***Hide and Seek***

**by Katy Grant**

Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice Nominee 2013

Grades 6 – 8

Submitted by Leslie Carloss – Middle/H.S. Librarian, Opelousas Catholic School,

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Grant, Katy. *Hide and Seek.* Peachtree. 2010. 230 pages.

**SUMMARY**

*Hide and Seek* is set in the remote mountains of Arizona where Chase, a fourteen-year-old boy lives with his mother, stepfather, and two sisters. After the summer tourist season working in his family’s store, Chase sets out on his first solo geocaching adventure. While on this high-tech treasure hunt, Chase finds a troubling message scrawled in a child’s handwriting. These messages lead Chase to discover two kidnapped boys and get caught up in a dangerous adventure when he comes up with a plan to get them to safety. This mystery is an exciting adventure for readers age 8 to 12.

**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHY**

Besides being an author, Katy Grant has also taught English classes at universities and community colleges. She has also written the Summer Camp Secrets series of books for readers 8 to 12. Ms. Grant works as an author and lives with her husband and two teenage sons in Mesa, Arizona.

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**

**READING**

Have students make a list of vocabulary words from the novel that they may not fully understand. They should define the words and then share them with the class. A discussion of using context clues to help figure out word meanings could extend the activity.

Have class brainstorm various topics for a story. Students will write journal entries on these topics to expand their ideas. Have them use their journal entries to help develop a short story. Students will peer edit the first drafts of their stories, make revisions, and develop a second draft.

Have students write messages with letters/words missing and see if the class can decode them.

Write a short report about geocaching. The following website and resources mentioned at the end of the book could be used as references: [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Research the history of geocaching.

Research the White Mountains of Arizona where the story is set.

**SCIENCE**

Chase is an avid participant of geocaching. Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. Geocaching combines outdoor play with team-building, problem-solving, and other valuable educational outcomes. Share *Hide and Seek* with your students and set up a geocaching project. Go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) to discover more about it.

Go to <http://www.geocaching.com/education/default.aspx> to view a collection of resources so you can combine geocaching and education in your classroom.

Go to <http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/practicallyparadise/2010/07/09/hide-seek-by-katy-grant-what-is-geocaching-how-can-you-integrate-this-in-middle-school/> to view a *School Library Journal* blog posted by Diane Chen on July 9th, 2010 on how to integrate geocaching in middle school.

Research the technology used for geocaching (GPS systems, satellites, etc.).

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you had to leave a “help” message in just a few words, what would you write?
2. Do you have a routine to help you focus when writing a story?
3. If you could edit a book for any author, who would it be and why?
4. What do you think was the most challenging event in the book for Chase? What do you think was the easiest?
5. What do you think would be the coolest thing to find in a geocache? What would you leave for someone else to find?
6. What would you do to survive and get help, if you found yourself in the wilderness alone?
7. If you could ask the author of this book a question, what would it be?
8. Do you like the cover of the book? If so, why? If not, how would you change it?
9. This book has two families with divorced parents. Compare/contrast the differences between how the parents and children of the two families deal with the aftermath of divorce.
10. What would you do, if you discovered abandoned children near your home?

Official Book website: <http://www.katygrant.com/hide_seek.html>

Interview with Author (Peachtree Publishers, June 2010): <http://peachtreepub.blogspot.com/2010/06/treasure-hunting-not-just-for-pirates.html> discusses the writing process and talks about geocaching