

a SNICKER *of* MAGIC NATALIE LLOYD

BEYOND THE BOOK

Hello, Beedles!

Thank you for using *A Snicker of Magic* in your classrooms and libraries! I know your time is valuable and limited, so the fact that you've invited Felicity and her friends into your school means the world to me. Class read-alouds were my favorite part of the school day when I was a young reader. Not only did that time help me fall in love with books, but it also helped me find my voice as a writer. I can't think of a higher compliment from an educator than knowing they thought the book was worth sharing with students!

Below, you'll find a few ideas for reader engagement. Since you know your readers better than anyone, feel free to use these ideas to customize an experience that will help them engage with the text.

Have fun in the story ... and hold on to your shadows!

Natalie

Ideas for Classroom Engagement

Become a Word Collector!

One of the most common activities students and teachers create while reading *A Snicker of Magic* is a **Wordbook**, similar to Felicity's blue notebook. Encourage readers to collect interesting words, and perhaps even illustrate those words as Felicity might see them. Students could also use their **Wordbook** to make up words of their own, or to collect special phrases and passages that mean something to them during their independent reading.



Create a Classroom Word Wall!



Students at McDowell Elementary in Hudson, Ohio created this word wall (with the help of their savvy moms!). Each Scrabble-style square has a Velcro patch that connects to a laminated letter (letters are all stored in the bin below). Throughout the day, students were encouraged to build onto words that existed on the wall.

Words Around My Family!

This activity was created by Greg Armamentos, who teaches 4th and 5th graders in Illinois. This is one of the activities Greg's students did during their classroom read-aloud of *A Snicker of Magic*:

Strategy: Words Around My Family

How: In Natalie Lloyd's book *A Snicker of Magic*, Felicity reveals that she sees words surrounding people. They come in various shapes, sizes, and movements. The more interesting the person, the more words she sees. Pretend you have the same gift that Felicity has. If you were able to see words from a family member, who would that be, and what would you see? Why would you see those words? What would they look like? What shape, size or movement would they have?

Why: Writers write best about whom they know around them. They listen, and they feel, using their eyes, their ears, and their heart.



Create Your Own Ice Cream Flavor!

Katie Clancy, a media specialist in Connecticut, came up with this fun activity. She printed paper ice cream cartons, and encouraged students to make up their own ice cream flavor and the ability that ice cream would have. Student ideas ranged from sweet and fun to absurdly hilarious.

Be the Beedle!

The Beedle is known to show up frequently in classrooms that are using *A Snicker of Magic*. Often, the text encourages students to team up for Beedle-work. Here are some examples:

Team Beedle! Do you have a group of students who might enjoy getting together and plotting good deeds around the school? Maybe leaving kind notes for teachers, admin staff, or cafeteria workers?

Random Acts of Kindness Paper Chain! Students at McDowell Elementary in Hudson, Ohio wrote down good deeds they did on strips of paper. These could be kind things they'd done in their family without being asked, something they'd done for someone at school, or any other random act of kindness. In the end, they connected their strips of paper in a paper-chain that stretched all the way down the hallway.

Community Project! Is there a need in your community students might be able to address? Maybe collect old books from their homes to donate somewhere in the community, etc.?

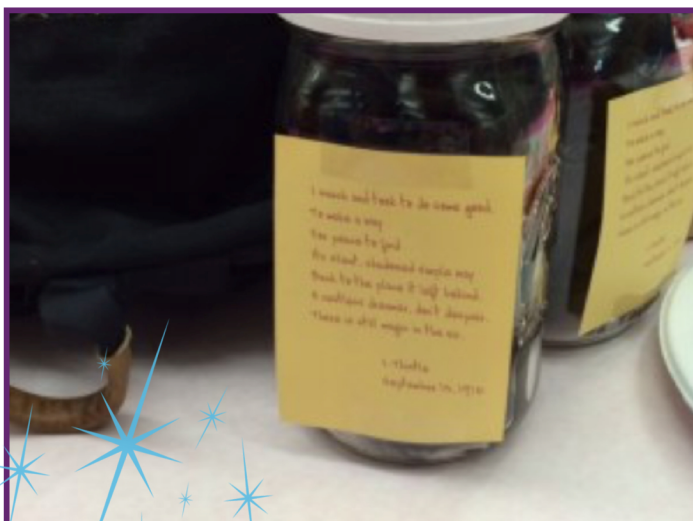


Plan A Snicker of Magic Book Club!

Some schools plan ongoing activities once they've made *A Snicker of Magic* a book club pick! Debbie McCarty, a librarian from Georgia, used *A Snicker of Magic* in her afterschool book club. To culminate the reading experience, she decorated tables themed after each character. Each table also had questions for students to discuss, with an adult at each table facilitating the discussion. She also worked with local vendors to have food and ice cream available at the party!

Here are the table decorations from Debbie McCarty's SNICKER Book Club Celebration. Each table was decorated in the theme of a character in the story. Can you match the character to the table?





At Jacob Wismer Elementary in Portland, Oregon, students read *A Snicker of Magic* as part of their *One School - One Book* initiative. Each family in the school received a copy of the book to read together, and the planning committee planned a fun event for everyone at the end. They even hid “Biscuit” throughout the school (aka: a small, stuffed dog that looks like Natalie’s Biscuit!) The PTO also brought Natalie in for an author visit!

In Hudson, Ohio, students were also treated to week-long activities centered on their reading of *A Snicker of Magic*! Parents and volunteers on the Right-to-Read Committee decorated the school in a fun, Snicker-themed way, helped teachers come up with age-appropriate activities for different grade levels, and brought Natalie in for a week of school visits to cap off the event.

Music Makes the Story!

Natalie’s adventure in Midnight Gulch was partially inspired by hearing her favorite band, The Avett Brothers, in concert! She was also inspired by the Appalachian music and storytelling culture in Tennessee, where she grew up. Play students a snippet of that music - or any music - and ask how it might influence their writing. Does a certain style of music make them want to write a certain kind of scene? How might authors draw inspiration from other kinds of art? *Fair and Tender Ladies*, an old, Appalachian folk song, is mentioned in a special way in the story. Consider playing students a version of this song (the Roseanne Cash rendition is Natalie’s favorite version).

Listen to a snippet of the AudioBook!

If your school library has the audio version of *A Snicker of Magic*, consider playing a chapter, or segment, for students to listen to as they read along. You can also hear an excerpt of the audiobook on Natalie’s website: www.NatalieLloyd.com.

Extra Fun

Did you know there are more adventures in Midnight Gulch? Your students can read more from Felicity and Jonah’s POV! Check Natalie’s website (www.NatalieLloyd.com) for a Halloween story from Felicity’s perspective, as well as a story about how Jonah became the ... you know. (Spoilers included, so save these for after the story!)

Personalized Copy of *A Snicker of Magic*: If you’d like to purchase a personalized copy of *A Snicker of Magic* or *The Key to Extraordinary* for your classroom (or if you’d like to give students an opportunity to buy a personalized copy), you may do so through Natalie’s hometown bookstore Star Line Books in Chattanooga. Simply email or call the store to place your order, and email them a list of names you’d like the books signed to. Natalie will zip over to the store to sign & personalize your copies, and then Star Line will ship your box of spindiddly books.

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