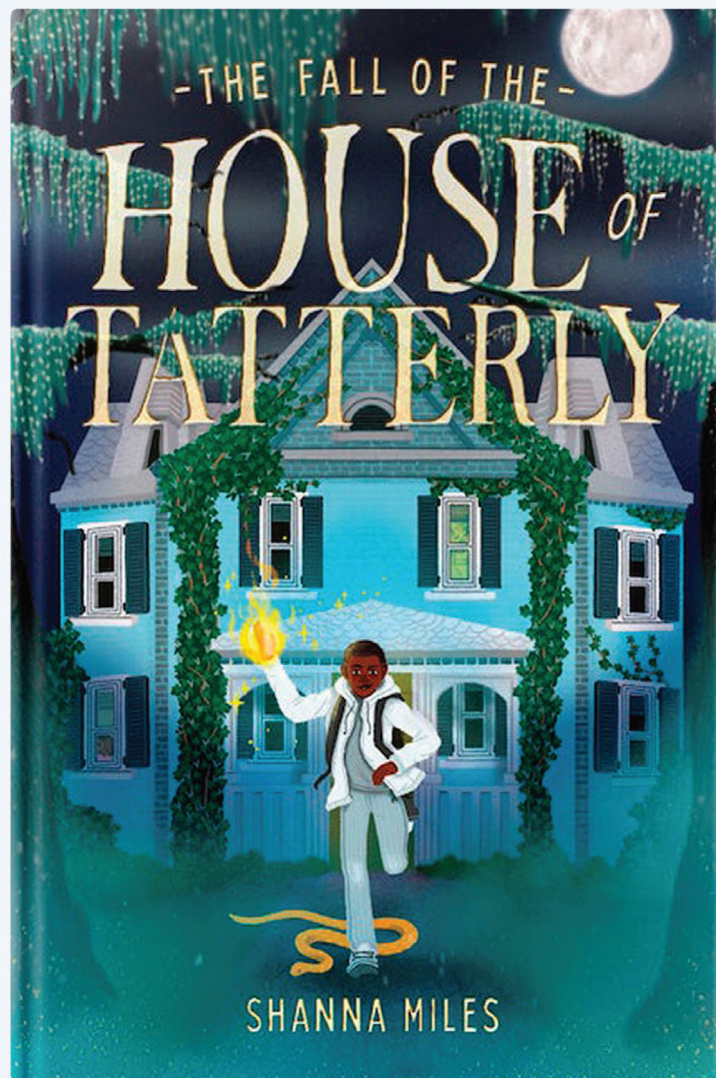


-THE FALL OF THE- HOUSE OF TATTERLY

SHANNA MILES



Discussion & Extension Activities Guide

INTRODUCTION

The Tatterlys are one of Charleston's Twelve First Families, having lived in their house for generations. Theo Tatterly, the youngest and only boy, is a twelve-year-old loner with the ability to see ghosts (a useful skill in a house full of dead relatives). When his first failed exorcism portends an end to the Tatterly line, Theo must bring together his entire family to save their home, and maybe the world.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Theo and Issa have complementary spiritual gifts that allow them to communicate with the dead. How do you think those gifts have affected their personalities?
2. Theo wears white to ward off evil spirits. He also carries a few things with him, like warding salt and his grandfather's cross to protect himself. If you could make any object protective, what would it be?
3. Theo has a large family that all take a hand in raising him. This is different from some households that may just include Mom, Dad and a sibling or two. How similar or different is Theo's family dynamic from your own? How do you think this has shaped your own personality?
4. Issa and Theo attend a small charter school, presumably because the larger public school is haunted. How could ghosts be a help or a hindrance to the two in class?
5. The Night Market was created by an African colony of formerly enslaved people known as maroons. Maroon communities were created in places like the American Colonies, the Caribbean, and Brazil in secluded areas where kidnappers and plantation owners could not easily find them. In what ways do you think this magical place was influenced by its African ancestors?
6. Theo's cousin Femi is as close as a brother, but they fight like brothers, too. How could Femi's telepathy have helped Theo avoid trouble?
7. Many people regard the snake as a symbol of power, but in Theo's world it's a symbol of knowledge and protection. Think about the animals you think of as protectors. Would any of them be useful as a pet?
8. Great-Aunt Trudy Anne attended a very prestigious HBCU (Historically Black College or University). These schools educated Black students when state public colleges refused to admit them. Had you ever heard of HBCUs before? Can you name any in your state with this illustrious history?
9. Theo has a passion for basketball. It allows him to connect with people when he otherwise would find it more difficult. If he didn't choose a basketball game for his final test, what other kind of match-up do you think he would have been good at? If you had to battle a demon, what game/test would you challenge them to?

10. When Theo visits Romare's family, he's plunged into a brood, or a group of biko men who live together. Compare and contrast how Minton's homestead by the water differs from the Tatterly house in the city. How does the environment where we come from shape us?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Draw a map of the Night Market, but create a few new streets and locations that are unique to you. What magical food stalls are there? Is there a clothing shop? A roller skating rink?
2. Theo is almost always wearing headphones in public. Make a playlist for him and share it with your group.
3. Take 15 minutes and write a story beginning with one of the following opening lines. The only rule is that you can't edit while you're writing. Just write.
 - a. It crawled in through the window and the temperature dropped ten degrees.
 - b. We heard the footsteps behind us, but when we turned there was nothing there.
 - c. Everyone knows a white tongue means ...
4. There are more than 100 HBCUs around the country. Find out the closest HBCU near you and report to your group about the name, when it was founded, what the mascot is, and any famous alumni.

PRAISE FOR *THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF TATTERLY*:

"A richly detailed story that amplifies the importance of connections and community."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"...it's the strong depiction of community that truly makes this book shine. A spine-chilling stand-alone for readers who love the works of Eden Royce and Lora Senf." —*Booklist*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, **Shanna Miles** considers herself a dyed-in-the-wool Southern girl. She lives in Georgia with her family. When she's not working as a high school librarian, she can be found writing. Visit her online at shannamiles.net or on Twitter at [@srmilesauthor](https://twitter.com/srmilesauthor).



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