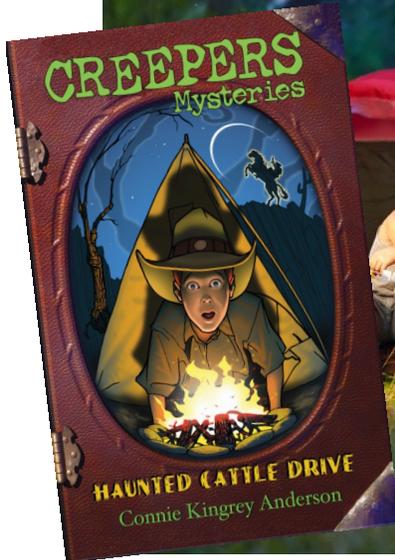


# Create a Reading Camp Out in Your Classroom



with *Haunted Cattle Drive*  
from Creepers Mysteries

## Welcome to Your Reading Camp Out Kit & Teacher's Guide

The Reading Camp Out with *Haunted Cattle Drive*, pg. 2

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Order 10-11 books from your [Favorite Bookstore](#). Rotate the books among your students so everyone has a chance to play a role, create sound effects (10 books for 1 sound effects artist, 11 books for 2 sound effects artists), and cue up the music.

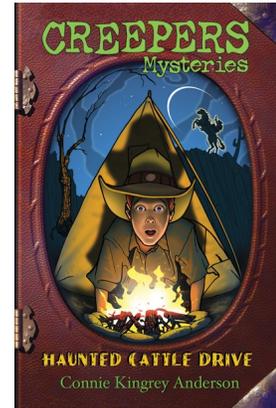
[Product List](#) *Haunted Cattle Drive* ISBN# 978-1-935793-00-7.

Movies for the Ear, LLC, 8362 Tamarack Village, Ste. 119-327, St. Paul, MN 55125 • 651-330-9480

Email: [moviesfortheear@comcast.net](mailto:moviesfortheear@comcast.net) • Website: [www.creepersmysteries.com](http://www.creepersmysteries.com)

## It sounds like fun, tell me how it works...

Your students read the **BOOK** (*in the front*). Then they star in their own Movie for the Ear® using the **SCRIPT** (*in the back*). Kids read their lines the way their characters would say them. They can create their own sound effects, and they can even add music. Your kids can bring the smell of that dusty old trail and the warmth of the sizzling campfire into your classroom – just by jumping into the story. Find out more by clicking on the video links below:



[Creepers Mysteries Book Trailer](#). (1:05 minutes)

[Video of Kids Using Creepers Mysteries](#) (4:52 minutes)

## What do others think about *Haunted Cattle Drive*?

Review of *Haunted Cattle Drive* from Kirkus Reviews:

Kingrey Anderson does a **masterful job of providing an engaging, age-appropriate ghost story** for elementary school kids that offers creepy, but not terrifying, elements....

The book also includes a “Movie for the Ear” script of the tale, a play to encourage children to further engage with the story. In **an innovative approach to interactive storytelling**, young readers are prompted to recruit their friends and family as cast members and develop their own imaginative approaches to sound effects and character development. Overall, the story **translates beautifully into a creative opportunity for kids**....A fun first installment in a **unique, promising kids’ mystery series**. – *Kirkus Reviews*

## Can I read an excerpt?

Why, of course! [\*Haunted Cattle Drive\* - Excerpt](#)

# Discussion Questions

Start by having your kids read the *Haunted Cattle Drive* book.

1.) What's a greenhorn? Why does Arvin insist that he's not a greenhorn?

2.) There are no street signs in the wilderness. How do you think Smokey Joe finds his way on the cattle drive?

How do you find your way to a new place? How do you find your way back to a place you've already visited?

3.) How did the kids find the spot where the stolen money was buried? Where was the clue hidden? Think of other ways this clue could have been hidden, and how it might have been revealed.

4.) Sometimes Arvin is regarded as a know-it-all. What does this mean? Give some examples from the book where this character trait comes out.

Do you know anyone who can be described this way? How do you deal with a person when he/she is acting like a know-it-all?

5.) What happened in the train car that changed the course of events? Describe what happened.

Can you think of an example in your life where things seemed to be going one way, then suddenly turned another way? What made it happen?

6.) What does it mean to be suspicious of someone? Was there anyone in the story you were suspicious of? Why?

7.) How would you summarize the story if you were talking to a person who hadn't read it yet? What things would you leave out, so as not to "spoil it" for the potential reader?

8.) How did we first meet the Cowboy with the Silver Tooth and the Prospector? How did we find out their true identities?

These two characters changed their relationship from the beginning until the end. How did it change and why?

# Activities

## Write a Scene

1.) Now that you know Harry, Gillian and Arvin, write a scene that takes place back at Smokey Joe's Ranch. Use what you know about each character.

Use either a narrative or script format. Here are some scene starters:

- Arvin practices tying knots, and because of it, they almost miss the bus to go home.  
Gillian helps Smokey Joe cook dinner, but she's unfamiliar with the old wood burning stove.
- Harry hears a sound in the bunkhouse. When he goes to investigate, he gets trapped in an unlikely place.
- Or better yet, make up your own scene starter!

2.) Write a scene where Dead Man Jack and Silver Dollar Dan meet for the first time -- a long time ago. Were they kids? Was this before either of them knew that one would be a thief and the other would be a bounty hunter?

## Draw a Wanted Poster

Draw the original WANTED POSTER. Then draw it again after it came out of the train car. Why was it altered and who did it?

## Write New Lyrics

Hide something in your classroom. Then take a common song and write new lyrics to it. Give your classmates clues to find the hidden object in the new lyrics.

## Storytelling Around the Campfire

Place small slips of paper in three bags. In the first bag, the slips should have a character listed on them. In the second bag, the slips should have a place listed and in the third, an object. Have the students draw one slip from each bag and use them to create a story that he/she will tell around the campfire.

# Fun Free Stuff Online

<http://www.creepersmysteries.com/stuff>

**Customize Your Free Movie Poster** – Fill in the names of your cast and crew online, along with the time and place that your Movie for the Ear will be performed. Print out your customized poster and post it around the school, or send it as an invitation.

**Crossword Puzzle for Haunted Cattle Drive** — What fun!

**Creepers Mysteries E-Greeting Cards** to send to classmates. Try including a message from one of the *Haunted Cattle Drive* characters. What would your character say?

It's time to create  
your own  
Movie for the Ear.  
(Squeaky door sound here.)

**Come on in.**

(Foot tapping here.)

**Holly is waiting for you.**



Hello, I'm Holly!

I've spent a little time in Hollywood, so I know talent when I see it. That's why I know you will be terrific as one of the stars in your own Movie for the Ear!

A Movie for the Ear is all about SOUND. You act out your part with your VOICE. You read the lines the way your character would say them. Have fun creating SOUND EFFECTS. You can even add MUSIC!

Here's how to get started: (turn the page)

### 1. Cast the Roles

*Haunted Cattle Drive* is full of juicy parts you can really sink your teeth into. Cast your classmates in the roles. Remember, actors can play more than one part. They just have to use a different voice for each character. You'll get the hang of it.

### 2. Rehearse

Your director will organize and oversee your rehearsals. Make sure everyone is comfortable with their lines before adding sound effects or music.

### 3. Sound Effects (SFX)

Go through the script and note the items labeled "SFX." That stands for sound effects. Mark a few that you would like to try. Then have fun finding creative ways to make the sounds.

*Here are some examples:*

Balloon with BBs inside . . . . .	Thunder
Coconut halves . . . . .	Horse trotting
Sandpaper . . . . .	Train engine
Cellophane Potato Chip Bag . . . . .	Fire crackling
Run thumb across comb teeth . . . . .	Crickets
Snap bubble wrap . . . . .	Wood snapping in fire
Umbrella . . . . .	Flapping wings
Bird whistle . . . . .	Bird caws

Include everyone in the fun of discovering new sound effects. Challenge each person to come up with a new way to make a sound.

But during your production, make sure you choose one or two people to be your Sound Effects Artists. It's difficult to read lines and do sound effects at the same time.

#### 4. Music

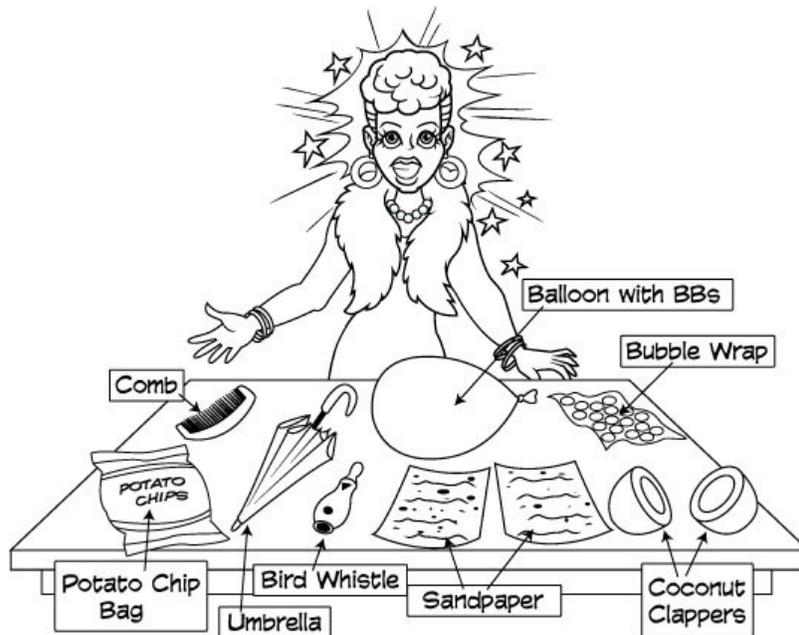
Find a short piece of music to play at the beginning of your production. Find an instrumental piece to play at the end while your narrator reads your “credit roll.” That means your narrator will announce the names of the actors and the parts they played. Also include the names of your director, sound effects artists, music director, and anyone else who worked on your production.

You can include other short pieces of music throughout your Movie for the Ear. It’s up to you to decide how much music you would like to add.

#### 5. Make Your Movie for the Ear Poster

Download the Haunted Cattle Drive poster template from the website, [www.creepersmysteries.com/stuff](http://www.creepersmysteries.com/stuff). Customize it for your own production by typing in the names of everyone in your production, along with the time and place that you will be performing your Movie for the Ear. Use the poster to invite your audience. Now, go have a blast! I’ll be listening...

—Holly



## Haunted Cattle Drive Cast & Crew List

Your Production Company \_\_\_\_\_

Director (Teacher) \_\_\_\_\_

Ebenezer Stump/Narrator \_\_\_\_\_

Smokey Joe \_\_\_\_\_

Harry \_\_\_\_\_

Gillian \_\_\_\_\_

Arvin \_\_\_\_\_

Cowboy with the Silver Tooth/Cook \_\_\_\_\_

Toothless Old Prospector \_\_\_\_\_

Silver Dollar Dan, the Bounty Hunter \_\_\_\_\_

Dead Man Jack, the Thief \_\_\_\_\_

Sound Effects Artist #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Sound Effects Artist #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Music Director \_\_\_\_\_

**Order books from your [Favorite Bookstore](#).**

[Product List](#) ISBN# 978-1-935793-00-7.

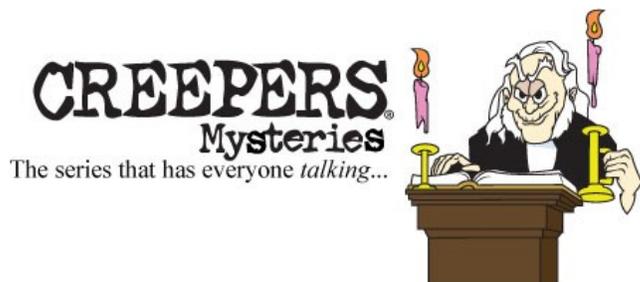
Order 10 or 11 books, then rotate among your students so that everyone has a chance to perform in a Movie for the Ear. You will need 7 actors to play 9 parts (two actors double up on roles). You will also need books for the Teacher, sound effect artist(s) (1 or 2), & the music director.

If you have any questions or comments, I would love to hear from you!  
Please contact me at [connie@creepersmysteries.com](mailto:connie@creepersmysteries.com)

Thank you! Have a wonderful Reading Camp Out!

*Connie*

Connie Kingrey Anderson, Woodbury, MN  
Author of the Creepers Mysteries series



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