

PLOTTING SOMETHING • PREVIEW

THE CURSED OBJECT AUCTION

A one-day literary Halloween experience

- Grades 9–12
- Approximately one 40-minute class period
- No outside text required
- Teams bid on 6 mysterious estate objects
- Light literary thinking + lots of atmosphere

WHAT STUDENTS DO

Inspect each lot. Decide whether to bid or pass. Reveal the object's history only after bidding closes. Then decide what to do with what they bought.

HOW THE AUCTION WORKS

A simple routine students understand after the first lot



LOT 01

THE BLACKWOOD MIRROR

ESTATE CATALOG ENTRY

Late-19th-century silver hand mirror. Tarnished backing; no maker's mark. Recovered from the dressing room of the Blackwood estate. The glass remains unusually clear.

30 SECONDS • PLACE YOUR BID

Bid \$25+ in \$25 increments — or PASS

1 INSPECT

Read only the estate catalog entry.



LOT 01

THE BLACKWOOD MIRROR

ESTATE CATALOG ENTRY

Late-19th-century silver hand mirror. Tarnished backing; no maker's mark. Recovered from the dressing room of the Blackwood estate. The glass remains unusually clear.

30 SECONDS • PLACE YOUR BID

Bid \$25+ in \$25 increments — or PASS

2 BID OR PASS

Confer, then make one private team bid—or pass.

PROVENANCE DISCOVERED

THE BLACKWOOD MIRROR

After sunset, the reflection begins to lag behind the person holding it. Each night the delay grows longer. When the reflection finally stops following, it begins moving on its own. The last owner smashed every mirror in the house. This one was later found intact.

BIDDING CLOSED.

3 REVEAL

After bidding closes, the provenance is revealed.

Why? _____

OBJECT #2 Object: _____

☐ KEEP

☐ DESTROY

☐ SELL

☐ GIVE AWAY

Why? _____

4 DECIDE

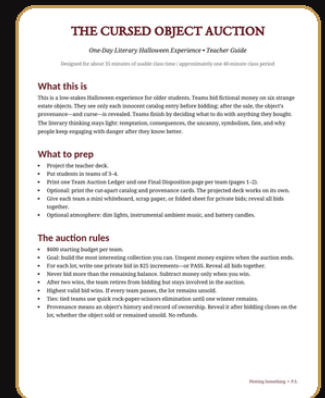
Keep, destroy, sell, or give away what you won.

Teacher pacing is built in: about 3 minutes per lot.

Let students react. Save the real discussion for the end.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Everything needed to run the experience



- 20-slide teacher presentation (PPTX + PDF)
- 7-page student printables (editable PPTX + PDF)
- 4-page teacher guide (DOCX + PDF)
- Six complete auction lots + provenance reveals
- Team Auction Ledger + Final Disposition sheet
- Optional Design Lot #7 creative extension

LOW-PREP OPTION

Project the deck and print only the Team Auction Ledger + Final Disposition page for each team.

The extra catalog and provenance cards are optional atmosphere—not required setup.

Teacher guide includes every reveal, pacing notes, tie procedures, and facilitation guidance.

Student responses are open-ended; suggested guidance is included where appropriate.