

THELMA BEE  
IN  
TOIL AND TREBLE



TEACHER  
RESOURCES



# Thelma Bee in Toil and Treble

## by Erin Petti

### Connections

In Chapter 1, Thelma poses the question “Possible to see with body parts other than eyes?”

If you were on a paranormal investigation with RVPS, how could you use your senses to detect clues?

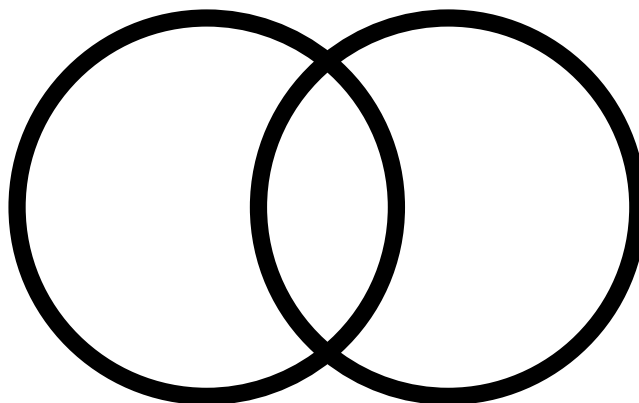
Give an example from the book where the author uses sensory detail to make an experience come to life.

Try it out! Right now, use all five of your senses to write a short paragraph about what you are experiencing at this moment. What do you see? What do you smell? Taste? Feel? Hear?

### Compare and Contrast

Thelma Bee investigates hauntings with the Riverfish Valley Paranormal Society, but in Chapter 6 “Focused Combustion (Success) (Partial)” Thelma and her friends learn more about the Ghost Slayerz. How do the Ghost Slayerz perform their investigations?

Using a Venn Diagram, list the ways that RVPS and The Ghost Slayerz are similar, and the ways that they are different.



## **Comprehension**

In Chapter 12 “Arrivals (Observed)” Thelma finds out some important information about Menkin and her family. What is the big surprise they discover?

## **Discussion Prompt/ Essay Prompt**

The character Jones says, “The more you learn about the real history of things, the less the words legend and myth come to mean, I assure you.”

What are some mythological, or legendary creatures you have read about or seen on TV or movies?

If you could pick one mythological creature to be, what would it be and why?

## **Comprehension**

In Chapter 16, “Varied Components”, Thelma finds out who is behind much of the chaos that has taken over Riverfish. Who is the culprit? What was their plan?

How do Thelma and Jenny escape the confrontation in the woods?

## **Comprehension**

In Chapter 23 “Investigation (Covert) (Musical)” how does Bobby’s “Slayer Gear” come in handy?

When they are spying on Toil and Treble’s meeting, what is the cue to Thelma that Izzy is still herself and she hasn’t been put under the group’s spell?

## **Discussion Prompt**

As we learn more about who Thelma is and the Disiri power that she has, do you think she’s different from a “witch” at all?

What kind of connotation does the word “witch” have? Why do you think that is?

## Research Report

How has the accusation of “witch” been used throughout history?

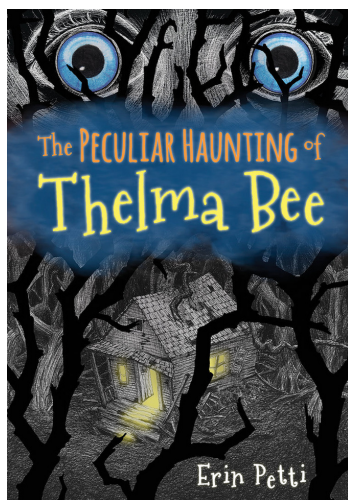
Thelma lives in Massachusetts, which has a particularly dark history of this kind of persecution. How do you think that might impact this story, and Thelma’s view of the world and herself?

## Comprehension

During the climax of the story, the radio tower plays an important role. What is that role? Why do you think it is important?

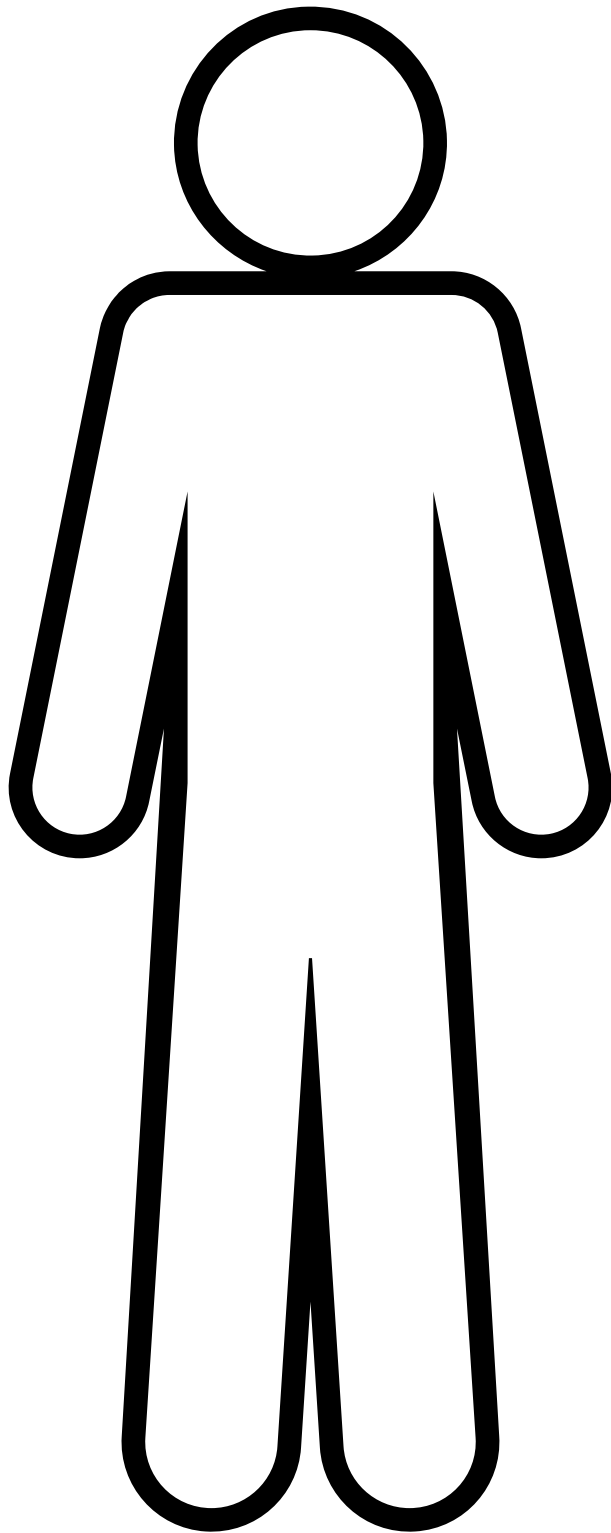
## Close-up on Language

On page 242, in Thankful Rogers’s written account, she uses a simile to describe the loss of her sister. Identify that simile. How would the wording of that language change if you made it into a metaphor?





# Characterization: Thelma Bee



External traits

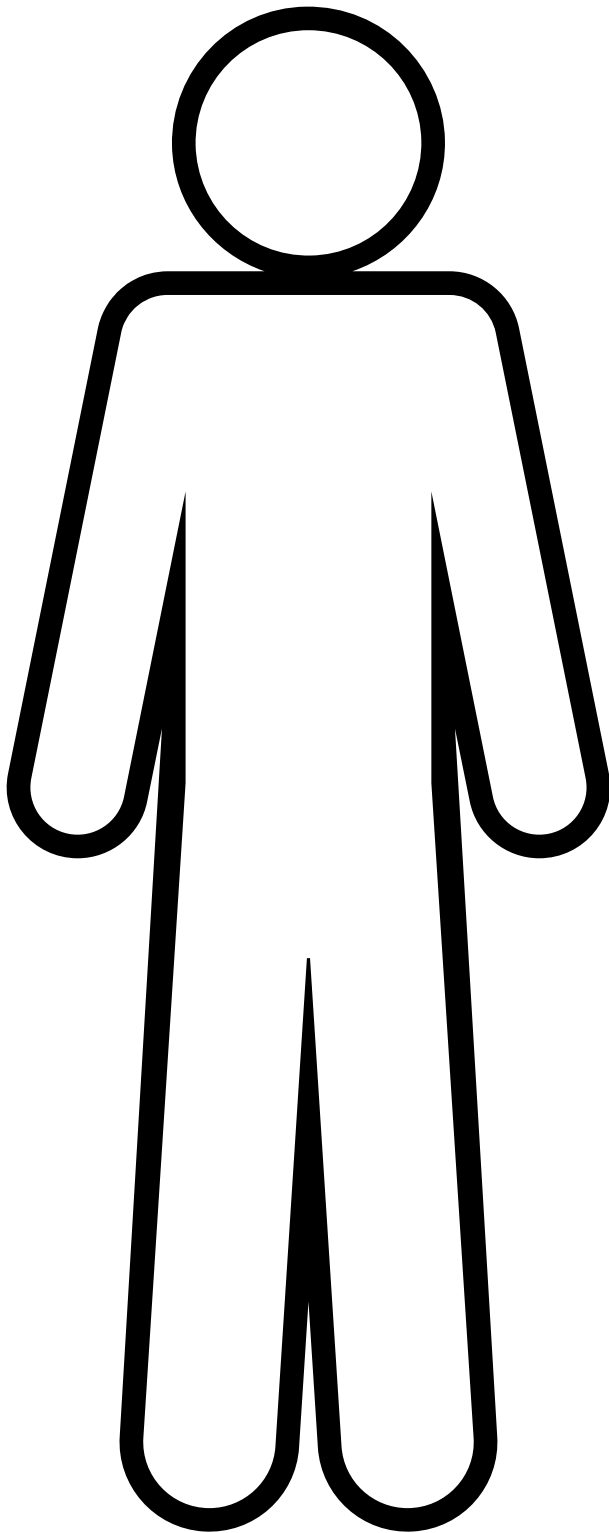
Internal traits

What does she want?

What does she fear?

Choose a character

# Characterization:



External traits

Internal traits

What do they want?

What do they fear?