

Book Title: *Skeleton Man*

Authors: Joseph Bruchac

Annotation: Molly wakes up one morning to discover her parents are gone. She is turned over to her great-uncle, a mysterious man totally unknown to her. The uncle rarely speaks to Molly and locks her in her room at night. By remembering what her parents told her about trusting dreams, Molly is able to solve the mystery of her parent's disappearance. The original *Skeleton Man* is a traditional Mohawk story. Bruchac's novel respectfully incorporates traditional Mohawk lore into this page-turning chiller. A short and easy read, it will attract reluctant readers.

Concepts at a Glance: family, courage, suspense, dreams

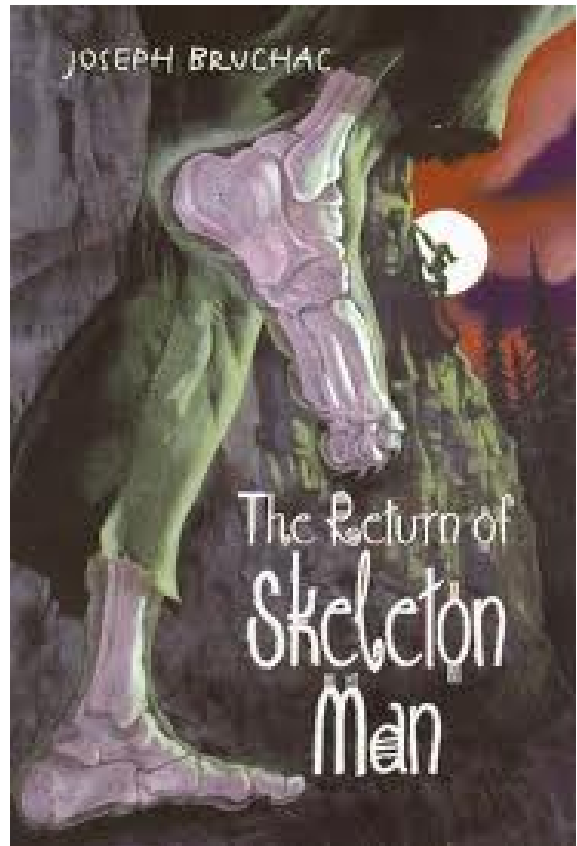
Text Set on Author Joseph Bruchac: *The Arrow over the door*, *Heart of a Chief*, *The Way*, *Children of the Long house*, *Whisper in the Dark*.

Links to explore:

Author: <http://www.josephbruchac.com/>

Projects, Ideas and Activities:

1. Read aloud using lots of expression. Give an additional copy out for students to follow along if they choose.
2. Use as a novel study—purchase a few more copies and use it as guided reading.
3. Read other books by Joseph Bruchac. Explore similarities and differences in specific characters, genres of writing, etc.
4. Explore the web site of Joseph Bruchac. Listen to him read some of his poetry aloud.
5. Page 22 is a description of the bedroom. Have students write descriptions of rooms they like, and rooms they do not like! Explore the difference in the **process** of writing these two pieces (were they reluctant, was it harder etc) and in **what** they write about these rooms. In order to do this you may need to teach:
 - a. Descriptive writing
 - b. Simile
 - c. Paragraph writing
6. Discuss foreshadowing and find examples in the story.
7. Chart all the ways that Molly had to be resourceful and solve problems—with her solutions.
8. Share times when students have had to be courageous and solve a difficult problem.
9. Write a series of diary entries from the perspective of Molly, and of her uncle.
10. Discuss boundaries and how Molly protected herself!



Skeleton Man-Curricular Links

Health and Life Skills: Safety and Responsibility

- ✚ (5) Identify personal boundaries, and recognize that boundaries vary depending on the nature of relationship, situation and culture.
- ✚ (8) Identify potentially unsafe situations in the community, and begin to develop strategies to reduce risk; e.g., dark parking lots, lack of railway crossings.

Health and Life Skills: Understanding and Expressing Feelings

- ✚ (5) Identify and use long-term strategies for managing feelings.
- ✚ (6) Establish personal guidelines for expressing feelings....

English Language Arts

2.3 Understand forms and genres

- ✚ (5) Identify and discuss the main character's point of view and motivation.
- ✚ (5) Identify examples of apt word choice and imagery that create particular effects.
- ✚ (5) Identify and discuss similarities and differences among a variety of forms of oral, print and other media texts.
- ✚ (6) Alter words, forms and sentence patterns to create new versions of texts for a variety of purposes....

2.4 Create original text

- ✚ (5) Use own experiences as a starting point and source of information for fictional oral, print and other media texts.
- ✚ (6) Express the same ideas in different forms and genres; compare and explain the effectiveness of each for audience and purpose.
- ✚ (8) Write and represent narratives from other points of view.