A Snicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd
DTDL & GLADL Battle of the Books 2016

Midnight Gulch used to be a secret place. How did the natural landscape help keep it secret?
The mountain hid the town 'high-up-away'/ the river surrounded the mountain/ the tall forest caught all the
town's secrets and songs in its branches. (p.2) (p.186)

The Midnight Gulch sign welcoming people to the town said “It was a proper place to call home.” In the past it
said something different, what did it say?
A “magical place to call home.” (p.5)

Because the Pickles family are “nomads” Frannie Jo used to keep something with her all the time in case they
needed to move on quickly. What was it?
A small blue suitcase packed with all her worldly treasures, her special stuff. (p.7)

What is the name of the van that Holly Pickles drives and why is it called that?
The Pickled Jalapeno. It’s green-brown, dented, droopy looking like a rotten pepper and the Pickles family drive
around in it. (p.8)

Name the 3 things that Frannie Jo always concentrates on to stop herself crying.
Their dog called Biscuit/ the vehicle she wants to drive : a Dump Truck/ her favorite food: Apple Fritter (p.9)

Felicity collects words – where does she write them when she doesn’t have room in her blue book?
Her sneakers (p.10)

What is June Bug’s full name and what does it mean?
Felicity Juniper Pickle (p.13) Felicity means Intense happiness (p.49) Juniper is the name of a tree

How many states has Felicity and her family lived in?
6 (p.15)

Midnight Gulch is famous for 2 things. What are they?
Dr. Zook’s Ice Cream / Magic, especially The Brothers Threadbare (p.17)

What was the date of the famous duel between the Brothers Threadbare?
Sept 15 1910 (p.19)

What were the real names of the Brothers Threadbare?
Stone & Berry Weatherly (p.19)

What instruments did the Brothers Threadbare play?
Banjo and guitar. (p.19)

When the Brothers Threadbare dueled what did the winner get and what happened to the loser?
The winner kept all the money, fame and fortune. The loser was cursed with a wandering heart, to never settle
down and never do another magic trick. (p.21)

Who was the loser of the duel? And how did he lose?
Stone. (p.21) He couldn’t roar like a lion (p.45)

Miss Lawson organizes a Duel at the Elementary School to commemorate the schools namesakes. Name 3 of the
suggestions she says the children could do for the Talent Show?
Sing, play an instrument, share an art project, shoot free throws, write poems or stories (turn cartwheels acceptable) (p.23)

What does the winner of the Stoneberry Elementary School Talent Duel win?
$100 cash and a year’s supply of Dr. Zook’s Ice Cream (p.24)

How did Felicity describe "making new friends, in a new place, when you're the new girl"?
"harder than fractions" (p.25)
Hint: she had just tried to compliment Toast on his drawings.

Felicity collects words but not many taste of anything. What word tastes sweet as cotton candy and which one makes everything taste like sand?
Love (p.24) Lonely (p.28)

What was the code word Felicity used when she met the Beedle?
Pumpernickel (p32)

What is the present Beedle’s real name?
Jonah Pickett (p.32)

What bus number do Felicity and Jonah ride, and who is the driver?
5548, Day Grissom (p. 32)

What does Aunt Cleo collect?
Hedgehogs (p. 38)

What talent do Holly Pickle and Stone Berry have in common?
They are artists and they paint murals (p.46)

Who was Frannie Jo named after?
Her two wild, wonderful, unique grandmothers, Francis & Josephine (p.49)

What did Aunt Cleo call her Nissan Sedan?
The Beast of Burden (p. 55)

What does Spindiddly mean?
‘Better than awesome’ (p.70)

Jonah Pickett’s Mum’s favorite job is sorting out other people’s business. What’s her first job?
Styling hair and fixing carburetors (p.70)
What is the name of her shop?
Jewell Pickett’s Lube & Dye (p.170)

What word does Felicity see most often?
Lonely (p.72)

What places does she see words most often?
in schools, churches,malls (p. 72)

What was the name of Oliver Weatherly's assistant?
What did Jonah Pickett do that earned him the title of Beedle? He raised the money to build a small school in Haiti by collecting and recycling coca-cola cans (p.78).

What flavor of ice cream was restricted for sale anywhere except in Midnight Gulch? Blackberry Sunrise (p.75-76).

Who was the original Beedle of Midnight Gulch? Oliver Weatherly (p.82).

Describe both the effects of the magic in Blackberry Sunrise ice cream? Made you remember good things if berries tasted sweet; sad things if they were sour (p.83-84).

How did Oliver meet Eldee Mae Cotton? She was a traveling preacher who came to Midnight Gulch. (p.85).

Oliver Weatherly has a tattoo that comes and goes. What is it? A dove with ink black wings (p.86).

What was the message she gave him? "Hope’s coming down". (p.87).

How soon after Eldee’s words to Oliver did Stone Weatherly return to Midnight Gulch? The next morning (p.87).

When did the bird tattoo first arrive on his arm? (combined using a later question) The same morning Stone Weatherly crash landed in the hot air balloon. (p.197).

How did Stone Weatherly arrive when he returned to Midnight Gulch? He crash landed in a hot air balloon (p.88).

Stone Weatherly gave two things to Oliver Weatherly, what were they? A guitar and good advice (p.92).

Where did the name Beedle come from? It spells EldeeB backwards and is a mix of Eldee Mae, Oliver Weatherly’s wife, and B for Berry, Oliver Weatherly’s middle name. (p.94).

When the Beedle leaves gifts for people why are they tied with a red ribbon? Red was Eldee’s favorite color. (p.94).

Why was Stone and Berry Weatherly called The Brothers Threadbare? Because a newspaper reporter joked about their shabby clothes and style of music, calling them redneck farm boys, homespun, shabby and threadbare. (p.96).

Holly Pickle is superstitious about 2 things that always make her leave town. What are they? The number seven and storms. (p.97).
Who was the guy always asking about Felicity’s Aunt Cleo?
Day Grissom (p.102-03)

Aunt Cleo makes quilts. What are the 2 most popular patterns?
The Hedgehog and Wedding Rings. (p.104)

How did Felicity meet her Uncle Boone - Holly’s & Cleo's brother?
He helped her catch Biscuit when she ran away (p.106-107)

When Felicity tells her Uncle Boone how she sees words he tells her what he used to see when he was a kid.
What did Boone see?
Music notes looked like colors. (p.119)

Frannie Jo and her family played a dress up game at Snapdragon Pond. What did Cleo make for everyone to wear?
Wings. Fairy wings. (p.121)

Felicity and her Mom, Holly, go tree climbing at Snapdragon Pond. What does Holly show Felicity?
The Interstate with all the cars driving down the mountain (p.126)

When there was magic at the Ponder Pie Shop what did Nancy Smith cook during the Civil War?
Spy pies – Nancy Smith could bake secret information into the pies (p.133)
People say there is still magic in the pies. What do people think they can do?
Blackberry pie makes people fall in love. Apple pie makes people feel brave. (p.135)

In the book, Snicker of Magic, what does Snicker mean?
Leftover magic (p.134)

What sound accompanies Florentine as she moves around?
The wind-chime wind (p140) (p.251)
What is the sound associated with?
The shadows of the Brothers Threadbare in the mason jars and Isabella Thistle (p.301)(p.291)

How does the wind-chime wind make Felicity feel?
She hates the sound and it gives her a creepy-cold feeling (p.140)

What is the nickname that Florentine calls Jonah, and why?
Honeybee. Jonah has hair that is blond and prickly. (p.144)

Why does the Beedle take Felicity to meet Florentine?
The Beedle thought she could help Felicity to write poems for the Duel because Florentine is a famous poet and she told Felicity how she used to find it difficult to say words too. (p.153)

Florentine carries a traveling bag. What is in it that she brought from her home in south Georgia?
Burdens that also keep her safe. Dark magic. (p.149-154)
How long as she been carrying the burdens?
10 years (p.152)
When Florentine tells Felicity Pickle that she has magic in her veins Felicity finds out that she is part Threadbare.

What does Cleo call her magical relative? Her no-good-lowedown-deadbeat-drifter-great-great-grandfather, Stone Weatherly (p.158)

When Cleo tells the story of how Berry Weatherly visited her mother in Virginia she says that Berry gave her things to pass on to Stone if she ever saw him again. What were they?
A banjo and an oval-shaped locket. (p.163)

The curse of the Threadbare Brothers is very specific. What are the last two lines of the curse?
"Where sweet amends are made and spoken,
Shadows dance, the curse is broken." (p.165) (p.95)

Who put the curse on Stone Weatherly?
An old witch woman (p.165) Isabella Thistle (p.189)

Rosie Walker was a resident of Midnight Gulch who became a famous country singer. She was given Berry Weatherly’s guitar with a note that told her to always lead off with the same song that the Brothers Threadbare started their show with. What was the name of the song?
‘Fair and Tender Ladies’ (p.178)

What was the advice Rosie Walker gave to help Felicity write her words into a poem?
Use music. Sing the words, whisper them or put them in a story. (p.181)

What was the problem tourists encountered when they bought a jar of starlight?
The starlight would bust loose and head back for the skies (p.186)

The Duel between the Brothers Threadbare was thought to have started because of their jealousy about their fame and fortune but it was really over a woman. What was the woman’s name?
Isabella Thistle. (p.189)

What did legend call the Thistle women?
Shadow catchers. (p.190)

When did the bird tattoo first arrive on Oliver Weatherly’s arm?
The same morning Stone Weatherly crash landed in the hot air balloon. (p.197)

The dove tattoo appears on Felicity. Why does the bird appear on other people according to Oliver Weatherly?
When the bird shows up, that means hope’s coming down. It goes to people when they’re most fearful and uncertain. (p.197)

Who does Felicity send the dove to?
Arly Pickett, Jonah’s Dad. (p.215)(p.271)

Why does the dove appear on Felicity?
A little snicker of magic to help her at the Duel. (p.198) a good luck charm for the duel (p.199)

When Jonah’s Dad was deployed he left him a jar with 365 slips of paper inside. He told Jonah to read one every day. What was written on the slips of paper?
He wrote down the things they would do together when he returned. (p.208)
What did Jonah’s Dad give to both Jonah and Jewell to remember him? Each of them has half of a red metal heart. (p.209)

Holly Harness Pickle is an artist and Felicity tells a story about the times they painted things together. Give an example of one of the things they painted.
1. Painting one thing they loved on a rock from the Cumberland River.
2. In Birmingham they painted flowers on paper plates. The entire wall in Felicity & Frannie Jo’s room was covered in a garden of flowers.
3. Mama painted a map on the roof of the Jalapeno and called it the Kingdom of Spiderberg. For each story about a new place Holly painted a new castle on the map. (p.219)

Where did the name for Dr. Zook’s Famous Ice Cream Factory come from? The name came from a bedtime story Abigail Honeycutt made up for her son Burl. Dr. Zook was a superhero in disguise. (p.229)

What did the Beedle leave on the porch for Toast Terry? A piano. (p.231)

What did Burl Honeycutt and his father Lionel argue about? Burl wanted to be an actor in New York and his father wanted him to take over the Ice Cream Factory. (p.231)

What happened to Burl after the fights? He left Midnight Gulch and never returned. (p.232)

What did Abigail Honeycutt do with all her memories when she realized that her son Burl was never going to return home? She steeped all her memories in a teapot and went to Snapdragon Pond and poured them all into the river. (p.232)

Abigail Honeycutt began to fade away so her husband gave her something to carry so that people would see her. What did he give her? A red umbrella (p.233)

What did Jonah admit he was afraid of? Clowns (p.235)

What were the 2 words that appeared on the carton of Blackberry Sunrise that the Beedle gave to Felicity? Sweet Amends (p.236)

When Boone played “Fair and Tender Ladies” on the banjo for Rosie Walker what happened to Stone Weatherly’s locket that was around Felicity’s neck? The locket burned red-hot against Felicity’s skin and when she threw it on the ground the air around the necklace rippled in time to the music. (p.242/3)

Why did Felicity want to break the curse of the Brothers Threadbare? She believed that her Mother and the Pickles family would be wandering forever if she didn’t break the curse. (p.244)

Jonah warned Felicity that his mother had a special skill when she did people’s hair. What was it? She massaged secrets out of a person’s scalp. (p.246)
Who is Florentine’s Great-Grandmother?
Isabella Thistle (p. 249)

When Felicity tastes the Blackberry Sunrise Ice cream she experiences a memory. How does she make Sweet Amends?
Felicity tells her Mama how angry she is about her father, Roger Pickle, leaving them and her Mama helps her realize that she can be mad and still love somebody. (p.265)

Jonah uses a lot of words to describe Felicity and before the Duel he writes them on her arm. But there is one word he keeps for himself that describes how he feels around Felicity. What is Jonah’s special word?
Wonderstruck (p.272)

Why did Rambling Rose give Toast her guitar?
Miss Divinity Lawson had asked her to play but she just had her nails done (acrylics) and so asked Toast to play instead. (p.276)

How does Felicity discover what the words from the curse ‘chords align’ might mean?
Both instruments played by the Brothers Threadbare were in the same room for the first time in a hundred years (p. 277) and a glittery rope of letters spelled CHORDS over her family and she realized it was all about the music. (p.280) Musical chords (p.286)

What happened to the people in the school auditorium when Boone and Toast played “Fair and Tender Ladies” together?
Their shadows danced down the aisles, across the stage and all around the walls (p.284)

When the chords aligned what happened to Berry Weatherly’s locket?
It opened to reveal Isabella Thistle’s perfect memory (p.286)

What does Felicity exchange Berry Weatherly’s locket for?
The burdens that Florentine carries in a bag. (p.292)

Holly Pickle struggles with her painting on the gallery wall saying something is missing. By the end of the book she finds out what the painting needs. How did she find out and what was missing?
As soon as she heard Felicity talking on stage she knew how to fix the painting (p.290) with portraits of the whole Harness-Pickle family & Biscuit (p.301)

What were the burdens inside Florentine’s bag?
2 mason jars with a note taped to each one signed by I.Thistle and dated September 15, 1910 (p.294) and inside were the shadows of Stone & Berry Weatherly (p.303)

Where did the shadows of the Brothers Threadbare go?
They went into the Gallery painting and jumped together into the hot air balloon (p.304)

MULTIPLE ANSWER QUESTIONS

People in Midnight Gulch had magic in their veins. There were many types of magic. Name 5 (or any number)
Catch stars in Mason jars (p2)
Sing up thunderstorms (p2)
Dance up sunflowers (p2)
Bake magic in a pie (p2) spy pies (p.133)

Make folks fall in love (p2)
Remember something good or forget something bad (p2) Blackberry biscuits that do this (p.230)
Music magic – play a song and make people get up and dance (p2)
Glow in the dark (p2)
Go invisible when sad (p2)
Charm mountain lions (p20)
Make fire puppets (p20)
Turn dust and ash into butterflies (p20)
Paint pictures that can change (p46)
Make clouds change shape when you play the guitar (p92) (p.19)

There are 45 flavors of Dr. Zook’s Ice Cream. Can you name…? Which is the most popular?
Chocolate Chip Pork Rind (p.18)
Cake-flavored (p.17)
Bacon flavored (p.17)
Hannah Banana Coconut (p.63)
Blackberry Sunrise (p.76) (the most popular)
Orangie’s Caramel Apple Pie (p.79)
Virgil’s Get-Outta-My-Face Fudge Ripple (p.79)
Andy’s Snickerdoodle Sucker Punch (p.79)
Jim’s Just-Vanilla’s-All-I-Want (p.79)
Day’s Chocolate Orange Switcheroo(p.79)
Marsh-Mallory Mocha Delight (p.79)
Aunt Lillie’s Lavender Rosewater (p.80)
Uncle Duane’s Sublime Key Lime Pie (p.133)
Erin’s Peach Pecan (p.133)
Bobby’s Buttered Avocado (p.181)
Suzie’s White Chocolate Cherry Walnut (p.181)
Aunt Ruth’s Pumpkin Sampler (p.181)
Mene Gene’s Mocha Coconut (p.203)
Sarah’s Sunday Breakfast (p.227)
Rosie’s Strawberry Rhubarb (p.233)
Bridgett’s Hawiian Pineapple (p.233)

Felicity is a word catcher and when she sees them they all look different. Give 5 (or any number) examples of how words appear to Felicity.
smoke colored / shimmering (p.8)
rockets (p.14)
spider words (p.16)
blooming up like flowers (p.17)
with wings / with tap shoes / zebra stripes / glowing / spaceships / pretzels / stars (p.38)
shadows (p.68)
clustered together like clouds / humming with an electric sound /spinning/ fizzing (p.69)
a fiery comet (p.119)
crashing like bumper cars (p.173)
fireworks (p.173)
Becky’s Questions

How are current townspeople of Midnight Gulch related to the Weatherly brothers?
Berry was Oliver’s grandfather, Stone was Cleo/Holly/Boone’s great grandfather and Felicity’s great-great-grandfather.

How did Stone and Berry’s banjo and guitar get passed on to the current townspeople of Midnight Gulch?
Berry gave his banjo to Felicity’s grandmother, who gave it to Cleo, who gave it to Boone. Stone gave his guitar to Oliver who gave it to Rosie Walker.

Complete curse – p. 164