

Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy

By Nikki Loftin

Annotation

- Splendid Academy, a new school in Lorelei's neighborhood, almost seems too good to be true. With a fantastic playground, gourmet food, and optional homework, this school seems like every kid's dream! That is, until Lorelei discovers that the school is hiding a sinister secret in this Hansel and Gretel twist.

Book Talk

- After her old school burnt down, Lorelei was looking forward to attending Splendid Academy, where the candy dishes are always full, homework is optional, and the playground is spectacular. It could quite possibly be the best school ever. But when outcast classmate Andrew points out some disturbing behavior, Lorelei starts to wonder what is really happening at this school. Can they stop it all in time to save their classmates, and themselves?

Book Trailers

- Book Trailer from Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/48416506>

Author on the Internet

- Website: <http://nikkiloftin.com/>
- Twitter: @nikkiloftin
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1757837485>

Items to use in a library display

- Dinner place setting
- Cauldron

Food

- Marzipan p. 30-31
- M&M's p.43-46
- Popcorn, p. 47
- Pink Cotton Candy p 80

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- Discussion Guide from author Nikki Loftin
<http://nikkiloftin.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Discussion-Guide-for-SSOSA.pdf>

First Line of the Book:

- "When my mom was alive, she read me stories every night."

Non-Fiction Companion Titles

- *Greek Myths* by Ann Turnbull (p. 74-78)
- *La Llorona/The Weeping Woman* by Joe Hayes (p. 172)

What to Read Next

- *Breadcrumbs* by Anne Ursu
- *The Wig in the Window* by Kristen Kittscher
- *The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls* by Claire Legrand

Other Books by this Author:

- *Nightingale's Nest*
- *Wish Girl*

Additional Resources

- Music:
 - Que sera, sera - the song Lorelei's mother taught her and she sings to Principal Trapp on p. 99: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdhAfMor9BM>
 - German Lullaby p. 130: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQtWTnFdFbQ>
- Activity idea from Author's Discussion Guide:
 - Create an advertisement for your irresistible school. Think about including sample cafeteria menus, illustrations of the interior and exterior of the building, the playground, a school name, motto, and more.
<http://nikkiloftin.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Discussion-Guide-for-SS-OSA.pdf>
- Activity Idea: Create a design using M&M or Skittles
- Interview with the author:
 - <http://middlegrademafia.com/2015/02/23/the-writers-block-an-interview-with-nikki-loftin/>
 - <http://thehidingspot.blogspot.com/2015/04/interview-with-nikki-loftin-author-of.html>
 - http://seattlemysteryblog.typepad.com/seattle_mystery/2014/01/author-interview-nikki-loftin.html
 - The Van Show interview for *Wish Girl*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc8HD9QrZjU&feature=youtu.be>
- Book Reading from author - <http://youtu.be/EWY6ZNIWTE>
- Blog from Splendid Academy: <http://splendidacademy.com/>
- Author Bio - <http://nikkiloftin.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Nikki-Loftin-Biography.pdf>