

The Lost Boy By Greg Ruth



Grade Levels:

- SLJ: Grades 4-7

Synopsis:

- When Nate moves into a new house, he finds hidden tapes and a recorder: tapes that belonged to a boy named Walt, who lived in—and disappeared from—his new house 50 years ago. When Nate listens to the tapes, he learns that a magical world exists in uneasy tandem with the real world, and Walt began to see more and more of it in the days leading up to his disappearance. Nate is unable to dismiss the tapes as fantasy because he begins to see the same creatures Walt described, and they seem to have an inordinate amount of interest in him.

Author Website:

- <http://www.gregthings.com/>

Curricular Connections:

- Social Studies: Oral History
- Language Arts: Theme

Lesson Ideas:

- **Oral History:** Nate finds tapes that inform him of long ago events. Find an adult subject and record an interview with them about events from their childhood.
- **Language Arts:** What do you think is the central theme of this book? Write an essay supporting your choice with examples from the book.
- **Creative Writing:** What happens next? Nate and Tabitha start school on the day following the events of the story, and Nate fears it will be hard to be “normal” again. Write an epilogue detailing what that day would look like.

Common Core Standards:

- RL 6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Attached Materials:

- Epilogue Prompt

Suggested Companion Titles:

- *The Graveyard Book Graphic Novel* (vol. 1 and 2) by Neil Gaiman
- *The Stuff of Legend* by Mike Raicht

- *Cardboard* by Doug TenApel
- *Amulet* by Kazu Kibuishi

Professional Reviews:

- *Horn Book Magazine*, 1/1/2014
- *Kirkus Reviews*, 8/15/2013
- *Publishers Weekly*, 7/22/2013
- *School Library Journal*, 1/1/2014
- *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*, 12/1/2013