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MIDDLE-GRADE FICTION

Ages 8–12, Grades 3–7

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ENCHANTED MISADVENTURES WITH GREAT-AUNT POPPY

MAGIC, MAYHEM, AND MONSTERS

by HALLIE CHRISTENSEN

BOOK TALK

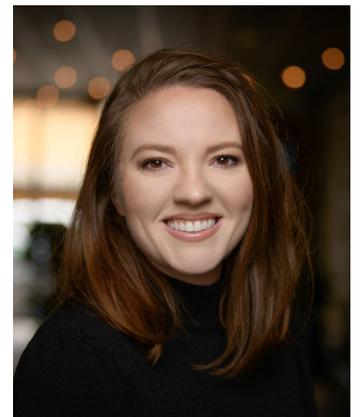
A typical December for the Alexanders consists of gingerbread baking, movies, and looking at Christmas lights, but after their parents are called in to work, Ava, Nolan, and Charlotte are sent to stay with their most feared relative for a week—Great-Aunt Poppy. Have mom and dad gone mad?

Of course, the children are terrified. Who wouldn't be? No one believes them when they say that Poppy—or Groppy as they call her—is a witch. If the haunted house isn't bad enough, there are thousands of crazy cats, chaotic and deadly spells, and even worse—frightening howls from the woods that grow louder and closer every second. Something deadly lurks outside. Staying alive while living with Groppy for an entire week is—well—impossible!

In order to survive the holiday, it will take all the bravery and wit the kids can muster. But who knows? Things aren't always what they seem! **The best holiday surprise this Christmas might be hiding in the most unlikely place imagined!**

About the Author

Born in a small town in Alabama, Hallie Christensen grew up in a home filled with books and frequent trips to the library. She attended Young Authors conferences while in elementary school and enjoyed writing her own stories and sharing them with others. She received her BA in English with a minor in Italian while attending The University of Alabama and marching in The Million Dollar Band. After graduating, she worked at a library while she obtained her MA in Teaching English from Faulkner University. She now teaches English courses at a community college. Currently, she and her husband live in northern Alabama. *Enchanted Misadventures with Great-Aunt Poppy* is her first middle grade novel. Her website is authorhalliechristensen.com.



Praise for *Enchanted Misadventures*

“Spooky, fun, and perfect for kids looking for an adventure! It made me laugh, gasp and wonder what would happen next. This book has everything you’d want for the younger generation. I’m excited to see what the author writes next.” - **Victoria McCombs**, best-selling author of *The Storyteller’s Daughter*

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Discussion Questions

1. How did Charlotte's bravery grow throughout the book? Think of how she felt in the car ride to Groppy's house compared to how she felt after her encounter with the werewolf in the woods. Why did she change?
2. When given the chance to wish for anything in the world, Ava chose a notebook and some colored pencils while Charlotte asked for a rainbow and a pony. If you had three wishes you could make on Groppy's magic cauldron, what would you wish for?
3. Nolan loves food, especially grilled cheese sandwiches. What is your favorite food? Why is it your favorite?
4. Charlotte loves cats and Merlin quickly becomes her best friend. Do you have a pet? What do you like to do together? If you don't have a pet, what animal would you choose for a pet and why?
5. The potion in Groppy's cauldron had a lot of interesting ingredients. If you could create your own magic spell, what would it be and what ingredients would it use?
6. Ava's main goal at the beginning of the book was to help her siblings survive a week at Groppy's. What dangers did she and her siblings encounter during their week stay? Was she right in being worried? Can you worry too much?
7. It took all of Charlotte's courage to go back into the woods with Groppy the very next day after her scary encounter with the werewolf. Have you ever been frightened and had to go and face your fears? What did you do?
8. When Ava wants to learn about werewolves, she goes straight to the library. Do you like going to the library? Do you have a favorite book? What kind of stories do you like to read about?
9. When the kids asked Merlin to talk to the cats, he said he didn't "speak cat." Why can't Merlin "speak cat"? Who is Merlin?
10. The kids went from being terrified of Groppy, to never wanting to leave her house. What made the kids change their minds about their Great-Aunt? Did Groppy change any, or did the kids? Explain.
11. The children searched for hours in the woods to find the correct red rowan berries. They found many wrong berries before they found the right ones, but they didn't give up. Have you ever had to do something that was hard and wanted to give up? What helped you to keep trying? Did you finish your goal?
12. Ava is a very protective older sibling, but she had to learn to trust her younger sister. Where do you fall in your family (oldest, middle, youngest, only child)? Are you protective of your siblings? Has there ever been a time when you had to put your trust in a sibling. If you don't have a sibling, is there a time when you had to put your full trust into a friend?
13. In the end, the children were able to do some of their favorite Christmas traditions with Groppy, like decorating the tree and making a gingerbread house. What traditions does your family do for the holidays? Have you ever taken a trip over the holidays and done something different than what you normally do?