

## CHAPTER ONE: HOW NOBODY CAME TO THE GRAVEYARD

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the words on the left to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

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| 1. insinuated   | a. forever   |
| 2. sparse       | b. presented reasons against something one opposes |
| 3. perpetuity   | c. highest or final point                          |
| 4. endured      | d. brought in gradually                            |
| 5. expostulated | e. acting in a systematic way                      |
| 6. dubiously    | f. lasted  |
| 7. culmination  | g. doubtfully or uncertainly                       |
| 8. methodical   | h. thinly spread or distributed                    |

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1. In an effort to safeguard the herons' nesting grounds, the Smiths gave a vast tract of land as a nature preserve in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The senator \_\_\_\_\_ with a colleague in the hope of changing her vote on the tax bill.
3. Though Amy had moved as a child, her friendship with Jason \_\_\_\_\_ for more than two decades.
4. My Uncle Jim carefully combs his \_\_\_\_\_ locks of hair in an effort to conceal his bald spot.
5. Bob looked \_\_\_\_\_ at the pantry shelves and was convinced that there was not enough food to last the rest of the week.
6. Over many years, the pungent odors of garlic and boiled cabbage \_\_\_\_\_ themselves into every corner of the apartment.
7. The detective was thorough and \_\_\_\_\_ in his search for clues at the crime scene.
8. Jan viewed her college diploma as the \_\_\_\_\_ of four years of hard work.

## Chapter One: How Nobody Came to the Graveyard (cont.)

Read to find out how Nobody ended up in the graveyard.

### Questions:

1. Why did the man Jack visit the tall house on the side of the hill? How did he track his prey?
2. How did the baby manage to escape the fate of his family?
3. Why did Mistress Owens feel an obligation to protect the baby? How did she and the mysterious stranger named Silas save him?
4. How did the baby get his name? How did Mr. and Mrs. Owens and Silas propose to raise him?
5. Who was the Lady on the Grey? How did she help settle the dispute in the graveyard?
6. Why did Silas pay a visit to the tall house on the side of the hill? How did he react to his discovery?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think the author omitted a detailed description of the triple murder? Do you think this decision adds to or subtracts from the horror of this act?
2. Silas is described as a solitary stranger who belongs neither to the world of the living nor to the world of the dead. What peculiar habits and attributes does he seem to possess? What predictions can you make about him at this point in the story?
3. Suppose you were a member of the graveyard community. How would you vote on allowing Nobody the Freedom of the Graveyard?
4. Why do you think the man Jack murdered the family members and was hunting for the baby?
5. What do you think the author meant when he stated that “death is the great democracy”? Do you agree with this statement?
6. Usually a graveyard at night is depicted as a scary place. How did the author create a graveyard scene that was comfortable enough to house a living baby?

## Chapter One: How Nobody Came to the Graveyard (cont.)

### Literary Devices:

- I. *Hook*—A hook is an opening passage in a work of fiction that is sufficiently intriguing to propel the reader into the book. What is the hook in *The Graveyard Book*?

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- II. *Point of View*—Point of view in a book of fiction refers to the person telling the story. It could be one of the characters or it could be the author narrating the story. Who is telling this story?

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Occasionally in *The Graveyard Book*, the narrator speaks directly to readers to guide them through the story. This narrative device is called the “omniscient,” or all-knowing, narrator. Write down one example from Chapter One where the author used this technique.

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Why might the author have adopted this point of view?

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- III. *Simile*—A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

“He [Jack] growled in the back of his throat, like a beast of prey, angry and frustrated.”

What is Jack compared to in this simile?

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How does this simile help you understand Jack?

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**Chapter One: How Nobody Came to the Graveyard (cont.)**

- IV. *Flashback*—A flashback interrupts the chronological sequence of events in a novel to relate something that happened at an earlier time. What flashback occurs in this chapter?

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- V. *Personification*—Personification is a figure of speech in which an author grants life-like qualities to a nonhuman object. For example:

The child stepped out of the house a little hesitantly. The fog wreathed about him like a long-lost friend.

What is being personified?

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Why is this better than saying “Fog covered the child”?

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- VI. *Allusion*—An allusion in literature is a reference to a familiar person, place, object, event, or saying. At one point, Silas says, “It is going to take more than just a couple of good-hearted souls to raise this child. It will take a graveyard.” This is an allusion to the well-known saying “It takes a village to raise a child.”

What do you think this saying means?

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Why do you think Silas alluded to it?

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**Chapter One: How Nobody Came to the Graveyard (cont.)****Writing Activity:**

The author uses descriptive language to paint a vivid and detailed picture of the graveyard. Find one scene in the book in which the author evokes several of the senses. In the chart below, indicate the page number in the book where the description appeared and give examples of language that evoked each of the senses noted. Then, think of a place that is familiar to you and write a description evoking as many of the senses as possible.

Page ____	Sense Impressions
Sight	
Sound	
Smell	
Taste	
Touch	