

Reviewer's Name: Alyssa Morgan

Reviewer's Position: Children's Librarian/Head of Youth Services, Morgan County Public Library

## ***Greenglass House***

**AUTHOR:** Kate Milford

**PUBLISHER:** Clarion Books

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**GENRE:** Mystery

**SETTING:** The setting is winter, shortly before Christmas.

### **SUMMARY:**

Milo is looking forward to spending a quiet Christmas with his parents at their home, Greenglass House. Plans for this quiet Christmas quickly go awry when mysterious visitors appear at the house, one guest after another.

### **BOOK TALK:**

Many of us are used to having visitors during the holidays, but what would you do if one unexpected guest shows up...and then another...and another...and another? And what if some of these unexpected visitors know each other...even if they deny it? Milo and his parents are facing this situation in *Greenglass House* by Kate Milford.

Milo's house, *Greenglass House*, is known as a safe haven for smugglers and sailors. When Greenglass House becomes full of visitors just before Christmas, Milo is upset with his changed holiday plans. When Milo finds a mysterious map in a wallet dropped by one of the visitors, he and Meddy, the cook's daughter, begin a role-playing game to find out where the map leads. Soon, Milo and Meddy begin to uncover secrets about the mysterious visitors, Greenglass House, and even themselves.

### **AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

**AUTHOR'S NAME:** Kate Milford

Author's Website: [www.clockworkfoundry.com](http://www.clockworkfoundry.com)

### **Other books written by the author:**

*The Boneshaker*

*The Broken Lands*

*The Kairos Mechanism*

*Bluecrowne*

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### **SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:**

*The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

*The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart

*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think smugglers like to stay at Greenglass House? What makes it a good spot for them?
2. Why is Milo happy when Meddy encourages him to create a backstory for his alter ego, Negret? (Pg 91)
3. What clues does Milo have to discovering Meddy's true identity? Make a list by citing evidence from the text.

### **ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:**

#### **Language Arts**

- **Create a Character**

Milo and Meddy create characters for their expedition exploring Greenglass House. Imagine you are part of this expedition. Create a character for yourself and write a description of that character. Refer to pages 55-66 in *Greenglass House* as a starting point for creating your character.

Once you've created your character, bring it to life! Draw this character or create a model of what this character looks like.

**7.RL.2.1** Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

**7.RL.2.3** Analyze the interaction of elements in a work of literature.

- **Story Creation**

After reading *The Raconteur's Commonplace Book*, Milo encourages the guests of Greenglass House to take turns telling stories. Using the character you created in the previous activity, write a story to share with your class. The story should be between 5-10 minutes long.

**7.W.3.3** Write narrative compositions in a variety of forms that-

-Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters.

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- Organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically, using a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame to another.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
- Provide an ending that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

**7.W.4** Apply the writing process to-

- Plan and develop; draft; revise using the appropriate reference materials; rewrite; try a new approach; and edit to produce and strengthen writing that is clear and coherent, with some guidance and support from peers and adults.
- Use technology to interact and collaborate with others to generate, produce, and publish writing and link to sources.

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

<http://www.nagspeake.com> is a "tourism" website for the area where Greenglass House is located!

**Challenging Words**

ramshackle (p. 2)  
incredulously (p. 3)  
ascent (p. 7)  
grandiose (p. 24)  
verdigris (p. 29)  
garrett (p. 50)  
dexterity (p. 61)  
luminescence (p. 79)  
teak (p. 80)  
ephemera (p. 81)  
puissance (p. 89)  
venerable (p. 105)  
indignant (p. 141)  
maelstrom (p. 198)  
bemused (p. 200)  
invocation (p. 203)  
nefarious (p. 232)  
grousing (p. 338)