

Coraline Knowledge Organiser



Blurb:

SOMETIMES, A DOOR IS
CLOSED FOR A VERY GOOD
REASON...

There is something strange about Coraline's new home. It's not the mist, or the cat that always seems to be watching her, nor the signs of danger that Miss Spink and Miss Forcible, her new neighbours, read in the tea leaves. It's the other house - the one behind the old door in the drawing room. Another mother and father with black-button eyes and papery skin are waiting for Coraline to join them there. And they want her to stay with them. For ever. She knows that if she ventures through that door, she may never come back...

Key Information:

Plot: When Coraline moves to an old house, she feels bored and neglected by her parents. She finds a hidden door with a bricked up passage. During the night, she crosses the passage and finds a parallel world where everybody has buttons instead of eyes, with caring parents and all her dreams coming true. When the Other Mother invites Coraline to stay in her world forever, the girl refuses and finds that the alternate reality where she is trapped is only a trick to lure her.

Setting: England: The Pink Palace - a large house split up into 3 apartments

Themes: home, appreciating what you have, overcoming fears, courage, family, love and being careful what you wish for

Key Characters:

Coraline	The young explorer
The black cat	A black cat from Coraline's world
Mr and Mrs Jones	Coraline's parents
The Other Mother	An enigmatic being who created much of the Other World and the primary antagonist
The Other Father	A creation of the Other Mother in the image of Mr. Jones
Miss Spink/ Miss Forcible	A pair of retired actresses who live in the flat under Coraline's.
Mr Bobo	A retired circus performer living in the flat above Coraline's

Author Voice:

Neil Gaiman was born in Hampshire, UK, and now lives in the United States. As a child he discovered his love of books. A self-described "feral child who was raised in libraries," Gaiman began writing the novel when his daughter Holly was five, because she liked scary stories, and he picked it up again six years later to finish it for her little sister Maddy. ... The heroine's name came from a typo in "Caroline." According to Gaiman, "I had typed the name Caroline, and it came out wrong."

Key Vocabulary:

dislodge	knock or force out of position
distorted	pulled or twisted out of shape; contorted
illusion	an instance of a wrong or misinterpreted perception of a sensory experience
intensely	with extreme force or strength
mantelpiece	a structure of wood, marble, or stone above and around a fireplace
peculiar	different to what is normal or expected; strange
sarcastic	marked by or given to using irony in order to mock or convey contempt
silhouette	the dark shape and outline of something visible in restricted light against a brighter background.
writhed	make twisting, squirming movements or contortions of the body

Key Quotes:

"We have teeth and we have tails. We have tails we have eyes. We were here before you fell. We will be here when you rise."

"No," said the cat. "Now, you people have names. That's because you don't know who you are. We know who we are, so we don't need names."

"You're wrong! You don't know where your parents are, do you?" she turned and looked at Coraline. "Now," she said, "you're going to stay here for ever and always."

Discussion Points:

- Would you describe Coraline as brave or selfish?
- Do you think Coraline betrayed her parents?
- How did each adult impact the plot progression?