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.

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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](http://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*

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 (*Sandy’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
*Dalemak 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
*A 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/produc thome.jhtml?productID=13585&collateralID=11115&displayName=Discussion+G uide
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.