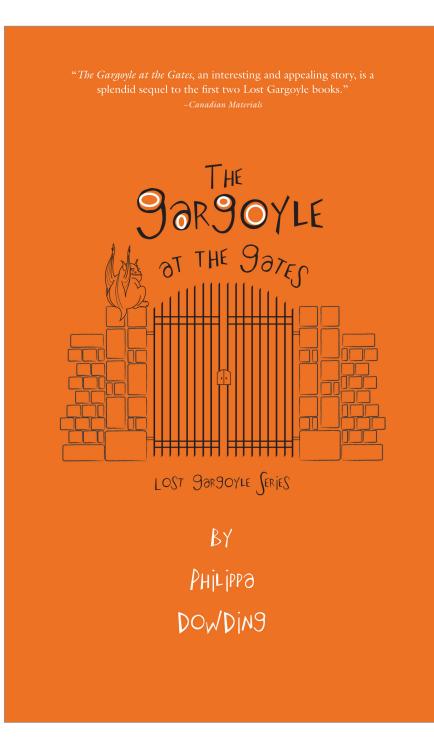
TEACHER'S GUIDE





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INTRODUCTION

The Gargoyle at the Gates will take young readers into the world of realistic make believe. This guide is designed to help teachers to maximize connections to Ontario's language curriculum for grades 5 and up, as they explore this engaging novel with their students. Do consider this book as a readaloud for grades 3 and 4, as it is a high-interest book.

The assignments and rubrics have been designed with this age range and grade levels in mind. However, many of the themes in the Gargoyle at the Gates are equally relevant to younger students, albeit, for younger students it is more suitable as a read-aloud. Assignments can easily be extended to challenge more advanced learners.

Before Reading

If students begin a story without any preamble as to what it is about, motivation for reading may be lacking. The phrase "don't judge a book by its cover" is not a useful one for students. Consider using one of these intriguing activities to introduce the book *Gargoyle at the Gates*.

To prepare, decorate a lidded box (any size from a shoe box to a banker's box) with the title of the book. Place some items inside that relate to the story – a picture of a young boy, a Lego model of a large gated house, snapshots of gargoyles and a memento from London are suggestions. Display copies of the text and read the title aloud. Tell students that the box holds items that give hints about the story; challenge them to make guesses based on the items as you take them from the box. This can be an activity completed over a few days or in a single session.

Alternatively, you can have students ask up to 20 yes-or-no questions about the attributes of the mystery item. After answering each question, add the prediction to a web on the board. Periodically encourage children to guess the item, reminding them of the title, cover and the listed clues. When students have asked 20 questions, open the box and reveal the item with great fanfare. Then read the back cover novel-summary to the students.

A Short History of Gargoyles

Some students may have a vague understanding of gargoyles as monsters. This is reinforced by comic books and a 1990's TV series. It is important to the study of this novel that gargoyles be properly introduced as a subject matter. They are architectural feature that act as waterspouts. They are found near the roof of buildings and they direct water away from the building. They are generally made of solid stone, meaning that the carving of these artistic creatures required both skill and strength. The term "gargoyle" is often (mistakenly) used interchangeably with the term "grotesque"; a gargoyle is a water spout carved of stone and in the likeness of an animal, human or monstrous creature whereas a grotesque is all of these *except* a water spout.

Most popular in medieval structures, gargoyles can still be found in modern buildings too. Gargoyles take many different forms – animals, humans and monsters. Some believed that gargoyles protected the building's inhabitants from evil. The logic being that something scary had to be used to scare away evil spirits.

There is a power point available from the University of North Carolina. It was a class project, and while the graphics are all black and white, it provides a good introduction to gargoyles that is suitable to show in a classroom. (http://www.underthegargoyle.com)

During Reading

It is a good idea to spend some time discussing the chapters. Whether time is allotted in class for silently reading the chapters or reading is assigned for homework, students are more confident answering written questions if the chapters have already been discussed in class. This can be as simple as asking for a summary and then asking questions during discussion.

Students should write a brief summary of each chapter they have read. This will give them purpose for reading. Summaries chronicle the events of the chapter.

The Chapter Questions challenge students to think critically while reading the *Gargoyle at the Gate*. In each set of three questions, the first question requires an answer obtained directly from the text. The second question requires the student to make inferences, again relying on information from the text and his or her own knowledge. The third question requires the student to connect elements of the text with their own opinions and experiences. Additionally, a homework question is provided in order to extend understanding of the text. This question will require that the chapter has been read and will prepare the student for a richer understanding of the text and ready the student for class discussion.

Student performance on these questions can highlight which types of thinking skills are areas of strength for your class, and which thinking skills may require more intensive instruction.

There are also Group Task Cards for students. Each student should prepare the assigned question individually and present within a small group. These questions are designed to allow students to interact and learn from each other; they also ensure that each group member contributes to the discussion. A group assessment sheet is included for students to report on their group interaction.

After Reading:

Look at the activities and select the ones most appropriate for the needs of your students. There are five projects, each of which will deepen understanding of the book. The first one is a fun, interdisciplinary art and language arts project to make replicas of the gargoyle characters in the novel. This will motivate students to read the novel and to learn more about gargoyles from non-fiction resources. The second is a newsletter featuring gargoyle topics that Gregory Tallus sends out to his friends to keep them up-to-date on the world of gargoyles. The third project is a differentiated project that allows students to choose three areas to explore the novel. The next two are research projects on gargoyles; one has a number of questions on gargoyles that students should use the internet to answer and the second looks at the interpretation of this architectural design element across the world.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

Prologue:

A young boy and an old man are sitting on a rock in a church yard. It is 1936. The old man is promising "they will come" if the child is patient and waits quietly. As they wait, a leathery claw reaches for an apple and the boy sees three "of them". He asks his grandfather if there are more. The grandfather says there may be, he doesn't know. One creature comes forward and says in a strange language which the boy can somehow understand to be "who are you?"

Chapter 1 On the Way to School

Christopher Canning is a new resident to the neighbourhood; his family having only moved in a few weeks ago. Christopher is the youngest child of a large family. He has numerous brothers and sisters, whom he thinks of as his *many-assorted older-brothers and his slightly-older-sister*. On this particular morning, Christopher notices the large, gated yard next-door to the family home. The yard he is looking at is described similarly to the churchyard in the prologue. Christopher, who is called CC by his siblings, is used to being "dragged" around at their bidding. He sees advantage to this though, as he often has time to observe what his hurrying siblings do not: on this morning he see gargoyles sitting on the gate to the house next door. He takes notice of the gargoyles because they are not exactly the same but hurries along after his sister and misses that one stuck his tongue out and the other smiled.

Chapter 2 The Apple Bitten

Christopher takes the bus home from school and talks to a classmate on the bus. He is awkward around new people and feels he doesn't make friends easily. He helps Katherine, his classmate, with her math homework on the bus and they walk home together until she turns into a New Age store complete with yoga books and skulls. He continues on to his huge, old house where no one else is home yet. Christopher notices the gated park again. He looks through the gates at the park and then up at the gargoyles and notices one has an apple in its hand and had taken a bite.

Chapter 3 Of Marbles and Apple Cores

Christopher wonders who would climb up the gate to place an apple, with a bite taken out of it, in the hand of the gargoyle. He wonders if one of his siblings could have done it. But his train of thought is cut short when he hears his dog, Marbles barking next door. As he hurries to his house there are some traffic noises and he can't be sure of what he thinks he hears next. He looks at the gargoyles who haven't moved. He thought he heard garbled language and at the same time, a translation, "don't throw the apple core at him". Christopher hurries away to his dog. And as he is leaving his house a few minutes later with Marbles on a leash, an apple hits the door. It has a bite taken from it. And the gargoyle next door is no longer holding the apple he had.

Chapter 4 The English Garden: Septimus

James is visiting his recently found grandfather in England. He loves reading in the English garden, but this afternoon is bothered by the gargoyles who playfully drop leaves on him. He calls to his grandfather that Septimus, one of the gargoyles is bored again, and his grandfather, unconcerned, suggests singing to them.

Chapter 5: Park Serenade

Christopher has a bedroom at the top of the house. It is his alone and he really enjoys this. One night after dinner, with the windows open, Christopher plays guitar while looking down at the park below. When he finishes, he hears clapping.

Chapter 6 Christopher Canning at the Gates

Christopher decided to investigate the clapping in the park. Under the ruse of taking the dog for a walk, he and Marbles walk the perimeter of the gated park three times. Marbles barks and reaches up toward the gargoyles at the gate. Christopher reaches up and can just touch the stone feet of the gargoyle and Marbles calms down. He then ties Marbles to the gate and squeezes between the slats of the gate and enters the park. He feels as if everything goes silent as soon as he does this. The park is beautiful but looks as if no one visits it. Suddenly Christopher is pelted with an apple and he hears a voice accuse him of being a thief and another admonishing the first to let the boy be. He races back to the gate and squeezes back through as apples continue to pelt him. He takes Marbles and rushes back to his house.

Chapter 7: The English Garden: Theodorus

James and his grandfather are searching through newspapers for news on statues. They are researching statues and stories about statues. James' grandfather distrusts the internet so they have to search using newspapers. In particular they are looking for "evidence" of unusual stories about statues, gargoyles, etc., James is not even supposed to reveal what they are doing to his parents back in Toronto. James decides to take a break and goes to the pond where he is immediately drenched by a gargoyle emerging from the pond. It tells him that he looked hot.

Chapter 8: First Toronto, Now This

At school, Christopher and Katherine are paired for a project about their neighbourhoods. Being new to the neighbourhood, Christopher doesn't think it is fair that Katherine be his partner. He wouldn't have a lot to contribute, he believes. He tells Katherine about the park that is adjacent to his house and she reacts strongly, warning him not to go back. She says it is haunted or "something". Christopher agrees not to return to it. But on the way home, he reflects that Katherine didn't seem concerned for *him* but for something else.

Chapter 9: The Orange Ball Rolled

Christopher stayed away from the park and from Katherine too. He was glad to, actually. Then one day, while playing hockey outdoors with his many-assorted-older-brothers, the ball went astray

and landed in the park next door. His siblings admonished "CC" that it was his job to retrieve the ball as his hand had sent it flying. Christopher stalled by putting the hockey sticks away while his brothers went into the house to have dinner. Suddenly, the ball was thrown back towards the house from the bushes.

Chapter 10: The Giant at the Gates

Once again on a walk with his dog, Christopher climbs through the slats of the fence into the park. He calls out to the creatures and they answer him in their odd voices. Then a tall lady comes to the gates and has Christopher open them so she and Marbles can get in. Marbles however, smells the creatures and reacts. Christopher must hold tightly to his leash and suspects the lady, who identified herself as Cassandra Daye of the store Candles by Daye, is not telling him something. Marbles breaks free and chases a creature up a tree.

Chapter 11: Cassandra's Truth

Christopher stares after the gargoyle which has flown up and across the street in its mad dash to get away from the dog. Christopher identifies it as a gargoyle and asks Cassandra to confirm it. She reluctantly does. She informs him there are two gargoyles living in the park. When his mother calls him home for supper, Cassandra invites him to drop by Candles by Daye for tea and a chat the following day.

Chapter 12: The English Garden: Arabella

James is sitting in his grandfather's garden enjoying his last days in England. He will miss his grandfather and he has enjoyed their mysterious research for "what's missing" this summer. Toronto is nothing like England for James. Suddenly, James is pelted with apples by Arabella, a mischievous gargoyle. She continues to do this until the apple supply is exhausted and they are both laughing.

Chapter 13: Candles by Daye in the Afternoon

Christopher avoids Katherine at school only to find her riding the same bus home as him. They sit at opposite ends of the bus and she walks on ahead of him to the store. Christopher enters the store, too, after all he was invited to tea with Cassandra. As he does, Christopher hears a crash and a man barrels by him. Cassandra glosses over the episode and makes Christopher tea. As the two sit down, Katherine walks down the stairs and sees Christopher.

Chapter 14: The Stone Lion Stands

This is James' last day in England, and his grandfather wants to show him the sights. He dusts off his antique 1920s car, and they are off. Because of the age of the car, the windshields are minimal. James and his grandfather have to wear goggles to protect their eyes. They drive to the country for a picnic in a churchyard. There is an old statue of a lion there, which James immediately feels a connection with. As they sit down to the picnic lunch, James' grandfather noted that this is where he first met Septimus, Theodorus and Arabella. (Arabella had shown up and had thrown an apple at them.) James is able to relate to his grandfather's memory as if it was his own.

Chapter 15: The Watching Man

Katherine is astonished to see Christopher in the shop, but Cassandra tells her that Christopher and she met in the park the night before. Christopher knows about the gargoyles, Cassandra tells her. Katherine then leads Christopher to the rooftop where the gargoyles sometimes visit. She tells Christopher of the "Collector" (a man who wants to imprison the gargoyles). She says that for now, the rooftop is a safe-haven for the gargoyles and then launches into the long history of the gargoyles. They were made in the 1600s by a man named Tallus and the Tallus family has died out, meaning there are no descendents who could tell them more information on the gargoyles. Katherine does show Christopher the Tallus mark (two diamonds, one atop the other, inside a circle) which is on each gargoyle.

Chapter 16: Welcome to the Rooftop

The two gargoyles arrive on the rooftop. Both are friendly but Christopher finds Ambergine more agreeable. He notices their grey, leathery skin and their sharp claws. Gargoth likes to lob apples at a garden gnome and both are concerned about the Collector. Ambergine tells Christopher that she knows they will all need his help.

Chapter 17: The English Garden: Goodbyes

Septimus, Theodorus and Arabella wait at the door as James readies his suitcase to go home. James is waiting for his grandfather to drive him to the airport, as it is time for James to go back to Toronto. The three gargoyles take turns telling James that he will be missed and he politely says the same to each of them. Septimus gives James a gift, a carved gargoyle and the three gargoyles promptly vanish. Grandpa Gregory tells James it is an honour to get a gift from a gargoyle and then hands James a gift of stone-masonry tools. As they head to the airport, James silently vows to return next summer and to continue his research for his grandfather.

Chapter 18: The Stone Replicas

Christopher continues to visit Cassandra and Katherine at the store and becomes acquainted with the chores involved with helping the gargoyles. (These include sweeping up apple cores from the roof and the park, replacing broken garden gnomes and taking down the stone gargoyles on the gate so that the real ones could sit there and then returning the stone gargoyles when the real ones tired of sitting at the gate).

Chapter 19: The Statue in the Window

James has been back in Toronto for months. He thinks about his grandfather and the gargoyles all the time. He keeps the carved stone gargoyle in his window to remind him of the summer.

Chapter 20: The Snowy Footsteps

It is winter time in Toronto and Christopher looks down on the park from his window. He sees four snow statues made by Gargoth. He plays guitar and Ambergine and Gargoth listen for a while and then retreat to the apple tree. Christopher falls asleep thankful for his new friends. The next morning he awakes to see two gargoyles smashed to bits in the yard and the apple tree gone.

Chapter 21: Cassandra Makes the Call

Christopher races from the house to the park and Cassandra is already there. She says the gargoyles are gone but she doesn't know what happened. Cassandra believes the Collector attacked them in their sleep and chopped down the tree and smashed the stone gargoyles in a rage. Cassandra thinks there may be a chance they escaped to Katherine's house and returns to her store to call. Christopher goes home to change and his sister Claire decides to follow him. When he runs to the store, Cassandra's says the gargoyles are not at Katherine's house. They decide to take Marbles and attempt to track the gargoyles, but first, Cassandra calls the police to make a report the property has been vandalized.

Christopher, Cassandra and a police officer walk through the park to take account of the crime. Christopher eyes the broken statues and sees large footprints in the snow. A reporter from *The East End Crier* joined them. Katherine joined them later too. Suddenly, Marbles barks furiously at a bush at the back of the park, and the Collector jumps out. The Collector manages to free himself from Marbles and get away. The friends realize that the gargoyles did get away from him.

Chapter 22: Lost Again

Gargoth is alive but injured. He is unsure where he is; his surroundings suggest he is near a city, because he hears cars, but also in the country as he smells animals. He is tired, scared and alone.

Chapter 23: Come out, Come out

Katherine and Christopher take Marbles and search for their friends the gargoyles, but Cassandra must stay behind to mind the store. After a few false starts, they decide to search the internet for apple orchards since the gargoyles love apples. They can only do so much in a day and return to the store and then part company. Meanwhile Cassandra brings a box of outdated candles to the roof and arranges them in the Tallus symbol in case the gargoyles are lost and can't find them. She sleeps on the roof, in case they return.

Chapter 24: Snake at the Tree

Another day of searching for Christopher and Katherine, who decide to split up. Katherine looks in old, city apple orchards while Christopher returns to the park to look for clues. He meets the Collector. The Collector shows Christopher a picture of Ambergine, caged and says he is really after Gargoth because his father bought him years ago. He says he will trade Ambergine for Gargoth. Otherwise, Ambergine will live forever in the cage. If Christopher tells his friends that the Collector has Ambergine, she will die.

Chapter 25: Still Lost

Gargoth is still in the unknown area. He can hear animals and children. He remembers the attack. He had dozed off and someone had attacked the base of the tree. The Collector seized Ambergine and put her in a cage. Gargoth put up a fight in an attempt to help Ambergine but was hurt. Then the Collector dashed into a waiting taxi. Gargoth followed his friend for as long as he could, then he collapsed, exhausted and slept. He had failed his friend.

Chapter 26: CC Tells the Truth

Christopher is spied leaving the park by his sister Claire. She notices he is upset. Christopher goes directly to the shop thinking about his predicament: should he tell his friends about Ambergine's fate and risk her death? Claire had followed Christopher over to the shop, when she went to him, he was crying. She insisted on knowing the problem and Christopher, relieved to tell someone, reasoned that he had promised not to tell his *friends*. Claire was his *sister* not his friend. Claire listened intently and then insisted she meet Cassandra Daye.

Chapter 27: In the Cage

Clair awakes to find herself in a cage in a kitchen. Her surroundings are unfamiliar. She is sore, tired and cramped in the cage. She finds a single apple from the park, pushes open a window and throws it down into the garden below. She believes it is her only chance.

Chapter 28: The East End Crier

James reads an article in the East End Crier that he thinks his grandfather would be interested in. He goes to the little park to look more closely at the destruction and while there, sees a gargoyle footprint in the snow.

Chapter 29: Down on the Farm

Katherine and Christopher continue looking for the gargoyles. They arrive at a farm and then head to an old cemetery, called the Necropolis, where Christopher sees a snow sculpture. Katherine finds Gargoth and he asks if they have found Ambergine.

Chapter 30: The Hidden Turret

Katherine and Christopher sneak Gargoth home on the bus. He is hiding in Katherine's yellow backpack. His grumbling and fidgeting are comical. He is mute on what happened to Ambergine and so is Christopher. When they get to the store, it is filled with customers, so they look for other options. The park is filled with people too, some of these are city workers taking down the remains of the tree. Christopher made the decision to bring Gargoth home. Sneaking into the house, hoping to avoid Marbles, the children made it up a few flights of stairs before Claire opened her door and Marbles bounded at them. A few minutes later, Marbles was put in the kitchen and Claire came up to bandage Gargoth's arm.

Chapter 31: The Trickster

Ambergine is still locked in the cage. She realizes her captor can understand her when she speaks. She draws strength knowing that Gargoth had been caged for years. She devises a plan, unknown to the reader, and looks outside a the surrounding neighbourhood. She sees a small apple tree in the yard.

Chapter 32: The Note

Christopher receives a note in his mailbox from the Collector. Claire convinces him to show it to Katherine and Cassandra. None of them know what to do but Cassandra says they need help.

Chapter 33: The New Year's Party

Christopher's parents are throwing a New Year's party and the house is filled with people. The friends take turns minding Gargoth in Christopher's bedroom. Katherine's parents arrive and secretly visit Gargoth upstairs. Stern, the reporter, is there. too, and stumbles upon Katherine and Gargoth. Stern believes Gargoth is a statue but expresses dismay for Gargoth's injured wing.

Chapter 34: The Balcony

Ambergine is still locked in the cage at the mercy of the Collector. She watches the apple tree growing – it grows quickly and during winter. She watches the neighbours enjoying the Christmas festivities. She has also noticed a boy in one of the windows across the street. He has curly hair and looks out the window too. And he has a gargoyle statue on his windowsill. Ambergine continues to talk to the Collector when he comes to the kitchen in the evening. One evening she asks about his mother, something she knows will upset him, and he tosses the cage out the window in a fury.

Chapter 35: A Candle Glows

Christopher puts a lit candle in the park every night to let the Collector know that he has located Gargoth. He also notices that the park has become more popular; a lot of people visit the park regularly. One boy in particular visits, holding something in his hand. Christopher wants to speak to the boy but the boy is gone in the time Christopher takes to get from his bedroom window to the park. Finally, Christopher receives a note from the Collector saying to bring Gargoth the following night.

Chapter 36: Of Statues and Trees

James' gargoyle statue falls from his windowsill into the snow and he rushes to retrieve it. When he is outside, he hears a gargoyle's whispery voice and its translation. He spends several minutes looking for the gargoyle and finally finds it in a neighbour's yard. It is locked in a cage. It is very sick.

Chapter 37: The Big Event

Christopher goes to the park with a lone candle to meet the Collector. Hiding in the bushes are Katherine and Claire. Cassandra is watching from the store across the street. Christopher has Gargoth with him. The Collector arrives without Ambergine. Gargoth tells the Collector he is no longer afraid of him. And then several things happen: Christopher's three brothers come to the park gate with Marbles, Katherine steps out of the bushes with her recorder (the Collector had just admitted vandalizing the park) and her parents, Cassandra and the reporter come to the park just as a police car pulls up. Christopher realized that Claire arranged this and kept it from him so he wouldn't worry. "The Collector had been arrested, Ambergine was gone and along the way Gargoth had made true friends."

Chapter 38: The Right Tool

James has Ambergine and the cage at his house, in his bedroom. He has tried to revive the small gargoyle with a space heater and blankets but it hasn't moved. He has all the apples from the

tree in a basket beside the cage. The tree had shrivelled and died when he picked the last one. James hopes that wasn't a bad omen. (His grandfather was away in Spain, so James had no way of contacting him.) James decides that whether the gargoyle lives or dies, it will not be in a cage. He set about trying to break the lock. His father peeks into the room and wonders why the statue means so much to James. He agrees to help. James' father suggests they use the stone-masonry tools that his grandfather had given him.

Chapter 39: The Park Rises

Christopher and Katherine continue searching for Ambergine all winter. Soon it is spring, and the park was opened to the public. It is decided the park would remain as it is and not become condominiums after all. Christopher didn't enjoy the park though. Then on a warm spring day, Christopher saw from his bedroom window, the teenage boy who had visited the park after the vandalism. He was with an old man. Christopher races down to the park when he sees they have Ambergine but they are gone when he arrives. He ran to Candles by Daye to tell Cassandra. When he opened the door, he saw the old man, the teenager, Katherine, Cassandra and Claire with both Gargoyles. The old man introduced himself: "I am Gregory Tallus."

Chapter 40: The Almost Very End of the Story

All the friends meet in the park. Gregory Tallus tells them the story of the gargoyles. His ancestor, a stonemason, made the gargoyles over 400 years ago. Each has the Tallus mark – the two diamonds, one atop the other, inside a circle. The family had passed down stories and had searched for these gargoyles. They have three in England, where Gregory cares for them. Now James has led them to two more – which Gregory hadn't even known existed. The gargoyles are free to come and go as they please in the Tallus garden. Gregory invites the two remaining gargoyles to England so that he can help nurse them to better help. (All the new friends are invited too.)

The gargoyles say good-bye to each friend. They go to England to heal and meet the other gargoyles. The readers are assured that each friend visits England sees the gargoyles again.

Epilogue:

The author asks us to imagine a time in the distant future when young children will be grandparents. And those grandparents are in a beautiful garden that they will recognize as a place of stories, friendship and magic. And that is what this book was all about. And you know, somewhere nearby a gargoyle waits.

CHAPTER QUESTIONS

Prologue:

What kind of statue is in the churchyard?

Why do you think the grandfather seems to know so much about the creatures?

Do you think the creatures are friendly or hostile? Why?

Homework:

The author describes the setting in a lot of detail. Using the information in the Prologue, draw a detailed map of the churchyard where the boy and his grandfather are sitting.

Chapter 1:

What is the name of the family dog? Write a brief description of the dog.

"As the youngest, he was used to being dragged along by someone at the back of the crowd of manyassorted-older- brothers-and-slightly-older-sister." The above quote is on page 12. What does this sentence tell you about how Christopher feels about being the youngest child in his family?

Although Christopher is unaware that the gargoyles are alive, the reader knows they are alive. Why do you think they are positioned on the gate?

Homework:

Using a piece of lined paper, make a chart like the one below.

Prediction	Reasons	Comments

Make at least three predictions about the story, using information from the text to explain your reasoning. Leave the comments column blank. In the following class, have students work in small groups to discuss the predictions and the student will record some of the comments from the discussion. Remind students that predictions only have to be reasonable – they do not have to correctly guess the outcome of the story.

Chapter 2:

Why was Christopher nervous when talking to Katherine at the bus stop?

Christopher "was good at new schools" but not at making friends. What does this mean?

The shop window, of the store where Katherine lived, was "*filled with candles shaped like skulls, dragon statues, and yoga books.*" What does this suggest about Katherine?

Homework:

Draw a picture of the shop window of Candles by Daye.

Chapter 3

What does Christopher assume about the apple in the gargoyle's hand?

Why is Marbles barking frantically at the door for Christopher?

Who do you think threw the apple at Christopher's door?

Homework:

The two gargoyles above the gate disagree. One says not to throw the apple and other does anyway. Create a dialogue between the two gargoyles after the apple was thrown. It must be at least 6 lines.

Chapter 4:

What do Stonemasons do?

James and his grandfather are obviously acquainted with the gargoyles. Are they afraid of them? How do you know?

James' mother describes her father as "an odd recluse". A recluse is a person who chooses to live alone and separate from society. Do you think the gargoyles have something to with James' grandfather's reclusive nature?

Homework:

The author started the book with a boy and his grandfather, then switched to Christopher and now switches to James' story. How does each of these boys interact with the gargoyles?

Chapters 5 and 6:

Who does Christopher think is clapping after he plays guitar?

Christopher decides to bring his dog to investigate the park. Why does he do this?

Christopher slips into the park without anyone knowing where he is. Is this wise? Would you do this in Christopher's place?

Homework:

Onomatopoeia refers to words such as *buzz* or *murmur* that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to. In this chapter, when apples are pelted at Christopher, the author uses the word "zing" which suggests the speed of the action. If the author had used "splat", it would suggest the way the apple hit Christopher. So, the tone of the passage can be suggested by the word chosen. Here is a list of other words the author may have used instead of "zing". Write what the word suggests beside it.

Bang, bash, bonk, boomed, clanged, clapped, ping, roared, slapped, thumped

Chapter 7:

What did James think his grandfather was wearing?

Why must James keep his grandfather's and his research secret?

James and his grandfather are looking for "evidence". What does that mean?

Homework:

Make a bookmark. Include one or more of the following: a quote from the chapter, a picture of one of the characters that you drew yourself, a map of the town/city or setting, a scene from chapter, or the title and author in a creative font.

Chapter 8:

Christopher tells Katherine it is unfair to her that they are partners on the class assignment. Why?

Christopher is surprised at the ferocity of Katherine's warning about the small park next to his house. What do you think she is worried about?

Christopher has been warned away from the park. Do you think he will stay away from the park or be more curious now?

Homework:

Complete the same assignment that Christopher was assigned. What is a special "landmark" in your neighbourhood that others should know about?

Chapter 9

What is the rule of ball hockey quoted by CC's brothers?

Why do you think Christopher and Katherine are staying away from each other?

Why does Christopher stall in going to get the ball?

Homework:

Write some rules for the ball hockey game played by Christopher and his brother.

Chapter 10:

Who is the monster Christopher left outside?

Why does Christopher think the tall lady who meets him in the park seems to know something she is not telling.

Marbles chases the creatures up the tree. This means the creatures can climb as well as talk. What other characteristics do you know about the creatures?

Homework:

Do you think the creatures in Christopher's park are the same as the gargoyles that James' has met at his grandfather's house? Why or why not?

Chapters 11 and 12:

Christopher has finally identified the mysterious creatures in the park as gargoyles. Are the gargoyles at the gate the same ones Marbles chased in the park?

Christopher is becoming more and more brave about his adventure in the park. Yet he tells very few people about it. Why do you think he doesn't tell his family about the gargoyles?

Christopher lives in Toronto and James will soon be returning to Toronto. Do you think they will meet?

Homework:

See the next page for a separate sheet to send home.

Date____

Simile

"Marbles leapt into the air like an Olympic vault champion" is a simile found on the first page of chapter 11.

Similes make comparisons using the terms "like" or "as". Specifically, a simile is a figure of speech in which an implied comparison is made between two unlike things that actually have something in common. Create your own similes by completing these sentences:

Christopher was as surprised
Cassandra was as calm as a
James was as thrilled as
James' grandfather was as studious as
The park was as small as
The gargoyles were as mischievous as

Find three similes in the chapter. Write them on the back of this sheet. Explain what the comparison means in your own words.

Chapters 13 and 14:

What outdated safety device must James and his grandfather wear when driving in the car?

Why do Christopher and Katherine continue to avoid each other? Christopher feels hesitant about visiting Cassandra at the store?

James' grandfather recalls a time when he first met the gargoyles in the churchyard. This was described in the prologue. What is the significance of James and his grandfather visiting the gargoyles

Homework:

Assign the group task cards (one to each student in the group) for homework and have students present their work to each other in small groups.

Group Talk Cards:

(The group talks should be held after reading chapter 14)

Create groups of 5 students for this guided group discussion. Students are to work independently on the card they receive (a different card for each member of the group ideally). Students should complete the question assigned to them and when the groups meet, teach their group about the question they answered.

Task Card 1:

Throughout the book, there is a mysterious man who sits on a bench not far from the gates in the little park. Nobody pays much attention to him. Draw a picture of this man, sitting on the bench. What part do you think he plays in the novel? Find instances in the chapters when he is described and read them aloud (and provide page numbers) for the group.

Complete the assigned question. You will be presenting your findings to your group for discussion.

Task Card 2

Gargoyles are mischievous. List three mischievous things the gargoyles have done. How do James, Christopher and James' grandfather each feel about the gargoyles? Use references from the book to support your answer.

Complete the assigned question. You will be presenting your findings to your group for discussion.

Group Task Card 3:

Even though Christopher has many-assorted-older-brothers and a sister, he feels very alone. Find evidence of this in the book. Why does he feel alone? Do you think this makes him more likely to befriend the gargoyles? Why or why not?

Complete the assigned question. You will be presenting your findings to your group for discussion.

Group Task Card 4:

Look through a local newspaper and find two or three articles that may be what James and his grandfather are looking for. These articles should report strange occurrences that are not easily explained. Tell your group why you chose the articles you did.

Complete the assigned question. You will be presenting your findings to your group for discussion.

Group Task Card 5:

Write an account of the mysterious gargoyles from Marbles' point of view. What does he think of them? Is he curious or does he see them as a threat? You may write a letter to Christopher explaining yourself (as Marbles) or you may create a cartoon drawing with words and thoughts to explain yourself.

Complete the assigned question. You will be presenting your findings to your group for discussion.

Chapter 15

What are the names of the gargoyles on the rooftop? Are these two gargoyles the same as the ones that visit James at his grandfather's house? Why do you think the *Collector* wants to catch and imprison the gargoyles?

Homework:

Do you think, if the gargoyles weren't a secret, the rooftop garden would be the most fascinating place in the neighbourhood for Katherine? Explain.

Chapter 16:

Describe the gargoyles.

Why did Christopher jump when the gnome's ear was broken off? Why did no one else?

Ambergine tells Christopher that they will all need his help soon. What do you think this means? Is Ambergine happy Christopher knows about the gargoyles?

Homework:

Christopher thinks he chose to meet the gargoyles. Do you think that is true? Use evidence from the novel to support your answer.

Chapter 17:

Why is James surprised when Arabella says she will miss him?

What month is it, now that James has to return to Toronto? Remember, it says school has already started.

Why do you think Grandpa Gregory gave James the gift of his carving tools?

Homework:

James vows to continue his research in Toronto, but doubts he will have much success. Do you think James will be able to find out more about the gargoyles in Toronto? Why or why not?

Chapter 18:

Why does Gargoth pelt the statues with apple cores?

Make a Venn diagram and compare the real gargoyles to the stone ones at the gate.

Do you think that Christopher grew more caring towards the gargoyles as he helped to take care of them? Why or why not?

Homework:

Christopher has kept his secret but his sister is becoming suspicious of all the time he spends at the gates to the park. Do you think she will discover his secret? Do you think Katherine and Cassandra will believe that Christopher kept his secret?

Chapters 19 and 20:

What is a "snow apple"?

Christopher plays guitar nightly for the gargoyles. Do you think this drew the Collector's attention and made the gargoyles vulnerable?

What do you think happened in the park while Christopher slept?

Homework:

James is back in Toronto and misses the gargoyles. Christopher is in Toronto and loves all his new friends, especially the gargoyles. Choose one of these characters write a journal entry as if you are that character. What are you thinking and feeling right now? What are your deepest (and perhaps darkest) thoughts? What secrets do you have that you want to spill?

Chapter 21:

Why were people staring and pointing at Christopher when he met Katherine at the gate to the park?

Why did the Collector smash the ice sculptures?

Stern, the reporter, plans to publish an article on the Collector and his destruction of the park. What do you think will be the outcome of this?

Homework:

Write an article for the newspaper telling about the park and its destruction. Write a headline and provide details about the suspect as well as the smashed stone gargoyles and the missing apple tree.

Chapters 22 and 23:

Why is Gargoth crying at the end of chapter 22?

Why do Katherine and Christopher tell people that Marbles loves cats?

Cassandra makes a beacon using old candles and the Tallus symbol to help call the gargoyles back to the store. Do you think this is a good idea?

Homework:

Christopher and Katherine have set out for a day of searching. Make a list of all the things they will need for their search.

Chapter 24:

Who does Christopher meet in the park?

Why this chapter is titled "Snake in the Park"?

Why does the Collector say he wants Gargoth? Do you believe him?

Homework:

Christopher is told to keep the Collector's visit and all he has been told about Ambergine's fate a secret. Using a Venn diagram, compare and contrast the secret the Collector wants Christopher to keep with the secret Katherine wants Christopher to keep.

Chapter 25:

How did Gargoth hurt his arm? Why did the Collector attack the base of the tree? Why does Gargoth feel guilty that Ambergine was caught by the Collector?

Homework:

Make a horoscope for any character in the novel, predicting his future.

Chapter 26:

Why was Christopher crying when Claire saw him at the store?

Do you agree with Christopher's logic – that Claire was his sister and not his friend, so he could tell her his secret without breaking his promise?

Claire thinks secrets are bad. Do you agree?

Homework:

Imagine that you are Claire. Write a diary entry about the events of this chapter.

Chapters 27 and 28:

What is the title of the article that drew James' attention to the newspaper? Ambergine sees a water pump near her cage. What is a water pump? Why does Ambergine throw the apple outside?

Homework:

James sees footprints in the snow that confirm that gargoyles lived in the park. He decides to let his grandfather know. Pretend you are James and write a letter to Grandpa Gregory telling him of your find.

Chapters 29 and 30

When Christopher and Katherine arrive at the Necropolis, Christopher sees something that lets him know that Gargoth is nearby. What is it that Christopher sees?

Draw a picture of the Necropolis. Reread the passage to include as much detail as you can.

Katherine is surprised that Claire can understand Gargoth. Why?

Homework:

Create trading cards for three of the characters in this novel. The index cards provided by the teacher and be sure to write/draw on both sides. Include information such as name, nick names, occupation, height, weight, eye colour, personality traits, skills, specialities, friends, hobbies, etc.

Chapter 31

What does Ambergine do to scare the Collector at the beginning of the chapter?

Ambergine didn't realize the Collector understood her speech. She felt this gave her an advantage in dealing with him. Why?

Ambergine's apple tree is growing. How might this help her escape?

Homework:

Ambergine wants to devise a plan to escape. She notices people in the neighbourhood coming and going about their day unaware that she is kept hostage in the Collector's house. What are some of the advantages for Ambergine of being kept in a neighbourhood?

Chapter 32

Who does Christopher receive a note from?

Katherine asks if the friends can just ignore the Collector. What do you think? Is that a good way of dealing with the Collector?

Cassandra says the Collector must be "taken care of "once and for all. Katherine says they need help. What do you think she means?

Homework:

See next page for handout

Name					

Date _____

If I Were... Assignment

If I were _____ I would....

Chapters 33 and 34

Why were the Cannings having a party?

When the reporter Stern saw Katherine with Gargoth, Katherine knew Stern was a kindred spirit. What does "kindred spirit" mean?

Do you think Ambergine goaded the Collector on purpose, when she spoke of his mother?

Homework:

Ambergine sees something in the window down the street. What is it? Who owns it? How does this affect Ambergine's situation?

Chapters 35 and 36:

Why did Christopher put lit candles in the park?

Why did it take so many nights for the Collector to respond to the lit candles?

James meets Ambergine for the first time. Explain the circumstances of their meeting. What do you think James will do?

Homework:

James has found a gargoyle. Imagine that he has managed to call his grandfather and give him the news. Write the telephone conversation out between the grandfather and grandson.

Chapter 37:

Why did the friends have to leave Marbles at home?

How are his feelings towards Gargoth revealed, when the Collector asks, "what could the creature possibly want to say to me."?

Explain what Gargoth means when he tells the Collector: "You may have stolen Ambergine, but she is not yours. You have tried to own me, but you do not. We will resist you always, at every turn, together and apart. And this is why you have lost: I choose not to be afraid of you anymore."

Homework:

Draw a picture with labels or word bubbles to describe all the things that happened in the park after Gargoth's speech.

Chapter 38:

Make a list of some of the things James has done to make Ambergine more comfortable.

What happened to the apple tree after James picked the apples? Do you think the apple trees are linked to the gargoyles somehow?

James' father offers to help James even though he thinks the gargoyle is a statue. Why does he offer to help James?

Homework:

What would you do if you were in James' place and you wanted to open the cage that Ambergine was in?

Chapter 39:

Why are city workers in the park?

The plaque in the park recognizes the park's place in history. Explain.

When Christopher saw the dark green cape enter Candles by Daye, he "waited forever" to cross the street to get to the store. Did he wait *forever*? Why did the author use that wording?

Homework:

Gargoth and Ambergine have been reunited. What do they have to say to each other?

Chapter 40:

Who is the last "Tallus by name"?

Why did Tallus hide his gargoyles? Where did he hide them?

Gregory Tallus invites Gargoth and Ambergine to come to England to heal and be cared for by him. How does this invitation differ from the Collector's demands? What does it tell you about Gregory Tallus?

Homework:

Imagine you are there when the five gargoyles meet. What is each thinking?

Epilogue:

See the handout on the next page.

Name:	
-------	--

Date: _____

Epilogue

The author describes the novel as a "place of stories, a place of friendship and magic."

Choose one of the three descriptions above and find five events in the novel that are evidence of the description. Fill in the chart below

Evidence	Page Number	Explanation

ACTIVITIES

Make a Gargoyle Project (Art and Language Art Project)

Using an abbreviated form of Paper Mache, as well as paint, students will create their own gargoyle.

Newspaper,
masking tape.
Glue,
water,
flour,
paint (black and white)

1. Take newspaper and ball it up to about the size of a shoe box. Use masking tape to make sure the ball stays in shape. Add paper and tape as needed until the gargoyle is about the size you desire. Don't worry about small details at this time.

2. (White flour and water make a remarkably strong paste. In fact, some folks think paper Mache is strong enough to build houses with! Your finished sculptures might not be strong enough to hold up a house, but you can sand them and drill them, just like wood.) If you are pressed for time, use water, flour and glue to speed the drying time.

3. Cut several pieces of newspaper into strips and use the flour paste to wet it. Mold it onto the newspaper ball until completely covered. Let dry overnight.

4. Once dry, review the figure and begin to affix newspaper strips so that you make a face, hands and feet. Some students may choose to make a tail. Students can use tape to do this initially and then add paste strips to finish it. Let dry.

5. When the paper Mache is shaped to look like a gargoyle, use paint to complete it. In the novel, the gargoyles are grey. You may consider allowing a range of grey colours (white/grey to black/ grey) in order for students to paint the gargoyle. Or you may decide to let students choose their own colours to paint the gargoyle.

6. Finishing touches can be applied to the gargoyle, including materials brought from home. (Googly eyes, small dollar-store doll items like apples, etc)

Gargoyle Paper Mache Project Rubric:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Accurate portrayal of gargoyle character (based on text)	Sculpture barely resembles character.	Sculpture somewhat resembles character.	Sculpture is mostly accurate in replicating character.	Sculpture accurately addresses characteristics of a gargoyle based on the text	 X 3
Creativity	Contains no unique, insightful and detailed elements.	Contains few unique, insightful, and detailed elements.	Contains some unique, insightful, and detailed elements.	Contains many unique, insightful, and detailed elements.	 x 2
Design	Student worked without a design	Student used a design but with limited range	Student used a design and implemented many parts of it	Student created a design and showed mastery the design through use of materials and technique	 x 1
Teacher Comm	lents:	1	1		

A Gargoyle Newsletter

Requirements: You are required to make a three-page newsletter. This is to be shared among the friends of Gargoth and Ambergine. Include updates on the gargoyles as well as the friends.

Your newsletter can include recipes, product information, travel, books featuring gargoyles, songs that gargoyles enjoy, etc.,

Newsletter Requirements Sheet:

- 1. Newsletter Title: Create an interesting title for your newsletter
- 2. Advertisement(s): Insert one or more advertisements for people, places, and/or things from *Gargoyle at the Gate*. The following are suggestions:

person - advertise a service that a person is offering

place - advertise a place for travel or a piece of real estate that is for sale

thing - advertise an item that is for sale or for ren

- 3. News Story(ies): The newsletter must have one or more news stories about events from *Gargoyle at the Gate*
- 4. You may include 4 pictures that measure 8 by 8 (cm) or less. The majority of this project should be completed in words not pictures.
- 5. Include the draft of your newsletter with the finished copy. Your draft should be edited by an adult. The final copy should be error free.
- 6. Vital Information: Be sure to insert the book title, author's name, and your name on the newsletter in a location of your choice. Include this information in some creative way rather than just adding it on at the end.
- 7. Writing Reflection Sheet: Write one for the entire newsletter. Please explain what part of the newsletter is your favourite part and why.

Newsletter Rubric

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Use of information from the text	No description of main characters, setting or action	Incomplete or inadequate descriptions of main characters, setting or action (Don't just list their names)	Clearly shows an understanding of the characters, setting and plot that is applied to the newsletter.	Thorough attention to the text for characters, setting and plot and has integrated these into the newsletter.	x 5
Spelling and Grammar	Numerous spelling and grammatical errors.	Many spelling and grammatical errors. At times, it is difficult to determine what was meant.	Grade-level appropriate spelling and grammar errors. Generally, these do not interrupt the flow of the newsletter	Excellent spelling and minimal grammatical errors	x 3
Newsletter Presentation	Little organization is evident. At times the newsletter is illegible. The illustrations are non- existent or lack any connection to the topics.	Some organization is visible but the newsletter lacks unity and flow. At times, it is difficult to draw connections between illustrations and topics	An organized presentation, typed or written using a word processor, accompanying illustrations are about gargoyles and link somewhat to the topics	Well organized, logical presentation, typed or written using a word processor, accompanying illustrations add to the newsletter	x 5
Teacher Comm	ents:	1	<u>1</u>		

Tic-Tac-Toe Activity Response Choices

"Gargoyle at the Gates"

You need to complete three activities. Please select three activities from this Tic-Tac-Toe graphic organizer and complete them by ______.

Visual/Spatial	<u>Musical/Rhythmic</u>	<u>Body/Kinaesthetic</u>
Create a mental picture of what you are reading. Use a tape recorder, SpeakQ or record phrases about the text you are reading that lead you to get a mental picture. Share your picture through an illustration on paper or create a power point presentation.	Make a CD of at least 5 songs that represent the themes/ characters/events in the story. The music should represent the themes/characters/events. Make a cover for the CD. Write a brief comment for each song selected.	Create a dramatization of one or two scenes from your book. You can make a skit and perform in class or you can videotape it beforehand. Tell why you chose the scenes and how they are important in the story, after your presentation.
Logical/Mathematical	<u>Verbal/Linguistic</u>	<u>Intrapersonal</u>
Using Kurzweil, Clicker 5, WordQ and Word or Speak Q or simply arrows on a poster board describe a cause and effect event in the story. Describe how one event causes another event to happen	Write a thank you note from any gargoyle to any other character in the novel.	Imagine that you are Christopher. Create a series of diary entries (either written on paper or in Kurzweil or tape recorded) that tell about some of the main events and how you feel about them.
<u>Visual/Spatial</u>	Logical/Mathematical	<u>Interpersonal</u>
Compare and contrast yourself to one or two different characters in the text. Demonstrate your understanding of the character(s) by completing a Venn Diagram or creating a web using Kidspiration.	Create a time line of events in the novel. Display it on poster board. Make major events larger and include pictures. Smaller events can be represented by labels or labels and pictures.	With one or two classmates, create a commercial to promote your book. Be sure to share the events and characters that would entice others to read the book. You can perform the commercial in front of the class or make a videotape.

Differentiated Tasks Rubric

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Knowledge	In two or more projects chosen, does not sufficiently introduce the book. No attention- getter is used and most of the necessary information is missing.	In two or more projects chosen, provides a weak attention- getter and/ or some of the necessary information is missing.	In all three projects chosen, provides a sufficient attention- getter and most of the necessary information - author, book title, characters and setting.	In all three projects chosen, provides a creative attention- getter and includes all of the necessary information which includes the author, book title, characters and setting	x 1
Application	No conflict and/or plot are discussed.	The student states the conflict(s) and/ or does not clearly explain the plot of the story. The student only explains two events.	The student states the conflict(s) and explains the plot using 3 or 4 events in the plot.	The conflict(s) and plot are thoroughly explained and used in the presentation. The student clearly mentions 5 events that develop the plot.	x 2
Synthesis of Information	Student does not attempt to create new situations for the character.	Student uses the information in the text to create one new situation that the character may be involved in. Production is incomplete.	Student uses the information from the text creatively to attempt to invent/ produce/imagine the character in different situations.	Student uses the information from the text creatively to invent/ produce/imagine the character in different situations., and is thoroughly successful in doing so.	x 3
Evaluation of the text	No feelings or mood is discussed.	The student mentions his/ her feelings about one happening in the book.	The student discusses his/her feelings about two happenings in the book.	The student discusses his/her feelings about two happenings in the book and offers a recommendation to other students along with reasons.	x 4
Tasks presente					
Teacher Comm	ents:				

Computer Lab Assignment:

Gargoyles Around the World

Gargoyles have been used in architecture since the middle ages. Remember, a gargoyle must have a waterspout. Look up the ones listed below and fill in the chart as you do.

	Research the building . What is its purpose? When was it built?	What form do the gargoyles take? (Remember, gargoyles can be animals, humans or other creatures)	What do you think the purpose of the gargoyle form is? Find evidence to support your ideas.
Milan Duomo,			
Italy			
Olde Town Gargoyle			
Barcelona, Spain			
Christ Church Cathedral,			
Dublin, Ireland			
Notre Dame Cathedral,			
Paris, France			
Mission San Luis Rey,			
California			
National Cathedral,			
Washington, D.C.			
City College,			
New York City, NY			

Need help getting started? Just write the term "gargoyle" and the place name you are looking for to arrive at a list of links to begin your search. Write interesting facts you've learned on the back of the paper!

	Computer Lab Assignment Grading Scale
	Has limited Understanding of topic and struggles to identify search terms/keywords.
	Need help to open browser and operate search engine.
1	Needs assistance throughout process from key term or search word selection to result selection.
	Has some understanding of the topic or area of learning.
	Occasionally needs assistance to open browser or search engine
2	Can construct a search with assistance
	Can select suitable results with assistance
	Can modify search with assistance
	Understands area of learning or topic.
	Opens browser + search engine with minimal Assistance.
3	Can select suitable terms or phrases with Some Assistance.
	Can enter keywords and sometimes refines search with Boolean logic.
	Will select suitable results and modifies search with assistance.
	Understands the area of learning or topic.
	Can Open browser and select URL or icon independently.
	Can select suitable keywords or phrases with minimum of assistance.
4	Can enter keyword or words with Boolean symbols or speech marks.
	Understands why using these focuses the search.
	Can select appropriate results or modifies the search.

Gargoyles Are Everywhere Bulletin Board Idea

Gargoyles have adorned buildings for centuries. Let the kids make their own special Gargoyletopped building with the faux stained glass and display them on a bulletin board. Use index cards as your border and have students write interesting facts on the index cards.

Materials:

Black construction paper, white paper, tissue paper, glue, scissors

Instructions:

Take a large piece of heavier weight white paper and decorate it with coloured tissue paper pieces, gluing them down. Let it dry.

Have students use the black paper and cut out a building shape and a roof shape. There should be a number of different sized rectangles and squares for the building. Add roofs that are triangles and rectangles.

Have the students cut large windows in the buildings they made.

Use cut pieces of the white paper decorated with tissue paper to fill-in the windows.

Staple these along the bottom edge of the bulletin board.

To Make the Gargoyles:

Have students draw and cut out small gargoyles to place along the tops of the buildings (where waterspouts would normally go). Staple these on to the buildings.