

**MIDNIGHT FOR CHARLIE BONE
BY JENNY NIMMO**

**Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Award Nominee 2006
Grades 6-8**

Submitted by Susan Gerhart, Young Adult Coordinator
Calcasieu Parish Public Library, Lake Charles

Title: Midnight for Charlie Bone
Author: Jenny Nimmo
Publisher: Scholastic, Inc., 2003
Pages: 352

Summary

Charlie Bone had an average life until he realized that he could hear the words and thoughts of people in photographs. Charlie's Grandma Bone recognizes that his new talent comes from his ancestor, the Red King, and sends him off to Bloor's Academy for gifted children; but not before Charlie hears about a missing child and decides to find her. Once Charlie arrives at Bloor's he finds that some of his classmates have equally mysterious powers.

When ten-year-old Charlie Bone discovers that he can hear the thoughts of people that he sees in pictures, his dastardly Aunt Lucretia realizes that he is one of the "endowed." Charlie is the descendent of the Red King who possessed supernatural powers and passed them on to his descendents. Grandmother Bone and her three Yewbeam sisters are part of the endowed members of the family who went bad. They send Charlie off to Bloor's Academy, a gloomy boarding school the will remind readers of Harry Potter's Hogwath school. Both students with normal talents and those who are endowed with magical powers attend. Charlie adjusts to school and makes friends with Olivia, Benjamin and Fidelio. The sinister Bloor family that runs the academy is connected with the evil Yewbeams. Charlie and his friends set out to find a kidnapped student and to solve the mystery surrounding the disappearance of Charlie's father. They are soon swept into the age-old battle being fought by the Red King's descendents. This exciting story is the first in a series of fast-paced fantasy adventures that will fill the demand for more books "like *Harry Potter*."

Author's Biography

Jenny Nimmo lives a simple life in a converted watermill in a remote part of Wales with her husband, who is a painter and print-maker, and her three children, who speak fluent Welsh.

Jenny was born in Windsor, England. As a child she lived a lonely life on her uncle's free-range chicken farm with her mother, her father having died when she was five. She was sent away to boarding school when she was only six. She hated her early years at school, but became happier when she went to secondary school at the age of 11 and was encouraged to explore acting.

Jenny realized early in her childhood that she had another talent, that of storyteller and writer. She had discovered that writing stories could be as much or more fun than just reading them. Jenny's favorite book is still the *Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

Before becoming a full-time writer she was an actress, a stage manager and a floor manager for the BBC. In the television world Jenny rewrote other people's stories into television programs.

In 1986 her first award-winning book *The Snow Spider* was published. It was the first of a trilogy of stories that combine Welsh myth, the supernatural and family conflict. It was an instant hit and became winner of the Smarties Grand Prix. Jenny likes writing about magic because it can be unpredictable and can free you from the ordinary: in other words anything can happen. (Source: www.channel4.com/learning/microsites/B/bookbox/authors/nimmo/index1.htm)

Other Titles by Jenny Nimmo

Children of the Red King series

Midnight for Charlie Bone (Bk1)

Charlie Bone and the Time Twister (Bk2)

Charlie Bone and the Invisible Boy (Bk3)

Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors (Bk4) (July 2005)

Box Boys and the Magic Shell

Branwen

Chestnut Soldier

Delilah Alone

Delilah and the Dogspell

Dragon's Child

Esmeralda and the Children Next Door

Griffin's Castle

Gwion and the Witch

Orchard of the Crescent Moon

Witch's Tears

Interview with Jenny Nimmo. Pub. Egmont Books, Limited 1-4052-0411-7 \$4.99

Related Titles

Midnight Magic by Avi
A String in the Harp by Nancy Bond
The Dark is Rising (and others in series) by Susan Cooper
The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland
Island of the Aunts by Eva Ibbotson
The Circle of Magic Quartet by Tamora Pierce (*Sandry's Book, Tris's Book, Daja's Book, Briar's Book*)
The Circle Opens Quartet by Tamora Pierce (*Magic Steps, Street Magic, Cold Fire, Shatterglass*)
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J. K. Rowling (and others in series)
(Source: Scholastic Press's web site)

Other Titles with Similar Themes

Magic and Wizards

Book of Dead Days by Marcus Sedgwick
Chronicles of Chrestomanci (series) by Dianne Wynne Jones
Daja's Book by Tamora Pierce
Dalemark Quartet (series) by Dianne Wynne Jones
Dragon Cauldron by Laurence Yep
Forgotten Beasts of Eld by Patricia McKillip
Howl's Moving Castle by Dianne Wynne Jones
Lost Years of Merlin by T. A. Barron
Merlin by Jane Yolen
Sabriel; Lirael; and Abhorsen by Garth Nix
Sorcerers of the Nightwing by Geoffrey Huntington
Tales of Gom in the Legends of Ulm (series) by Grace Chetwin
Unexpected Magic: Collected Stories by Diane Wynne Jones
Which Witch? by Eva Ibbotson
Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. LeGuin
Wizard's Hall by Jane Yolen
Wizards of the Game by David Lubar
Books by Tamora Pierce

Supernatural

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
Buried Secrets by Suzan Colon
City of the Beasts by Isabel Allende
Eragon by Christopher Paolini
Haunted by Meg Cabot
Haunting of Alaizabel Cray by Chris Wooding
Heir Apparent by Vivian Vande Velde

Just Ella by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Painted Wall and Other Strange Tales by Michael Bedard
Rope Trick by Lloyd Alexander
See No Evil by Cherie Bennett
The She by Carol Plum-Ucci
Unicorn Chronicles by Bruce Coville

Villains

Bellmaker by Brian Jacques
Black Tide: Awakening of the Key by Debbie Bishop
Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi
Grim Tuesday by Garth Nix
Mister Monday by Garth Nix
A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
Sidekicks by Dan Danko

Web Sites

C4: Book Box

www.channel4.com/learning/microsites/B/bookbox/authors/nimmo/index1.htm

Contains biography and clips to download from an interview.

Scholastic

www.scholastic.com/titles/authors/jenny_nimmo.htm

The publisher site includes biographical information about the author.

Scholastic Discussion Guide for *Midnight for Charlie Bone*

<http://www2.scholastic.com/teachers/authorsandbooks/teachingwithbooks/producthome.jhtml?productID=13585&collateralID=11115&displayName=Discussion+Guide>

www.scholastic.com

From the home page click on "Trade Books" under "Scholastic Favorites." Then click on "Discussion Guides" for a list of titles.

This discussion guide provides a book summary and very detailed questions about the book. It also includes an annotated list of other books by the author and related titles. Very useful for teachers.

Science Fiction Reviews

http://www.allscifi.com/topics/info_22134.asp

Site features a literary breakdown of *Midnight for Charlie Bone* and a list of related books.