***Surrender the Key***

***(Formerly Curse of the Boggin)***

***The Library Book 1***

By D. J. MacHale

### Annotation:

There’s a place beyond this world where spirits tell their tales, stories that ended too soon, or don’t end at all. It’s a place for unexplainable things: mysteries without solutions, ghosts and a boggin. They all have a story. Marcus and his friends have found the key to unlock the Library and they need to use it. A strange man in a bathrobe haunts them; fires rage out in an instant, a creepy old lady shows up at Marcus’s house. The terror is real.

**Book Talk:**

Think about what might have been hiding under your bed or in your closet when you were small. Do you remember how you felt? What if something really was hiding under there? What would you do? How would you react?

**Book Trailers:**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfzYdK8z26c>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_gezupC_0Q>

### Author on the Internet:

* Website: https://www.djmachalebooks.com
* Twitter: https://twitter.com/DJMacHale
* Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/djmachale
* Blog: <https://www.djmachalebooks.com/blog>
* Forum: https://www.djmachalebooks.com/forum/index.php
* Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/djmachale/?hl=en

### Items to use in a library display:

* Shelves with old, old books
* Pirate Chest
* Skeleton Key
* Bathrobe
* Marina, boats, anchor
* Copper

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics:**

* Character Development - diverse characters with a likable protagonist, strick parents, mean teacher, best friends
	+ Track development of characters
	+ Who succumbs to fear? Who becomes the leader? What are the characters’ motivations?
* Thematic Investigation - Revenge, darkness versus light, good versus evil, quest for discovery, self-awareness, optimism, will to survive
	+ Choose two or three themes and record supporting details while reading. What is the main message of the story? Is there a moral? What other books have a similar message?
* Literary Elements - Great literary elements to make characters and setting come alive such as mood, setting, mystery, humor, suspense, figurative language, plot twists and foreshadowing.
	+ Indicate where you find these and discuss purpose and effect. How do certain descriptions help us to visualize the text? Why is it important to understand the setting? How do we know what the characters are feeling?

**First Line of the Book:**

“It was under the bed.”

**Non-Fiction Companion Title:**

* *Treasury of Ghost Stories* by Kenneth Ireland

**What to Read Next:**

* *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman
* *The Ghosts of Graylock* by Don Poblocki
* *The Nightmarys* by Don Poblocki
* *The Door by the Staircase* by Katherine Marsh

Other Books by this Author:

* *Pendragon*
* *Morpheus Road trilogy*
* *SYLO Chronicles*
* *Voyagers: Project Alpha*

Additional Resources:

* Music: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfwOJWDj18k
* Art/craft activity: www.readwritethink.org
* Interview with the author: www.yabookscentral.com/blog/author-chat-with-d-j-machale-curse-of-the-boggin
* Book Study: djmachalebooks.com

**Name that Book:**

* “ ‘Surrender the key,’ “ Page 5 HB
* “We’re just looking out for you, Marcus. You’re thirteen. Before you know it you’ll be in high school, and after that, you really have to go to college.” Page 29 HB
* “Those volumes are all complete.” he explained. “Every one of ‘em has an ending.” Page 92 HB
* “Because it was the last story written about the Boggin. It means you’re in the middle of a second tale. That’s two stories we’re dealing with here.” Page 145 HB
* “Feed this through the latch of that box, and presto, you’ve got a lock made of copper. As to how you get the spirit inside in the first place, I can’t help you.” Page 195 HB