

## CHAPTER THREE: THE HOUNDS OF GOD

**Vocabulary:** Read each group of words. Choose the one word or phrase that does not belong with the others and cross it out. On the lines below the words, tell how the rest of the words are alike.

1. undertaker                      cabinetmaker                      scavenger                      groundskeeper

These words are alike because they all \_\_\_\_\_

2. angel                      tomb                      grave                      crypt

These words are alike because they all \_\_\_\_\_

3. hinges                      screws                      nails                      coffin

These words are alike because they all \_\_\_\_\_

4. dumplings                      packets                      sausages                      beetroot

These words are alike because they all \_\_\_\_\_

5. unflappable                      dependable                      visible                      sensible

These words are alike because they all \_\_\_\_\_

6. marrow                      sinew                      cartilage                      eyebrow

These words are alike because they all \_\_\_\_\_

7. repulsion                      delight                      loathing                      disgust

These words are alike because they all \_\_\_\_\_

8. Orion the Hunter                      Taurus the Bull                      Golden Gate                      Milky Way

These phrases are alike because they all \_\_\_\_\_

Read to find out how a Hound of God came to Bod's aid.

## Chapter Three: The Hounds of God (cont.)

### Questions:

1. Why did Silas ask Miss Lupescu to serve as Bod's temporary guardian? How did Bod feel about this arrangement?
2. What is a ghoul-gate and how could you spot one in a graveyard? Why was Bod willing to pass through the gate?
3. How did the ghouls' behavior towards Bod change once he entered their kingdom?
4. Why did Bod feel that he was "between the devil and the deep blue sea" as he was being carried in Victor Hugo's sack?
5. How did Miss Lupescu's lessons prove useful to Bod?
6. What surprising discovery did Bod make about Miss Lupescu? How did she fulfill her mission?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What conclusions can you draw about Silas's journey based on the gift he brought back for Bod?
2. Do you think that Miss Lupescu was being truthful when she claimed that the big gray dog in the graveyard was not her dog?
3. What did you know about werewolves before reading this chapter? Did you read anything that changed your opinion of these mythical beings?

### Literary Devices:

- I. *Idiom*—An idiom is an expression that does not mean exactly what the words say. For example, when friends say, "we can make our own way home" they mean that they can go home without help. Read the following sentences and underline the two idioms. Then on the lines below, write the meaning of each.

He [Silas] picked up his bag and said, "You will be in good hands with Miss Lupescu, Bod. I am sure that the two of you will get on."

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### Chapter Three: The Hounds of God (cont.)

- II. *Comic Relief*—Comic relief refers to humor placed within an otherwise serious episode. What characters provided comic relief in Chapter Three?

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Why do you think the author populated Hell with such comic figures?

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- III. *Allusion*—The author identifies the 33rd President of the United States as a ghoul. Do some research to find out the identity of this president. Why might he be portrayed as a ghoul?
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### Language Study: Dialect

Dialect is a form of language that is spoken in a particular area by a particular group. It differs from standard language in its use of grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. In *The Graveyard Book*, Neil Gaiman uses a Cockney dialect to capture the unique expressions, pronunciations, and speech patterns of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who is one of the ghouls. Read these examples of his dialect, and then write a translation on the lines that follow.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells said, “Now me lad, what’s your story, eh? And don’t tell any porkies, remember as how you’re talkin’ to a bishop.”

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“Don’t be like that, Yer Grace,” said the Bishop of Bath and Wells. “ ’Ave a blinking ’eart. Look at the little mite. ’Asn’t ’ad a decent meal in ’e don’t know ’ow long.”

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### Science Connection:

At the conclusion of Chapter Three, Miss Lupescu points out several constellations and identifies them for Bod. Do some research to learn more about these “star pictures” in the sky. Choose one of the constellations identified by Miss Lupescu, draw a diagram of it, and write a paragraph summarizing the Greek myth associated with it.

### Classification Activity:

When Miss Lupescu began to teach Bod, she gave him a pretest by asking him to name the different kinds of people. Noting his ignorance on this topic, she observed that he had a lot to learn. Show what you know by classifying the important characters you have met in the first three chapters into several of Miss Lupescu's categories.

Living	Dead	Ghouls	Hounds of God	Solitary Types
Jack	Mrs. Owens			
Nobody				

## Chapter Three: The Hounds of God (cont.)

### Writing Activities:

1. Early in Chapter Three, Miss Lupescu asked Bod to tell her about ghouls. All Bod could remember was that he should keep away from them. Miss Lupescu then peppered him with the following questions:

- Why do you keep away from them?
- Where do they come from?
- Where do they go?
- Why do you not stand near a ghoul-gate?

Write several paragraphs in which you describe what Bod learned about ghouls by the end of Chapter Three. Then comment on whether you think the saying “Experience is the best teacher” applies in this instance.

2. In this chapter, Bod found himself recalling one of Mr. Owen’s favorite expressions: “I’m between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.” Write about a time when you found yourself caught between two things you found equally unpleasant. Describe the situation and then tell how you managed to extricate yourself.