



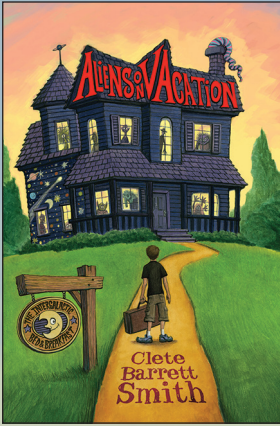
The Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast Series



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Disney • HYPERION BOOKS

About the Books



Aliens on Vacation

David isn't happy about leaving Florida and his friends to summer with his crazy grandmother in "Middle-of-Nowhere," Washington. Arriving at her Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast, he isn't surprised by the '60s-meets-*Star Wars* decor, but he is surprised by the weird-looking guests. It turns out that each room in the inn is an off-earth portal and his grandma the gate keeper, allowing aliens to vacation on Earth. Grandma desperately needs David's help monitoring the visitors, shopping for cartloads of aluminum foil

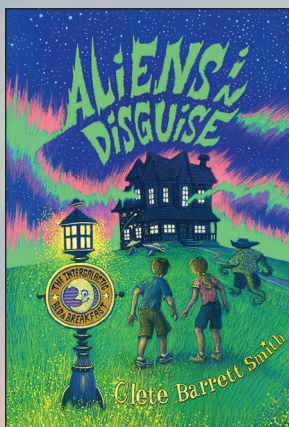
for dinner, and taking rambunctious alien kids—who glow in the dark and look like trees—camping. The problem is that the town sheriff, already suspicious about Granny, is a scout leader camping in the same spot. Will David blow Granny's cover, forcing the B&B to shut down for good, or will the Intergalactic Police Force have to intervene?



Alien on a Rampage

David is looking forward to spending another adventure-filled summer at his grandmother's Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast—a vacation hot spot for aliens. But as soon as he meets Grandma's new repairman, an alien named Scratchull, he becomes suspicious. Even though no one else—including Grandma—thinks that Scratchull is an underhanded handyman, David decides to spy on him. The only problem is that it is difficult to be sneaky when you have a ravenous alien pet attached to you. But no one

believes David when he discovers that Scratchull really is an evil mastermind with a plot to destroy the planet. Without the help of Grandma and his friends, will David be able to save Earth before it's too late?



Aliens in Disguise

When David's grandma wins a hotelier award and goes to accept it on another planet, security officer Tate assumes full control of the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast. His decision to put the alien tourists on total lockdown doesn't go over well, however, and most of the guests vacate. Tate decides to retrieve Grandma, leaving David and his friend Amy home alone. Running the B&B when there are only a few guests should be a breeze, especially for two

kids who saved the universe just a few weeks ago. But soon David and Amy (and alien pooch Snarffle) are faced with such problems as a lost alien, a pair of gate-crashers, and a potential horde of UFO-watchers descending on the inn. Middle grade readers will be over the moon about this third kooky comedy featuring an assortment of hapless humans and admirable aliens.

Common Core Alignment

This guide is aligned with the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (CCR) for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. Discussion questions and activities in this guide include a reference for the CCR strand and standard that is addressed. To scaffold and further support instruction, please reference grade level-appropriate Common Core State Standards.



Curriculum Connections

READING, WRITING, AND RESEARCHING

Pre-reading Activity

As a pre-reading activity, have students complete an anticipation guide structured in the following manner:

BEFORE READING	AFTER READING	STATEMENTS
		Adults always know the right way to approach a problem.
		All mysteries are worth solving.
		Keeping secrets is always a good thing.
		When you're in danger, it is best to play it safe rather than take a risk.

Instruct students to complete the guide by placing a “+” sign in the box next to the statements they agree with and a “0” next to those they disagree with. They must commit to agreement or disagreement—there should be no conditional responses. Students should be assured that there are no correct or incorrect positions.

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.2.; S.L. 5.1., 5.2., 5.3. Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. S.L. 4.1., 4.2., 4.3. S.L. 5.1., 5.2., 5.3. Key Ideas and Details R.L. 6.2.; Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration S.L. 6.1., 6.2., 6.3.

Writing and Research

The following questions may be used throughout the study of the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast series as reflective writing prompts. Alternatively, used them as targeted questions for class discussion and reflection.

- 1 *Aliens on Vacation* opens with David stating, “When the taxi pulled up to Grandma’s place, I wanted to burrow under the seat and cower in shame. I blinked a few times, but the view didn’t get any better. Of all the places my parents had dumped me for a summer, this was the dumpiest.” From this first introduction of David (Scrub), what can readers infer about him? Did you find those inferences about him to be accurate as you got to know him better throughout the course of the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novels?
- 2 Consider the novels’ titles; in what ways do they capture the themes of the books?
- 3 Describe Scrub (David). What makes him a dynamic character? Is he the type of person you would want to befriend? Why or why not?
- 4 Because of his grandmother’s work at the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast, Scrub (David) gets to visit and temporarily reside at the B&B. Imagine what it would be like living there. What would be the greatest benefits of such an experience? What would be the biggest challenges? Do you feel that Scrub takes advantage of this unusual situation? Why or why not?
- 5 In *Aliens on Vacation*, Scrub’s nemeses are Eddie and Sheriff Tate. What do this teen and this man have in common? In your opinion, why do they act the way they do? How does Scrub deal with these adversaries?
- 6 Describe Amy. In your opinion, is she a good friend to Scrub? Why or why not? How does her experience as the daughter of Sheriff Tate help her better understand ways to assist in the operations of the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast?
- 7 In the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast series, what are the most impressive obstacles Scrub (David) overcomes? Which of these hurdles did you like best? Why?

- 8 At the beginning of the series, David is referred to by his nickname, “Scrub.” Why has he been branded with such an unfortunate nickname? As the adventures at the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast continue, he is later identified as David. What has changed for him that he is able to lose his unfortunate moniker?
- 9 After Sheriff Tate informs Grandma that the town demands an immediate shutdown of the B&B, he tells Scrub, “I’m the only one who can control that mob, so working with me’s the only way to guarantee no one gets hurt. You hear me?” In your opinion, why does Tate seem so determined to learn the truth about the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast? Do you think he is at all justified in his actions? Why or why not?
- 10 After getting fired as the town’s sheriff, Tate becomes employed by the Intergalactic Police Force, and begins works as head of security at the B&B. What are the best skills Tate brings to this job?
- 11 In *Alien on a Rampage*, David learns that Bigfoot—or Sasquatch, as he’s formally named—is actually an alien visitor who regularly comes to Earth and stays at the B&B because he likes the wide-open spaces our planet affords. What are cryptids? Besides Bigfoot, do you know of any others? Do you think it’s possible that any of these creatures are also from out of space? Why or why not?
- 12 While the rest of the staff at the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast is completely enamored with Scratchull, David is distrustful of him from the beginning. What can be inferred about this? What do the others glean from learning that David’s sense of judgment was so on-target?
- 13 When Amy’s life is at risk, David reacts by using Scratchull’s black device and freezing all the water sources in the area (and saving her life). Though he does a noble deed, why do others receive it in such a negative way? Are they right to act this way? Why or why not?

- 14 What important lessons about the care of animals (even those from outer space) can be learned from Scrub's ongoing challenges with Snarffle, the purple, doglike creature that appeared out of nowhere in his room in *Alien on a Rampage*? Though he remains a high-maintenance pet, how does Snarffle ultimately help save the day (and perhaps the existence of Earth)?
- 15 For what reasons do you think Scrub feels connected to Amy? Why do you believe she seeks out his friendship? Consider the evolution of their friendship—how would you characterize the relationship between the two of them, and how does it change over the course of the novels?
- 16 Tate declares that, “the townsfolk already think a space-themed inn is half bonkers . . . They're almost right. This place is certified one thousand percent bonkers.” If he believes that, why does he choose to remain employed at the B&B?
- 17 Consider the unusual cast of secondary characters. Who did you like the most? The least? For what reason? Of all of the characters, who did you feel was most similar to you due to his or her personality or experiences?



- 18 In the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novels, Amy helps David understand how special the B&B really is. Why is her insight so important? What does the B&B gain from Amy's employment there? What does Amy gain from it in return?
- 19 In *Aliens in Disguise*, David and Amy are left to run the B&B while Grandma and Tate are away. In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges they have to face? How does this experience help them grow?
- 20 The Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novels are told in first person. How would the story be different if another character (other than Scrub/David) were telling it? Do you think changing the point of view would make the story better or worse? Why?
- 21 What was your impression of Officer Tate? What did you think of his being moved into security for the B&B after being sheriff of Forest Grove? In your opinion, has Grandma made the right decision in taking him on as an employee? Why or why not? How does his character change throughout the course of the series?
- 22 In *Aliens in Disguise*, Tate becomes concerned about the well-being of Grandma while she's away, and he chooses to go "rescue" her. What do his actions indicate?
- 23 Using the phrase "These stories are about . . ." supply five words to describe the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novels. Explain your choices.
- 24 As each of the novels closes, David has solved a number of important problems to help protect and save his grandmother's business. Predict what challenges David will have to overcome in the next installment/adventure in the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast series.

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details
C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.1., 4.2., 4.3. R.L. 5.1., 5.2., 5.4., R.L. 6.1., 6.2., 6.3.
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas. C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.7., 4.9, R.L.
5.7., 5.9. *Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration* C.C.S.S.E.L.A.
Literacy. R.L. 4.1., 4.3., R.L. 5.1., 5.3. S.L. 6.1., 6.2., 6.3. C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L.
W.4.4., W.5.4., W.6.4.

Extended Writing Prompts

Though the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast has its fair share of mishaps, it is also a special place where creatures from all over the universe gather to vacation and enjoy the culture of life here on Earth. Using library resources and the Internet, have students select and research a vacation destination unfamiliar to them, being sure to learn and consider the following:

- 1 Where on Earth is your selected getaway located?
- 2 What are the most visited sites or attractions in that area?
- 3 What are the best natural resources found there?
- 4 What type of climate does it have?
- 5 If you were able to visit, how would you want to spend your vacation time there?

After they gather this information, have them create a visual presentation that illustrates their findings and highlights how they would spend their time.

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.1., 4.2., 4.3. R.L. 5.1., 5.2., 5.4. R.L. 6.1., 6.2. and Writing: Production and Distribution C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. W.4.4., W.5.4., W.6.4.

Throughout the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast series, aliens from around the universe (and beyond) are referenced and described. With the novels as inspiration, have pairs of students use descriptions of the creatures to select one particular alien to “research.” Each pair should generate a backstory for their selected alien. Encourage students to role-play as news reporters giving a report on their selected alien. To enrich the activity, record the “report” and allow students to use props and costumes.

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.1., 4.2., 4.3. R.L. 5.1., 5.2., 5.4. R.L. 6.1., 6.2. and Writing: Production and Distribution C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. W.4.4., W.5.4., W.6.4.

The Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast series focuses on David and his relationships with his family, friends, and other acquaintances at the B&B. Ask your students to consider their most special relationships. What makes those individuals so important? Have them compose a personal journal entry where they share their thoughts, and be sure they answer the following questions:

- 1 Who are the individuals who mean the most to you?
- 2 Why are those particular relationships so special?
- 3 What's the greatest sacrifice you've made for the people you love?
- 4 In what ways have the changes you've experienced in your life affected those you are closest to?

To culminate, ask for volunteers to share their writing with the class.

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.1., 4.2., 4.3. R.L. 5.1., 5.2., 5.4. R.L. 6.1., 6.2. and Writing: Production and Distribution C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. W.4.4., W.5.4., W.6.4.

Throughout the course of the novels, readers are offered great insight into David's point of view through the events of the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast series. Have students assume the role of one of the secondary characters from *Aliens on Vacation*, *Aliens on a Rampage*, or *Aliens in Disguise* and draft a diary entry detailing what they experienced and witnessed. To prepare, they should create an outline using the five *Ws* (*who, what, when, where, and why*). Remind them to write in first person and give special attention to sensory imagery (what they saw, smelled, heard, etc.).

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.1., 4.2., 4.3. R.L. 5.1., 5.2., 5.4. R.L. 6.1., 6.2. and Writing: Production and Distribution C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. W.4.4., W.5.4., W.6.4.

Literary Elements Analysis

Use the following activities to allow students to show their understanding of various literary elements in the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast series

Considering Character

The purpose of this strategy is to help students demonstrate knowledge of a character in the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novels by following written prompts to complete a poem about the individual. Students can be given the prompts to follow on a worksheet, or, alternatively, students may create an original slideshow using PowerPoint, Prezi, or Movie Maker.



“I Am” Poem

FIRST STANZA:

I am (name the character)

I wonder (something the character is actually curious about)

I hear (an imaginary sound the character might hear)

I see (an imaginary sight the character might see)

I want (something the character truly desires)

SECOND STANZA:

I pretend (something the character actually pretends to do)

I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)

I touch (an imaginary touch)

I worry (something that really bothers the character)

I cry (something that makes the character very sad)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

THIRD STANZA:

I understand (something the character knows is true)

I say (something the character believes in)

I dream (something the character might actually dream about)

I try (something the character really makes an effort to do)

I hope (something the character actually hopes for)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)



Biopoem

Line 1: First name: _____

Line 2: Three traits that describe the character: _____

Line 3: Relative of _____

Line 4: Lover of _____ (three things)

Line 5: Who feels _____ (three things)

Line 6: Who needs _____ (three things)

Line 7: Who fears _____ (three things)

Line 8: Who gives _____ (three things)

Line 9: Who would like to see _____ (three things)

Line 10: Resident of _____

Line 11: Last name: _____

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details

C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.1. R.L. 5.1. R.L. 6.1. and Craft and Structure R.L. 4.5., 5.5., 6.5., R.L. 4.6., 5.6., 6.6.

Advice Column

Ask students to describe one of the problems faced by a character in the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novels and write advice to him or her. Students may choose to be serious or humorous. Use the letter format common to newspaper advice columns, where the person with the problem writes for advice and the adviser writes back. Often the person seeking advice disguises his or her name with a descriptive name associated with the problem.

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details

C.C.S.S.E.L.A. Literacy. R.L. 4.1., 4.2., 4.3. R.L. 5.1., 5.2., 5.4. R.L. 6.1., 6.2.

Readers Theater Activity for the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast Series

For David, the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast is both a home away from home and the center of his summertime adventures. Using the following directions, have students demonstrate an understanding of text structure by retelling and sequencing a scene from an Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novel.

Directions

Read an Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novel with the class. After reading the novel, have students complete a story analysis graphic organizer or a SWBS chart as a way to make observations about the characters, setting, conflict, and plot.

To enhance understanding, take a well-known story (such as a fairy tale) and model writing a Readers Theater script as a whole class activity. After discussing dialogue and performance with the whole class, divide the students into small groups. Each group will create an original script using a chapter from an Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast novel as inspiration.

Next, allow students ample time to practice, and be sure to conference with each group to answer or clarify any questions they may have.

Finally, it's showtime! Allow students to create costumes, props, and sets for the final Readers Theater performance. Groups will perform for other teams of students. For additional fun, consider filming each performance to share with the whole class.

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About the Author

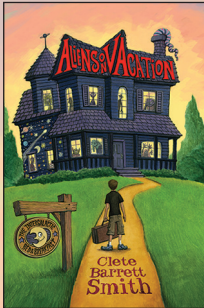
Clete Barrett Smith arrived on Earth as an infant and was raised among the native population. He participated in human rites of passage in the northwestern quadrant of the American landmass and later studied the planet's literature and writing techniques at

Vermont College of Fine Arts before publishing his first novel, *Aliens on Vacation*. He currently lives in Bellingham, Washington, with his two earthling daughters. For more information visit his website, www.cletebarrettsmith.com.



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Books by Clete Barrett Smith



Aliens on Vacation

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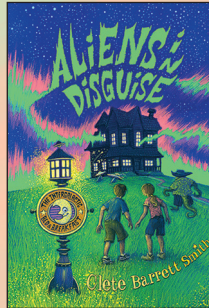
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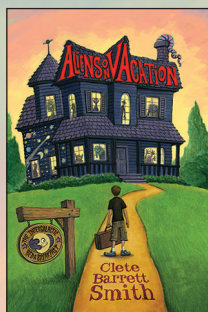
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This guide was created by Dr. Rose Brock, a teacher and school librarian in Coppel, Texas. Dr. Brock holds a Ph.D. in Library Science, specializing in children's and young adult literature.

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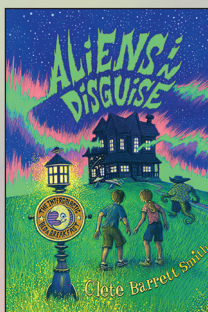
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