

Hahn, Mary Downing. *All the Lovely Bad Ones*. Clarion Books, 2008.

SUMMARY:

Travis and his younger sister, Corey, are pranksters, and since they are not wanting to spend the summer at a “boring” summer camp, their parents send them to Fox Hill, a remote country inn owned by their grandmother. They soon learn that the inn has a history of being haunted, and therefore, they decide to create some of their own “supernatural pranks,” ones which not only bring in more tourists but also awaken dangerous ghosts from the past who want revenge. Because Travis and Corey have aroused these spirits, they are the ones who must bring them rest by uncovering a mystery that has long been buried and left unresolved.

QUESTIONS:

How do Travis and Corey awaken the ghosts? What then do these ghosts do?
Why does Miss Ada come back to haunt the children?
Why is the book given the title *All the Lovely Bad Ones*?
What is a poor farm?
While reading this book, did you make any predictions, and, if so, what were they?
If you were going to act out a scene, what one would you suggest? Which character would you play and why?

JOURNAL STARTERS:

A talent I have is _____ and that talent could be used to...
Pranks are _____ because...
I remember pulling a prank when I...
A prank was pulled on me when...
I remember learning about having to take responsibility for my actions when I...

ACTIVITIES:

Research poor farms.
Research supernatural sightings in Illinois and draw a map locating these.
Learn about local folklore.
Build a model of Fox Hill Inn.
Interview a ghost hunter.
Invite a stone mason to explain the process of creating a grave marker.
Visit a cemetery and do a grave rubbing.
Design a new book jacket.

READING RECOMMENDATION: Grades 4-8

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever pulled a prank? Do you believe in ghosts? When Travis and Corey visit their grandmother at Fox Hill, an inn she owns in rural Vermont, they learn that the inn has a history of being haunted. They decide to create some of their own ghostly appearances and thereby awaken the spirits that do haunt the inn. Now it is their responsibility to learn why the inn is haunted, to release these spirits to their final resting place, and to restore peace to the inn.

READ-ALIKES:

Hahn, Mary Downing. *The Doll in the Garden*. Clarion Books, 1989.
Hahn, Mary Downing. *The Old Willis Place*. Clarion Books, 2004.
Hahn, Mary Downing. *Wait Till Helen Comes*. Clarion Books, 1986.
McNish, Cliff. *Breathe*. Lerner, 2006.
Schwartz, Alvin. *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*. HarperCollins, 1981.
Wright, Betty Ren. *The Dollhouse Murders*. Holiday House, 1983.

RELATED WEB SITES:

Mary Downing Hahn: <http://www.childrensbookguild.org/hahn.html>
Talking With Mary Downing Hahn: <http://tiny.cc/xZ9ud>
American Folklore: <http://www.americanfolklore.net>
Historical Overview of the American Poorhouse System: <http://tinyurl.com/lw16nz> **The Poor Farm Bed and Breakfast:** <http://www.travelassist.com/reg/il102s.html>
'Poor Farms' Part of History: <http://tinyurl.com/nsuez8>

BOOK REVIEW CITATIONS:

Booklist 104(May 1, 2008): 86
Publishers Weekly 255 (March 10, 2008): 82
School Library Journal 54 (May 1, 2008): 124

