

A Novel Study Planning Guide based on Blooms & QAR Verity Sparks – Lost and Found by Susan Green

Content ⇒ Process ↓	People	Places	Events	Themes	Connections within the novel and with the readers experience.	Structure and Methods (Use of a range of reading strategies)
Knowledge In The Book: Right There		List all of the places important to Verity and her quest to solve the missing heiress		Bullying is one of the themes (main idea) of the novel. List at least half a dozen other main themes of the book.		
Comprehension In the Book: Think and Search	Write a character study of each of the following. Include a description of their appearance, personality and list adjectives that could be used to describe them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Verity •Jessie •Connie •Mrs Enderby-Smarke •Miss Deane •Lavinia O’Day •Mrs Honeydew 			Does the last sentence in chapter 30 have more than one meaning? What are they?	Research spirit photography and the photo of Mary Todd Lincoln. Where else has spirit photography appeared through history? Do you believe it is real or fake? What makes you think that?	
Analysis & Application In My Head: Author and Me		Describe what life in Sydney or London would have been like in 1879. This time is called ‘Victorian’ Why?	Verity has a number of scary dreams throughout the novel. What suspense and horror techniques has the author used to create a dark atmosphere for the dreams?			“On Thursday evening after tea, I found out why. It was because she’d decided to start on me.” Page 89 This sentence is foreshadowing events that are yet to happen in the book. Why do authors use foreshadowing as a literary device? How does it add interest to the story?

<p>Synthesis In My Head: On My Own</p>	<p>Choose two pairs of characters and describe their relationship.</p>			<p>“Why is it, I wondered, that some people just have to hurt others?” Page 63 Bullying is a prominent theme in this book when Verity is attending Hightop House. • What does it mean to be a bully?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can someone be a bully without meaning to be? <p>• What is the difference between bullying and just fooling around?</p> <p>• What would you do if you saw someone else being bullied?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you react if bullied? • What are some reasons a person might bully? 	<p>A number of paintings in Hightop House share their names with real paintings such as “The Charge of the Light Brigade” and “The Battle of Waterloo”. Perform a Google image search for these titles to gain an understanding of the atmosphere of the dining hall at Hightop House. How do you think this atmosphere would make the students feel? List some adjectives to describe these painting and the atmosphere of the room.</p>	<p>Would you classify the novel as historical fiction or a mystery if you had to choose?</p> <p>List other mystery books set in other times – past or futuristic.</p>
<p>Evaluation In My Head: On My Own</p>	<p>The class structure of Victorian England and Australia at the same time is quite prominent in the Verity Sparks books. How would life be different for a working-class family as opposed to a rich high-society family?</p>					<p>Write a newspaper article about the murder of Alan Ross. Write the article in the style of Australian newspapers from the late 1800s and only use objective language.</p>

Notes:

Questions for class discussion

Can you think of other Australian historical events that have generated many stories that are still read with interest and with messages to tell?

Is it OK to mix real events with fiction? Why or why not?