Dying To Meet You
By: Kate Klise

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Library of Congress Summary: In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author, I. B. Grumply, gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer.

Booktalk:

Author Information
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Pre-Reading Activities
1. Have the students write about their favorite summer vacation. Have them include where it was, who went with them, and what they did there. Also, have them write about why it was their favorite vacation.
2. Tell the students to pretend that they are going to live with a stranger for a whole summer. Ask them if they would make up a set of rules. If they would choose to do so, what would their rules be? If not, why would they decide not to make any rules?

Questions
1. Why is Ignatius B. (I.B.) Grumply renting the house on Old Cemetery Road for the summer?
2. Does your family have rules that you have to follow at home?
3. I.B. Grumply blames Seymour for things that Olive is doing. Have you ever been accused of doing something that you didn’t do?
4. Seymour is saving up money to buy the house. Have you ever saved up money to buy something?
5. How does Olive find out that I.B. Grumply is afraid of heights and doesn’t like green peppers or liver?
6. Seymour’s parents wrote him a note explaining why they were leaving. What did it say?
7. After I.B. Grumply’s date with Olive, he starts to believe that she exists and starts to act “crazy.” E. Gadds and Paige Turner think he has mental problems. Why do you think they think this about I.B. Grumply?
8. Why does Olive storm away and get upset at I.B. Grumply after the newspaper interview?
9. Why might the house be demolished?
10. When Paige Turner informs I.B. Grumply that she has ended her professional relationship with him, she decides to write off the money that he owes her company. Why do you think she does this?
11. I.B. Grumply understands when Paige Turner and E. Gadds cut their professional ties with him. Who or what caused his change in attitude?
12. What causes Olive to come back to the house and be seen again?
13. Why do you think Seymour’s parents want to bring him to Europe with them? Before the summer, they had no contact with him. What do you think made them change their minds?
14. Who ends up buying the house to save it from demolition?

**Journal Topics**
1. Have you ever been to a haunted house or other scary place? Why did you go there and what made it scary?
2. I.B. Grumply rents the summer house thinking it will be a quiet place to read, but it turns out not to be. Have you ever thought something would be one way, but it turned out to be the complete opposite?
3. I.B. Grumply thinks that Seymour is “seeing things” when he talks about Olive. Have you ever had an imaginary friend? Write about your experience.
4. Olive explains to I.B. Grumply how he thinks he is the only person who has been rejected, when in fact, everyone, even Olive and Seymour, have been rejected. Have you ever been rejected by someone or something? How did it make you feel?

**Vocabulary**
- Perilous (p. 26): full of danger or risk
- Hapless (p. 27): unfortunate
- Hovel (p. 31): an unpleasant dwelling place
- Grievous (p. 37): very serious
- Communiqués (p. 44): an official report
- Cupola (p. 45): a small dome
- Macabre (p. 55): disturbing or horrifying because of associations with death
- Ignorance (p. 59): lack of knowledge or information
- Illiterate (p. 59): a person who is unable to read or write
- Abysmal (p. 59): extremely bad; deep
- Paprikash (p. 76): a Hungarian dish
- Intolerable (p. 79): unable to be endured
- Tantalizing (p. 79): to excite the senses
- Incorrigible (p. 81): not able to be corrected
- Reprimand (p. 81): to rebuke or disapprove
- Dame (p. 121): a woman
Interdisciplinary Activities
1. Incorporate *Dying To Meet You* into a writing curriculum by having the students write their own ghost stories. They can be as simple or outrageous as the kids want them to be.
2. In a history or social studies class, have students research a famous ghost. Have them present a small project on the history of the ghost, where the ghost can be found today, characteristics of the ghost, and any other interesting facts the student can find.

Other Books by Kate Klise and Sarah Klise
- Regarding the Fountain
- Regarding the Sink
- Regarding the Trees
- Regarding the Bathrooms
- Regarding the Bees
- Shall I Knit You a Hat?
- Why Do You Cry?
- Imagine Harry
- Little Rabbit and the Nightmare
- Little Rabbit and the Meanest Mother on Earth
- Deliver Us From Normal
- Far From Normal
- Letters from Camp
- Trial By Journal
- Grounded
- Stand Straight, Ella Kate

Additional Titles in the 43 Old Cemetery Road series
- Over My Dead Body
- Till Death Do Us Bark
- The Phantom of the Post Office
  (Spring 2012)

Related Reads:
*Blue Ghost* by Marion Dane Bauer
*All the Lovely Bad Ones* by Mary Downing Hahn
*Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House* by Geronimo Stilton
*13th Floor* by Sid Fleishman
*Time for Andrew* by Mary Downing Hahn
*Ghosthunters and the Incredibly Revolting Ghost* by Cornelia Funke
*Dial-a-Ghost* by Eva Ibbotson
*My Haunted House* by Angie Sage

Related Websites
   This website introduces the book and also shows two videos about the book. One video introduces the author & illustrator and their inspiration for writing the book and the other is a trailer for the book itself. Author/illustration video also available at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY20rDrFDfo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY20rDrFDfo)

2. [www.alcatrazhistory.com](http://www.alcatrazhistory.com)
This website talks about a famous haunted place – Alcatraz Island Federal Penitentiary. The website gives a detailed history of the prison, some of its inmates, rules and regulations, and frequently asked questions.

3.  [http://theshadowlands.net/places/](http://theshadowlands.net/places/)
   This website lists hundreds of locations that are supposedly haunted. The list includes places in the United States as well as abroad.