

Kit Grindstaff, Author

School presentations

Hello! I'm Kit Grindstaff, author of *The Flame in the Mist*, a spooky, magical adventure for middle grade readers ... with Light at the end of the tunnel.

13-year-old Jemma has a mission to accomplish, along with her two telepathic golden rats, Noodle and Pie. Set in a fantasy medieval version of England, Jemma's story is not only about outer circumstances of her life, but also about the challenges that affect teens and pre-teens of all eras, including: learning to get along with others, finding courage, facing small and large conflicts, and learning to trust oneself.

Power Point presentation for School Assemblies

The presentation, using plenty of PowerPoint slides, is fun and informative. I love talking to students about where the ideas came from (life, as well as literature), and how their own "stories", and the books they love, can inspire *them* to write.

It also touches on aspects relevant to the **Common Core State Standards** such as research and social themes.

Length: 40-60 minutes, including a showing of the book trailer and Q&A at the end. **Ideal for grades 4-7**

(Please note: I've also given this presentation to assemblies that included grades 3 and 8. For older grades, I'm happy to tailor it to include more English history and/or more about the human themes.)



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Here's a brief outline.

- 1. Introduction:** The book, genre, main character Jemma and her allies and enemies; and a reading.
- 2. The story behind the story:** Where did the idea come from? A little about me and my background, and the influences that inspired the book. Depending on your chosen length of presentation, it will include most or all of the following:
 - **The setting:** England and its castles, thatched cottages, graveyards, mists and general spookiness, along with a smattering of history.
 - **Literary Inspirations:** Struwwelpeter; The Famous Five; Dickens's novels with their misty environments; Harry Potter; The Golden Compass.
 - **Human themes:** friendship, loyalty, courage, betrayal, power and its misuse, learning to have faith in oneself.
- 3. Trailer**
- 4. Q&A**

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For more details, including a free, downloadable CCSS-annotated teaching guide for the book, visit the Teachers page of my website at

www.kitgrindstaff.com

Please feel free to ask about the possibility of Skype visits, too!

