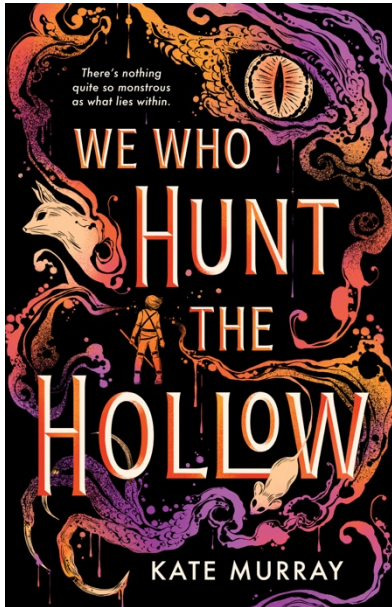


Teacher's Notes



We Who Hunt the Hollow

Written by Kate Murray

Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Secondary aged readers (ages 12+, grades 7-8)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities:
 - Responding to literature (ACELT1803)
 - Examining Literature ACELT1622

THEMES

- Power
- Identity
- Family
- Transformation
- Loyalty

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SYNOPSIS

Priscilla's family are elite warriors who have sworn an oath to earn the powers that will allow them to protect humans from the Hollow monsters. But deep down Priscilla knows that she doesn't belong. Her power – the ability to sense Hollow energy – is nothing compared to the defensive powers of her family. Determined to prove herself, Priscilla comes up with a plan to trigger a secondary power in herself, and that's when everything starts to go wrong. Instead of becoming better at killing monsters, Priscilla starts drawing them to her, calling them from the Hollow.

It couldn't happen at a worse time. Priscilla's whole family has come home for her niece's oath ceremony. It's a terrible time to be dealing with an attic full of bitterlins, a power that's threatening to burst out of control, complicated feelings for her ex-girlfriend, Onyeka and the mysterious new boy, Bastian, who makes her feel special in a way that nobody else does.

Priscilla needs to figure out who she wants to be and who she can trust. *We Who Hunt the Hollow* is an exhilarating fantasy that explores power, loyalty and identity.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate Murray is a New Zealander living in Melbourne with her family, an alarming amount of LEGO and an ordinary number of books. She is a full-time parent slash writer, conjuring up spare time so she can conjure up stories. *We Who Hunt the Hollow* was shortlisted for the Ampersand Prize in 2020 and is Kate's debut novel.

THEMES

We Who Hunt the Hollow explores complex themes of transformation, identity and what it means to truly love. The following questions will help students consider the way that these themes are explored in the text.

TRANSFORMATION

- Priscilla thinks that her power needs to transform in order for her to be accepted but, in reality, the transformation is more internal. How does she change from the beginning of the book to the end? What does she realise about her power?
- Why is Priscilla's power to transform Hollow energy so significant? Why does Bastian want it so much?
- What does it take to make Priscilla see her relationship with Onyeka differently? Why do you think we need external triggers to change who we are inside?

IDENTITY

- How do you think Cheryl sees herself? Is her identity as a warrior incompatible with her identity as a mother? How does this change throughout the novel?
- At the beginning of the book, Priscilla's identity is tied up with her family's identity as Hollow Warriors. What changes?

LOVE

- Do you think Bastian feels any love for Priscilla? Does this change the way you see his actions?
- How do each of Priscilla's sisters show their love for each other?
- Discuss the positive and negative ways that love is expressed in the story. What is so special about the love between Didi and Fergus?
- Priscilla is willing to sacrifice Mouse for love. Do you think Bastian would be capable of such a sacrifice?

WRITING STYLE

Worldbuilding is the process of making up an imaginary world, or a world that is at least partly imagined. In this case, the world is Earth, but with fantasy elements – the Hollow, monsters, and Hollow Warriors. Writers need to embed details and images into the story so that readers believe in the fantasy world.



Discuss the way that the way that Kate Murray embeds fantasy details into the following elements to create the world of the story:

- Physical setting
- Language
- Daily routine
- Character
- Names (of people and of things)

COMPREHENSION

- Why is Priscilla trying to delay her second oath when the story starts?
- How is Priscilla different to the rest of her family? How does this make her feel?
- Why have Priscilla's mothers been keeping her out of the field?
- Why does Priscilla attempt to trigger another power? What are the dangers of this? Are her reasons for wanting an additional power selfish?
- Mouse doesn't trust Bastian when he first arrives – is she right not to? What is your first response to him and why?
- When Priscilla sees that the Renegade Geema has captured is so young, what does she think? How does she feel?
- What do the Renegades want?
- Why is Priscilla so upset when she loses to Bastian at the sideshow shooting gallery? What is she actually upset about in this moment?
- How is power taken from a Hollow Warrior? Why does this make what Bastian demands of Priscilla so unforgivable?
- Do you trust that Priscilla's family will let her keep her power?
- At what point do you realise that Bastian is lying to Priscilla? How does the author signpost his betrayal earlier in the text?
- What does Priscilla have that Bastian doesn't that allows her to cope without power?
- How does Onyeka truly see Priscilla?
- What is so dangerous about Priscilla's power? Who should have control of it?
- What does Priscilla ultimately realise her worth is defined by?

WRITING EXERCISE

Priscilla sees flashes of Bastian as a little boy, broken by the loss of his parents. She describes his feelings of never being good enough as 'uncomfortably familiar' (p. 265). Write an additional chapter for the novel that is a flashback to the moment that Bastian chooses to become a Renegade. Do you think he found the choice hard? What might he have been trying to find in this moment?



CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- *We Who Hunt the Hollow* sets up the narrative for the next book in the series. We know that Priscilla will train with Arnold Woo in Vienna, and work with Geema's team in Prague. We know that Dominic has the talismans and has fled the country. Use these details to write a story outline for book two. How do you think Priscilla will overcome these challenges? What new problems might she encounter? Which other characters from this book would you like to see more of?
- By the end of the book, Priscilla and Onyeka have found their way back to each other and have another chance to be together. What do you think will happen between them in the future? Write a scene set six months into the future – are they still together? How are they making it work? Use dialogue to capture the way their relationship has changed or evolved.
- Priscilla's sisters are a fascinating and powerful group of women who have all had their own adventures. Choose one of the sisters and write your own piece of fiction that follows them on an adventure outside of the story.
- It is easy to imagine this book as a movie or television series. Choose a chapter or scene from the novel and transform it using another storytelling technique – you might decide to turn it into a script, or a graphic novel, or perhaps something completely different!

