

A YOUTH GROUP'S
GUIDE TO
**LEGEND OF THE
STORM SNEEZER**

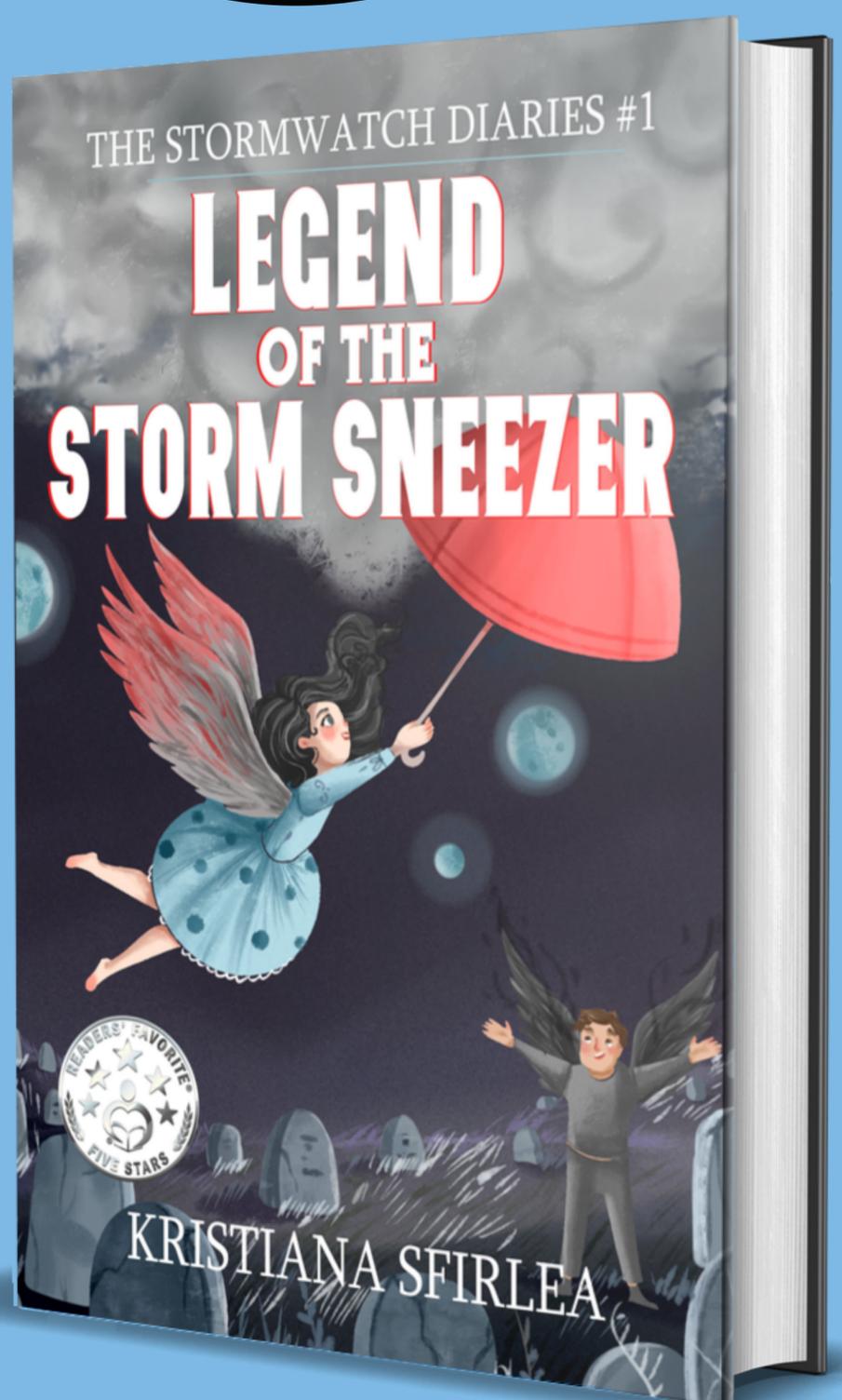
by Kristiana Sfirlea

***Includes
Bible Study
6th-8th
Grade***

**THOUGHTFUL
QUESTIONS!**

**CLASS
ACTIVITIES!**

**SNACK
IDEAS!**





Before You Read

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About the Book:

13-year-old Rose Skylar sneezed a magical storm cloud at birth, and it's followed her around ever since. But when "Stormy" causes too many disasters, Rose is taken to an asylum for unstable magic in a haunted forest whose trees have turned to stone.

Guided by time traveling letters, Rose teams up with her future selves and her (maybe) imaginary best friend, Marek, to save her storm cloud and solve the mystery of the specters and the stone trees.

But will they find what killed the ghosts before what killed the ghosts finds them?

Takeaway Value:

Wrapped in a package of magic, spooks, and time travel, *Legend of the Storm Sneezer* is a story about adapting to challenging circumstances, having compassion and turning it into action, and how to hold onto childlike faith during the tricky transition from kid to teen.

Through whimsy, humor, and adventure, Rose and Marek dare middle schoolers to consider biblical truths and their faith on a personal, relatable level.



Bible Study



Entries 0-5

Question - How is God like a thunderstorm?

Bible Reading - Job 37:1-16

Point to Ponder - Marek tells Rose that he's going to find her a place where everyone knows how to dance in the rain. But for Christians, that place is right where we're standing because we know that God is in control of every storm. He uses them for His good purpose, and we are free to dance in the rain because we trust Him and His love for us.

Entries 6-10

Question(s) - There are moments when Rose feels like her best friend and protector, Marek, abandoned her. Sometimes she wonders if he was even real. Have you ever felt like God left or forgot about you? Have you wondered if He really exists?

Bible Reading - Acts 17:24-27,

2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 13:5, Psalm 9:10, Jeremiah 29:13, Romans 8:28

Point to Ponder - No matter how much she doubted, Rose

never stopped going to her and Marek's meeting spot. No matter how far away he felt, she still had faith. And little did she know that Marek was with her the whole time. He never abandoned her but was behind the scenes working something wonderful for her life—even though she couldn't see it yet.

God is never far from us, even if we don't believe in Him. He wants us to reach out and know Him. And if we listen to His words and put our faith in His promises, backing it with action, we can know without a shadow (Boy) of a doubt that He will never abandon us. Instead, He's actively working for our good because He loves us so much—even when we can't see it yet.

Entries 11-15

Question - Like Sephone and Aiden attempting to get information from Silas, it's easy to demand when we need something badly from someone, but what's the right way to ask for help?

Bible Reading - Colossians 3:12, Ephesians 4:1-3, Philippians 2:3, James 4:2, Proverbs 15:1

Point to Ponder - It's important to treat others with kindness and respect.

Entries 16-20

Question(s) - Soul signias show just how wonderfully diverse

people and their talents can be! But where do those talents come from? And is every person truly unique?

Bible Reading - Colossians 1:15-17, Psalm 33: 13-15

Point to Ponder - You were made by Jesus and for Jesus! Think about that: Jesus made your very heart with His own hands, and He made it for Himself. He purposely created you to be a unique and loved part of His world.

Entries 21-25

Question(s) - Rose and Marek's team has a less noticeable job at Heartstone Asylum than Sephone and Aiden's. Does God have a job and role for every person? Are all jobs and roles important to Him?

Bible Reading - 1 Corinthians 12, Colossians 3:23-24

Point to Ponder - God made you for a purpose, and He wants you to discover and embrace that purpose. Whether it seems big and important or small and insignificant, it matters to the One Who created you for it. And His opinion matters most of all.

Entries 26-30

Question - What does God say about Chosen Ones?

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Bible Reading - Isaiah 42:1, Ephesians 1:3-5, Acts 4:10-12

Point to Ponder - Jesus is the only true Chosen One. No other person can save the world. But when we believe in Him, we become part of Him through the Spirit that He gives us, and we become "chosen ones," too—chosen before the world began by God our Father to be loved by Him and to live our lives with Him and for Him.

Entries 31-35

Question - The War o' the Wargs began when the Sinner and the Wargs allowed the cruel things others were saying about them affect the way they saw themselves, turning them violent and vengeful. How are we supposed to respond to harsh words and the desire for revenge?

Bible Reading - 1 Peter 3:9-17, Romans 12:19, Isaiah 54:17

Point to Ponder - Let God be the One to tell you who you are, and let His words be the ones you take to heart.

Entries 36-40

Question - As she ponders Marek's sacrifice for her life and her own sacrifice for Malachy's, Rose is learning the difference between "heroic sacrifice" and "sacrificial love." What do you

think the difference is?

Bible Reading - John 15:13, Ephesians 5:1-2, Galations 2:20,
1 John 3:16-18

Point to Ponder - Jesus' death on the cross is the ultimate example of sacrificial love.

End of Book Challenge

The story "Legend of the Two Worlds" in Entry 24 is a packed spiritual allegory. Discuss the potential meanings of the legend in relation to Christ and the Bible and explore the similarities between Caelix's story in "Legend of the Two Worlds" and Rose and Marek's story in *Legend of the Storm Sneezzer*. How are they different? How are they the same?



Class Activities

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Creative Writing:

- 1) Aiden Waverly enjoys writing poetry about his life as a sidekick. Write a poem about your favorite sidekick or hero. Serious or silly!
- 2) Rose's favorite book in all the worlds is the legendary collection of legends, *Blackout's Tales*. Pretend you are Blackout and write a short story featuring a legend of your own making.
- 3) Rose writes letters to her future self—and sometimes her future self writes back. Write a letter to your future self. Ask questions that you're hoping to know the answers to. When you've finished, put it somewhere safe and choose a date to open it in the future.

Moonsfrost Eve Party:

Celebrate the end of the book by hosting your own Moonsfrost Eve party! Have everyone wear blue and dress up like lunatics and serve edible moonstones and Blue Moon milkshakes (see *Snack Ideas*).

You can also host a Poetry Night and/or Story Hour featuring the poems and legends from your creative writing assignments as part of the party!



Snack Ideas



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1) Chocolate dipped strawberries, for Rose and Marek's favorite snack.

2) Red velvet cupcakes with cream cheese frosting, for Rose's favorite birthday dessert.

3) Heart-shaped jelly biscuits, like the ones eaten during Rose and Marek's Story Hour:

- Roll refrigerated biscuit dough flat on a cutting board
- Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut dough into heart shapes
- Spread dough heart with favorite jam or jelly
- Place another dough heart on top of the first and pinch edges
- Bake according to biscuits' original instructions

4) Blue Moon ice cream milkshakes for Moonsfrost Eve.

5) Edible moonstones for Moonsfrost Eve. (Make any kind of candy using a ball-shaped candy mold.)

5) "Lightning Fizz" punch. Pour a two liter of citrus-flavored pop in a bowl. Sprinkle a *small* spoonful of Pop Rocks over it. Once the fizz dies down, add lemon sherbet.

About the Author



Kristiana Sfirlea knows what it means to get in character. She spent five years volunteering as a historical reenactor and trying her best not to catch her skirts on fire as a colonial girl from the 1700s (leading cause of death at the time next to childbirth).



Working at a haunted house attraction, she played a jumping werewolf statue, a goblin in a two-way mirror, and a wall-scratcher—so if she’s standing very still, growling, checking her reflection, or filing her nails on your wall, be alarmed. Those are hard habits to break.

Inspired by bookmobiles around the world, Kristiana dreams of the day she can run her own mobile bookstore. Or haunted house attraction. Or both. Look out, world—here comes a haunted bookmobile! (And this is precisely why writers should never become Uber drivers.) She loves Jesus, her family, and imaginary life with her characters.

*Kristiana would love to hear from you! Connect with her through email at **KristianasQuill@yahoo.com**, on Twitter and Instagram **@KristianasQuill**, or on her website **www.KristianasQuill.com!***



Passion Behind Work



Growing up with a severe undiagnosed medical condition called *gastroparesis*, most of Kristiana's childhood was taken up with ER, hospital, and doctor visits, medical testing, anxiety, and worry.

During these painful experiences, she acquired a vibrant sense of humor and writing became her escape. In time, escapism took a backseat, and her writing evolved into a way of processing the lessons God was teaching her.

She began *Legend of the Storm Sneezer*.

Most people think of storms as representing evil, but *Legend of the Storm Sneezer* turns this symbolism on its head, demonstrating how our own Author, Jesus, can use bad things for our good. Through her stories, Kristiana wants to reach out to kids and teens who are going through any kind of struggle and give them laughter and hope.

**Want to schedule a
virtual author visit?**

***Contact Kristiana at
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