LIV FOREVER

never say zombie

DISCUSSION GUIDE

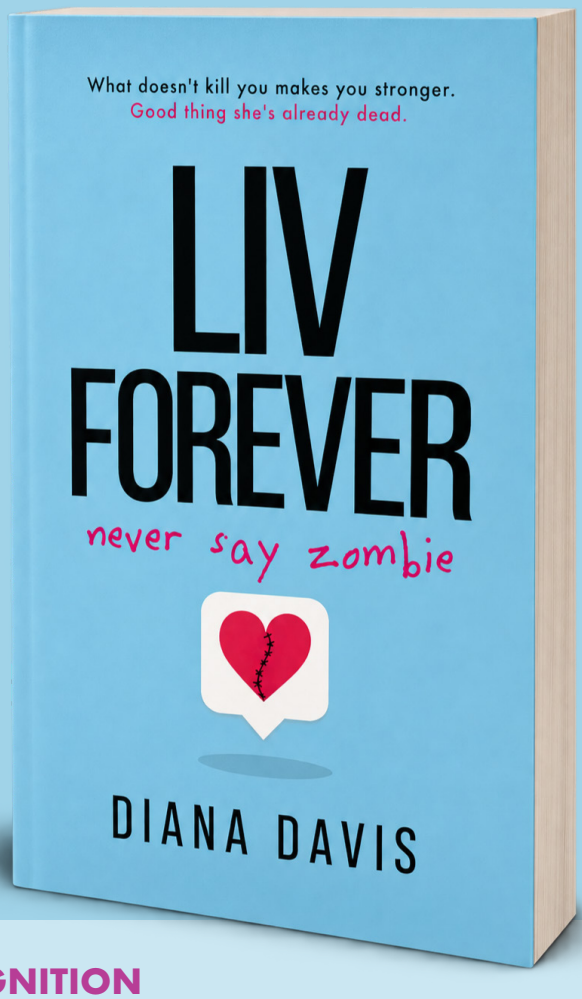
For Teachers, Librarians, Families & Book Clubs

ABOUT THE BOOK

Liv Creep is dead. And she's pretty sure that makes her a monster. Her body parts sometimes fall off, the diet is (ew, you know), and she's sworn to protect the biggest secret in history—the dead live among us. But honestly, that's not even the worst part. The worst part is Ryan. The cutest guy ever. He would never like a girl like her. A dead girl. A freak.

Then when Kaitlyn Ashley, the school's meanest social media star, discovers Liv's crush and threatens epic social media humiliation, things get even worse. So Liv and her very human best friend, Di, devise the perfect revenge plan. The only problem is... if it doesn't work, Liv will have to admit what she really is. To the world. To Ryan. To herself.

ISBN: 979-82185571 88, Pages:198, Paperback



PRAISE & RECOGNITION

"A fast-paced, accessibly written, highly amusing chapter book for a restless middle grader...!'
THE WISHING SHELF

"... action all the way, with a cleverly written and imaginative story that keeps readers hooked from the very first page!'
READERS' FAVORITE

"...a thrilling middle-grade novel that will excite readers from start to finish!'
THE RED HEADED BOOK LOVER

Chanticleer International Book Awards - **First Place Winner, Middle Grade Fiction**
Readers' Favorite - **Bronze Medal Winner**
The Wishing Shelf Book Awards - **Gold Medal Winner**
Best Indie Book Award - **Tween Winner**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diana Davis is an award-winning author and nationally recognized copywriter. *Liv Forever: Never Say Zombie* is her debut middle grade novel, blending spooky adventure, laugh-out-loud humor, and heartfelt themes of friendship, identity, and belonging.

RECOMMENDED FOR Ages: 9-14, Grades: 4-7

THEMES
Friendship
Identity
Belonging
Courage
Acceptance
Confidence

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS
Character Development
Theme
Point of View
Social-Emotional Learning

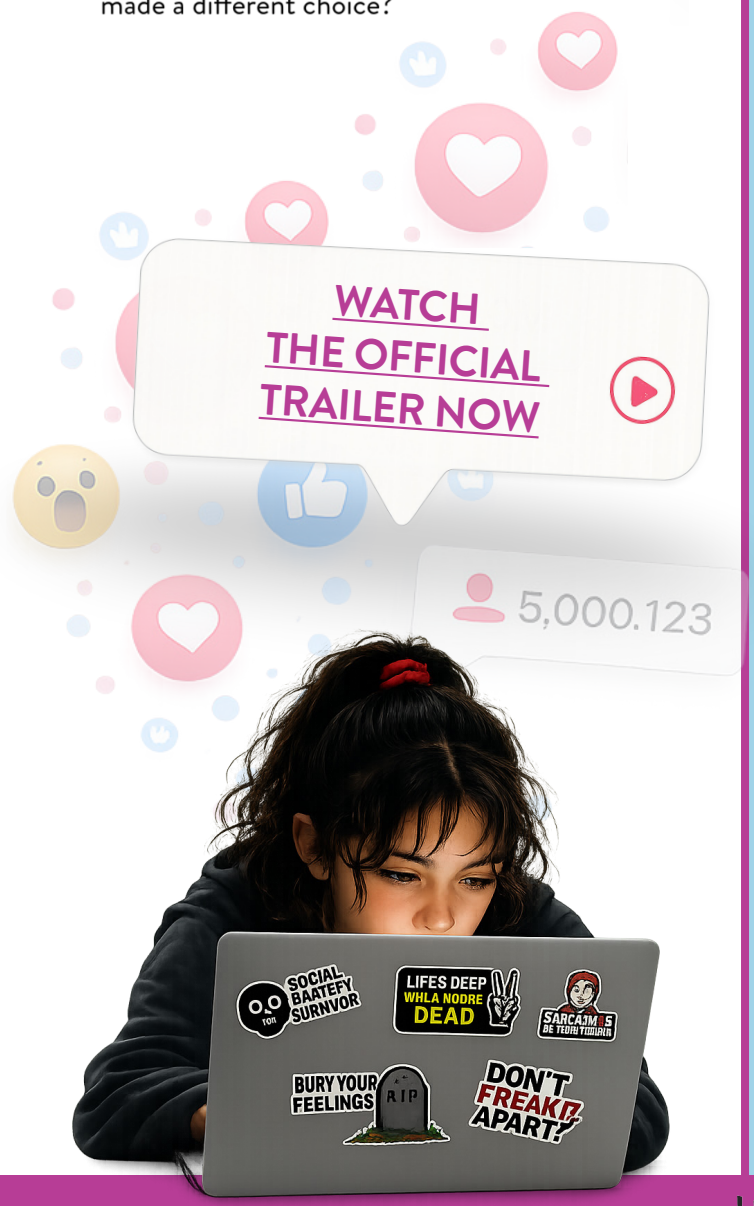
PERFECT FOR FANS OF
Wednesday
Goosebumps
Funny Mysteries
Spooky Adventures
Stories with Heart

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

In *Liv Forever: Never Say Zombie*, the author uses a mix of spooky underworld terms and funny slang. Turn students into vocabulary hunters with this Zombie Word Hunt lesson. Download materials here.

1. Liv spends much of the story trying to hide who she really is. Why do you think she believes being "normal" would solve her problems? Does her thinking change by the end of the book?
2. Friendship is at the heart of this book. In what ways is Di a good friend to Liv? Were there any moments when you wished she had acted differently? Support your answer with examples from the story.
3. Throughout the novel, characters make decisions based on wanting to fit in, be popular, or be noticed. Which character struggles with this the most? Explain your answer using examples from the story.
4. Social media plays a major role in the novel. How does it influence the characters' choices and relationships? Do you think it gives people power, creates pressure, or both? Explain your thinking.
5. The Yard has many unusual rules. Which rule surprised you the most? Why do you think those rules exist?
6. Liv often feels caught between two worlds, the human world and the Yard. Have you ever felt like you didn't completely belong somewhere? How did that experience compare to Liv's?
7. Many characters are judged before others get to know them. Which character changes your opinion the most over the course of the story? What caused your perspective to change?
8. Even though Liv Forever: Never Say Zombie is funny, it also explores grief, loneliness, and family. How does humor make those heavier moments easier to understand?
9. If you could ask any character one question after finishing the book, who would you choose and what would you ask? Why?
10. The novel suggests that truly being seen is different from simply getting attention. What do you think the story is saying about popularity, friendship, and belonging? How does Liv's journey support that message?
11. Liv has several opportunities to tell the truth about who she is but chooses not to. Why do you think she keeps her secret for so long? At what point, if any, do you think you would have made a different choice?



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MONSTER METAPHOR POSTER

The Goal: Explore how the author uses zombie traits to mirror real-life teenage insecurities.
The Action: Have students draw a silhouette of a zombie on a poster board. On the inside of the silhouette, they write the emotional struggles Liv faces (e.g. fear of rejection, keeping secrets, feeling invisible). On the outside of the silhouette, they map the physical zombie traits that match those feelings (e.g. losing limbs, rotting skin, strange diet).
The Wrap-up: Students present their posters and discuss why a zombie is a perfect metaphor for the awkwardness of puberty.

THE ANTI-BULLYING MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The Goal: Analyze Kaitlyn Ashley's "mean-girl influencer" tactics and brainstorm positive digital behavior.
The Action: Group students together to act as a public relations team. Their task is to create a mock social media campaign (using poster board or presentation slides) to counter school bullying. They must design 3 positive "posts" or hashtags that encourage students to protect each other's secrets rather than exploit them for social status.
The Wrap-up: Groups present their campaigns to the class, voting on which initiative would be most effective in a real school.

SURVIVAL GUIDE TO NECROPOLIS

The Goal: Analyze the book's setting, world-building, and plot.
The Action: Students work in pairs to write and illustrate a page for a survival guide for living humans visiting Necropolis. Based on Di and Liv's adventures, the guide book must include:3 strict rules for survival (e.g., what to say, what not to wear).

- A map of one key location from the book.
- A checklist of items needed to successfully get in and out of Necropolis safely.
- The Wrap-up: Bind the pages together to create a complete classroom survival manual.

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CHARACTER TRIAL: HUMAN VS. MONSTER

The Goal: Debate the book's central theme regarding who the real "monsters" are.
The Action: Divide the classroom into two legal teams. Team A must argue that the traditional zombies are the true villains of the story due to their ravenous nature. Team B must argue that Kaitlyn Ashley and the school bullies are the real "monsters" because of their intentional psychological cruelty.
The Wrap-up: Assign a student jury to deliberate and deliver a verdict based on the evidence cited from the text.

DIARY OF A SECRET KEEPER

The Goal: Step into the perspective of a supporting character to practice creative writing and empathy.
The Action: Have students write a 3-entry creative diary from the perspective of Di (the best friend). The entries should cover:

- How she may have felt when she first discovered Liv's undead secret.
- Her internal thoughts right before entering the dangerous underground city.
- Her reflections on what true friendship means after the adventure ends.

The Wrap-up: Students read their favorite entry aloud using their best dramatic voice.

UNDERYARD WORD HUNT

The Goal: Identify, analyze, and master 5 new or unfamiliar vocabulary words directly from reading the book.
The Action: Step 1: As students read, they find and record words that are unfamiliar, unique, or used in an interesting way. Record words and required information on the worksheet provided. **Step 2:** Choose one of the words recorded. Write an original sentence using that word in a middle school scenario.
The Wrap-up: Students pair up with a classmate. They can test each other by reading only the book sentence to see if their partner can guess the meaning based on context clues. Create a "Underyard" Vocabulary Bulletin board using student worksheets.