



## A HOWL NOIR MYSTERY

### – SEL THEMES & CONVERSATION STARTERS –

Listen to the episode: <https://jonincharacter.com/a-howl-noir-mystery/>

The summary and SEL themes for this episode are on the next page followed by a list of questions for deep thinking, reflection and open-ended discussions about the "A Howl Noir Mystery."

## Summary of Story Themes and Lessons:

1. Don't judge too quickly: First impressions can be misleading, and it's important to gather all the facts before blaming someone.
2. Friendship and trust: Believing in and supporting your friends helps them through difficult times.
3. Teamwork in problem-solving: Working together and using everyone's strengths can solve even the trickiest mysteries.
4. Facing fears: Spooky situations can feel overwhelming, but courage, curiosity and seeking help when you need it, can uncover the truth.
5. Understanding cause and effect: Actions (like reading a magical book under a full moon) can lead to surprising consequences.

## Summary of SEL Themes

- Self-Awareness – Characters reflect on their feelings of fear, worry, and responsibility, helping children recognize and name their own emotions.
- Self-Management – Redge and his friends stay focused and calm while investigating, modeling how to manage big feelings in tricky situations.
- Social Awareness – Believing Big Bad Wolf's innocence shows empathy and understanding rather than rushing to judgment.
- Relationship Skills – The group communicates, trusts one another, and collaborates to set a plan in motion to solve the mystery.
- Responsible Decision-Making – The team gathers clues, weighs possibilities, and creates a thoughtful plan to confront the problem safely.

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## – DISCUSSION QUESTIONS –

### Mysteries and Problem-Solving:

- What clues helped Redge, Jonathan, and Wabbitson realize the Big Bad Wolf wasn't guilty?
- If you were part of the detective team, what clue would you have followed first? Why?
- How did the characters use teamwork to solve the mystery? Can you think of a time when working with others helped you solve a problem?

### Facing Fears and Big Feelings:

- Jonathan had a stomachache because he was nervous and scared. What are some ways our bodies show us we're worried or afraid?
- Have you ever felt nervous about something and then discovered it wasn't as scary as you thought? What helped you feel better?
- How did the friends help each other stay calm when things got spooky?

### Friendship, Trust, and Empathy:

- Why did Redge and Jonathan believe Big Bad when he said he wasn't responsible for the party chaos?
- How does it feel when someone trusts and believes in you, even when others don't?
- Can you think of a time when you stood up for a friend or when a friend stood up for you?

### Cause and Effect:

- What role did the magical book *Creatures of the Creeping Forest* play in Jonathan's transformation?
- How did the full moon change the way the story unfolded?
- Can you think of a time when one small choice (like reading a book or doing an activity) led to a big or surprising result?

### Making Personal Connections:

- If you were at Pumpkin-A-Palooza, what part of the party would you enjoy most (games, snacks, music, or costumes)?
- Which character in the story do you relate to most - Redge, Jonathan, Big Bad, or Wabbitson - and why?
- What lesson from the story do you think is most important to remember in real life?