

# ***The Vengekeep Prophecies***

**AUTHOR:** Brian Farrey  
**PUBLISHER:** Harper Collins  
**COPYRIGHT DATE:** 2012  
**GENRE:** Fantasy  
**LEXILE:** 780

**SUMMARY:** Jaxter Grimjinx was born into a family of thieves, so surely this must be his fate as well, so the story begins. An unlikely twist of fate leads Jaxter and his friend Callie on an adventure to save their town of Vengekeep and to discover their true paths in life.

**BOOKTALK:** Wraithweed. Sap of an ernum tree. Minzgrass. Rankstamen. Spiderbat milk. These are just a few of the ingredients Jaxter must collect if he is to help his family save Vengekeep from the horrible prophecies that are to ruin it forever. And to collect these, Jaxter must leave Vengekeep through the catacombs and travel to far away lands. With a bit of money and his friend Callie by his side, Jaxter sets off on the adventure of a lifetime. Will he be able to find all of these rare ingredients in time to save Vengekeep? There's only one way to find out...

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

**Author's Name:** Brian Farrey  
**Author's Website:** <http://www.brianfarreybooks.com/>  
**Other books written by the author:**  
*The Shadowhand Covenant*  
*With or Without You*

## **CHALLENGING WORDS**

sepulchre - pg. 14 - a burial vault, tomb, or grave  
magistrates - pg. 40 - an officer charged with administration of the law  
fissure - pg. 67 - a narrow opening  
portcullis - pg. 93 - a strong grate made of iron, made to slide along vertical grooves at the sides of a gateway of a fortified place  
gaol - pg. 165 - jail  
reconnaissance - pg. 190 - a general survey of region to gain information  
tremulous - pg. 245 - vibrating, shaking, quivering  
sequestered - pg. 271 - isolated  
obsidian - pg. 295 - a volcanic glass similar to granite, usually dark but transparent in thin pieces  
coffers - pg. 343 - a box or chest for holding valuables  
monocle - pg. 366 - an eyeglass for one eye  
mettle - pg. 369 - courage

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How would the adventure have been different if Callie had not gone along?
2. Why did Edilman double-cross Jaxter and Callie? Why was he so intent on being the hero?
3. Why was it critical that Talian be painted as the hero in saving Vengekeep from ruin?
4. What was the importance of the Grimjinx family album? How has Jaxter's impression of it changed?

## **ACTIVITIES with COMMON CORE STANDARDS**

### **Language Arts:**

- Each character seemed to have his/her own special talent or skill. Write an essay explaining which talent you think was most important to have, why it was important, and how the character might have been viewed if he/she didn't have this special talent.
- 4.W.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- 5.W.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- 6.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

### **Visual Arts:**

- Using a large sheet of paper, design a tapestry. You may use pictures along with a few words to tell a story. This story can be imagined or can be something from real life that has happened.
- 4.7.1 Apply elements (line, shape, form, texture, color, and space) and principles (repetition, variety, rhythm, proportion, movement, balance, emphasis) in work that effectively communicates ideas.
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### **LIFE SKILLS:**

courage  
friendship  
perseverance

**RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

Jaxter Grimjinx's "own" website to explore many things connected to the book:

<http://www.grimjinx.com/>

**ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY:**

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