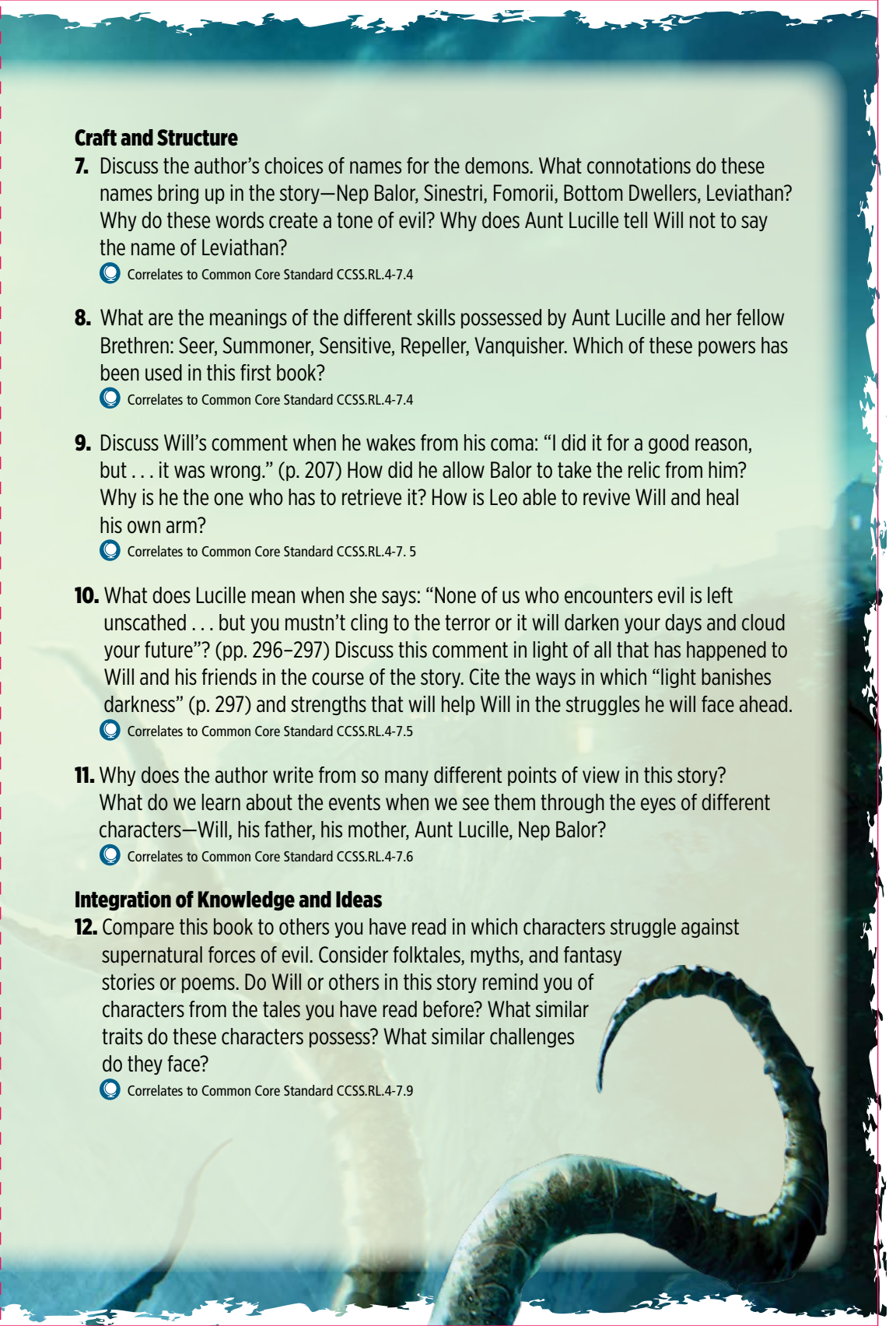
11. Why does the author write from so many different points of view in this story? What do we learn about the events when we see them through the eyes of different characters—Will, his father, his mother, Aunt Lucille, Nep Balor?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.6

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

12. Compare this book to others you have read in which characters struggle against supernatural forces of evil. Consider folktales, myths, and fantasy stories or poems. Do Will or others in this story remind you of characters from the tales you have read before? What similar traits do these characters possess? What similar challenges do they face?

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.9




ACTIVITIES

When the class has finished the book, return to the quote from Shakespeare's play *King Lear* at the front:


“If that the heavens do not their visible spirits
Send quickly down to tame these vile offences,
It will come,
Humanity must perforce prey on itself,
Like monsters of the deep.”

Read a synopsis of the play at shakespeare-online.com/plays/kinglear/kinglearps.html. How does this quote fit into the story of *King Lear*, and how does it reflect what happens in the story of Will Wilder?

Note to teachers: Consider this article about whether *King Lear* should be introduced to younger readers: huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/23/king-lear-for-children-shakespeare_n_1168093.html

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.9

Find the town of Ortona, Italy, on a map. Research the importance of this town during World War II. Return to the prologue after you have read the rest of the story, and discuss the importance of that prologue on Will's story in the present.

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RI.4-7.3; CCSS.RL.4-7.3

Create a family tree for Will with all the relatives who are mentioned in this book. Discuss the characteristics that Will shares with his great-grandfather and how those traits help him to face his own fears. Create your own family tree, and write about which relatives have had an influence on you.

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.1

Make a list of the monsters that appear in this story. Compare and contrast them to similar creatures you have read about in other books of fantasy and/or mythology. Compare the methods that characters in this book use to combat monsters with those in ancient myths and legends.

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.9

Draw a map of Perilous Falls, marking the significant places mentioned in the story. Trace the progress of Will's route through the town, and mark the places where important events take place. Include on your map drawings of Will's house, the church, the Peniel museum, city hall, and the river. You can imagine the town's layout, or use the map on the book's endpapers as a guide.

 Correlates to Common Core Standard CCSS.RL.4-7.3



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raymond Arroyo is a *New York Times* bestselling author, producer, and lead anchor and managing editor of EWTN News. As the host of *The World Over Live*, he is seen in more than 250 million homes internationally each week. You can follow Arroyo on Facebook and on Twitter at @RaymondArroyo.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Will Wilder's Relic Rescue Scavenger Hunt

WillWilderSeries.com

In *Will Wilder: The Relic of Perilous Falls*, Will not only discovers an ancient relic right in his own hometown but he also discovers that relics carry messages with them. Have your students, join Will on a new global adventure to rescue other relics around the world.

Storyented: Find your story. Find your way.

Storyented.com

Founded by *Will Wilder* author Raymond Arroyo, this interactive community was created to incite and spread the life-long adventure of reading. Participants come together monthly for a *Storyentation*, a large-scale book club.



PRAISE FOR WILL WILDER: THE RELIC OF PERILOUS FALLS

“Suspense, adventure, humor, a compelling story, and characters that fired my imagination. Great fun and great frights.”

—**Dean Koontz**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

“You’ll love this wild and thrilling tale. It DOES NOT STOP!”

—**Dave Barry**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

“Will Wilder is a brand-new, refreshing, entertaining, intrepid young hero who magically combines humor and genuine suspense. And I love Aunt Lucille!”

—**Mary Higgins Clark**, *New York Times* bestselling author and “Queen of Suspense”

RAYMOND ARROYO

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

WILL WILDER

THE RELIC OF PERILOUS FALLS



EDUCATORS' GUIDE

INCLUDES COMMON CORE STANDARDS CORRELATIONS

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