

## **This Side of Magic**

By Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones

(Published by Tor)

### **Book Summary**

Good friends Luke and Penny are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and have lived in Morgantown all their lives. Luke's neighbor asks them to cat sit for him while he is out of town. He gives them a bracelet as thanks. When a strange boy dressed in a tutu shows up on their neighbor's doorstep, Luke is pretty sure the boy is crazy. When he comes to school the next day, Penny is very curious and watches the strange things he does.

Asnoopy fifth grader named Natalie knows something is going on at Mr. Leery's house. She even cat-naps Mr. Leery's cat to see if he talks. When Penny and Luke rescue Mo, the cat, they find out Mo can talk. Mo hints at Mr. Leery's secret.

The kids had no idea of the secrets hiding in the border behind Luke's house. When Luke's neighbor, Mr. Leery, returns they find out that Mr. Leery is the last of a mysterious group called the Keyholders. The Keyholders are a chosen few who keep magic from leaking through the border into the real world. Luke and Penny are amazed when Mr. Leery chooses the two of them to be the next Keyholders. The bracelets are actually the bands of a Keyholder.

The kids find out that the strange boy is really a boggart when Mo attacks him.

The kids can't quite believe everything Mr. Leery has told them, but when he takes them to the magical land and they see all kinds of magical creatures, they know he is telling the truth. Penny is chosen by a unicorn named Kirin. Luke has a dragon named Dracula choose him as a link. It is all very exciting, but the kids get another huge surprise when they find out the identity of the third new Keyholder.

### **Meet the Authors**

Debbie Dadey was born in Morganfield, Kentucky on May 18, 1959. She graduated with a Masters in Library Science from Western Kentucky University where she met her husband, Dr. Eric Dadey. Debbie taught first grade before becoming a librarian. She has also worked as a waitress and at McDonald's. Her favorite job is being a writer because she can be home with her kids; Nathan, Becky, and Alex. Of course, her dogs love for her to be home too. Bailey, Skip, and Shadow lay by her feet while she's writing. They live in Bucks County, PA. Her website is [debbiedadey.com](http://debbiedadey.com).

Marcia Jones was born in Illinois, but grew up in Lexington, Kentucky where she lives today with her husband, Steve and her adoring cats. Marcia taught first grade, third grade, reading, computer, and gifted and talented students before becoming a consultant. Today, she writes full time and enjoys doing school visits. Her website is [marciatjones.com](http://marciatjones.com).

## **This Side of Magic**

### **Book List**

Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots

Werewolves Don't Run for President

Red, White, and Boo

The Worst Name in Third Grade (by Debbie Dadey)

Godzilla Ate My Homework (by Marcia Jones)

Champ (by Marcia Jones)

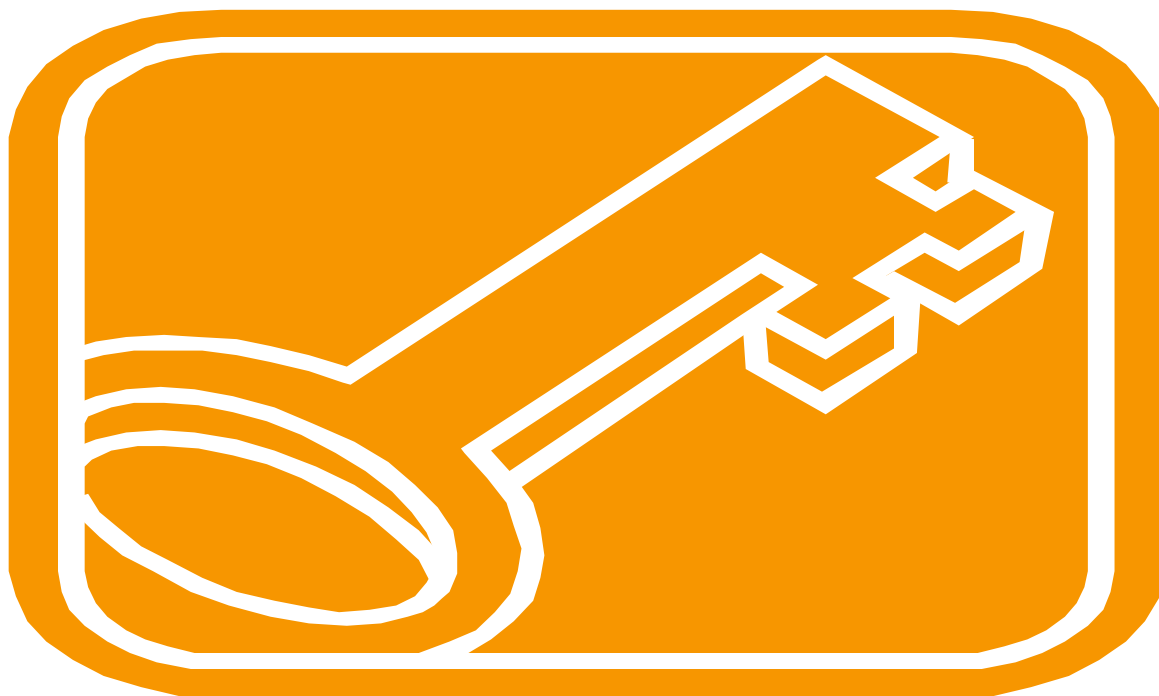
Slime Wars (by Debbie and Nathan Dadey)

Above titles are all available from Scholastic. For a complete list of books, please visit the authors' websites.

### **Pre-reading activities**

Before reading **This Side of Magic**, complete some or all of the activities below to peak interest in the story as well as to increase comprehension, reading, and predicting skills.

1. Tell students, "Our new story is called **This Side of Magic**. Write two sentences in the next two minutes telling me what you think this story could be about." Listen to as many choices as possible and put the rest on a bulletin board marked predictions.
2. Project the cover picture onto a large screen. Let students guess what the three characters on the cover are doing. Write on poster board some of the guesses. Display them on the bulletin board as well.
3. Have the children look further at the logo. Discuss that a logo is something that 'brands' a product. Can the students think of other logos? Show some other famous logos (a Burger King Wrapper, a local food store shopping bag, etc.) Perhaps the kids are even wearing some. Ask students why they think companies use logos?
4. If anyone notices the creatures on the logo, tell them they win the prize of being Keyholder for the day (which gives them special privileges such as line leader or a treat). You could even laminate the key on page 3 and put it on a string for them to wear. Let the kids guess at the names of the creatures and let them fill in the character chart that is included.
5. Look at the maps on the end papers. Ask students to locate certain areas. Let students make their own maps using the worksheets that are included.
6. Before reading each chapter, review that section's vocabulary words in a fun manner. Included are a vocabulary list and some ideas for learning the words.



**KEYHOLDER FOR THE DAY!**

## This Side of Magic

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**This Side of Magic** pre-reading activity: Guess names for the characters in the logo below and fill in the boxes. After reading, see if your predictions were correct.



Predicting for	Name	What do they eat?	Who is their friend?	What kind of magic can they do?
Inside the Magic Unicorn	Your guess:	Your guess:	Your guess:	Your guess:
	Book:	Book:	Book:	Book:
Dragon	Your guess:	Your guess:	Your guess:	Your guess:
	Book:	Book:	Book:	Book:

**This Side of Magic**

Rat

Your guess:

Your guess:

Your guess:

Your guess:

Book:

Book:

Book:

Book:

Cat

Your guess:

Your guess:

Your guess:

Your guess:

Book:

Book:

Book:

Book:

## **This Side of Magic**

Name:

Date:

### **KEYHOLDERS**

For the first book in the Keyholders series, **This Side of Magic**, authors Marcia Jones and Debbie Dadey created a map of Morgantown. Now, it's your turn to make a map of your imaginary city. Don't forget roads, schools, parks, grocery stores, and maybe even a candy store! Some cities, like Fort Collins, Colorado are laid out in a nice grid pattern, but others like Morgantown are twisty. What kind will you choose?

New Words to Learn for This Side of Magic

Chapter 1

forbidden  
amethyst

protection  
nosiest

definitely

Chapters 2 and 3

suspicion  
frantically  
mangy

tutu  
armadillo  
ogre

documented  
blackmail

Chapters 4 and 5

opposable  
bracelet  
bucktoothed

bonnet  
refrigerator  
slinked

thorny  
album

Chapter 6 and 7

frenzy  
collection  
calculator

shrouded  
shrieked  
civilizations

professional  
glistening  
obviously

Chapter 8

ancestors  
generation

realm  
curdles  
apprentices

bauble  
eliminates  
chameleons

## **This Side of Magic**

### Chapters 9 and 10

enormous

ceremony

pleasantries

nymphs

engulfed

instinctively

### Chapter 11

hiccupped

forsythia

emerged

invisibility



## **This Side of Magic**

### **This Side of Magic**

#### Fun ways to Learn Vocabulary Words

1. Print out enough copies of the Keyholder sign on page three for each spelling word. As each chapter is introduced, write that section's words on a sign and display them in the room. It is best to display only a few new words at a time so as to not overwhelm students.
2. Students could design their own fabulous keys to magic worlds in the included activity.
3. Do the noun, verb, adverb, or adjective game. Have students write the day's words on slips of paper. Divide into two teams. As quickly as they can have each team put the slips into one of four buckets (or baskets or cups) marked with noun, verb, adverb, or adjective. (Each team needs to have their own four cups.) At the end, call out each word on each slip quickly. Let students tell if they are right or wrong. The team with the most correct gets a treat or privilege.
4. Write the silliest story you can with some of the vocabulary words. It must be silly or it doesn't count!
5. Draw a picture of a magic creature. On its body, hide today's vocabulary words. See if your neighbor can find the words.
6. Clap out the syllables for each word, letting students volunteer to help.
7. Play the Fast Dictionary Game. Using a set of dictionaries, display a word and see who can find it the fastest. Whoever finds the word first, gets to read the definition and gets to pick the next word to look up.

**This Side of Magic**

This Side of Magic  
Chapter One

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Leery gave Penny and Jeff birthday presents. What was the best birthday present you ever received? Now, complete a bar graph by finding out what the rest of your class thought was their best present ever. An example is below.

My best present: \_\_\_\_\_

My friend's best presents: \_\_\_\_\_

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Now make your own bar graph in the space below based on what you found out from your classmates.

## This Side of Magic

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Design your own fabulous key to a magical world. Is it an old-fashioned key or very modern? Below, choose two vocabulary words to define.

1. Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use the word in a new, exciting sentence of your own:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use the word in a new, exciting sentence of your own:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## This Side of Magic

### Chapter 2

Math review: Luke loves to play basketball in **This Side of Magic** by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Jones. In the game of basketball, score is kept by counting by twos. Fill in the spaces below and help Luke score!

\_\_\_\_, 4, \_\_\_\_, 8, 10, \_\_\_\_, 14, \_\_\_\_, 18, 20, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, 28, \_\_\_\_\_,  
32, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 40, 42, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 48, 50, \_\_\_\_\_, 54, \_\_\_\_\_

Now, use  $<$ ,  $>$ , or  $=$  to show who has the winning score, Luke or Alex. (The point should always go toward the smaller number.)

(Luke) 26 \_\_\_\_ 44 (Alex)

(Luke) 6 \_\_\_\_ 4 (Alex)

(Luke) 16 \_\_\_\_ 14 (Alex)

(Luke) 20 \_\_\_\_ 24 (Alex)

(Luke) 10 \_\_\_\_ 32 (Alex)

(Luke) 8 \_\_\_\_ 8 (Alex)

(Luke) 38 \_\_\_\_ 36 (Alex)

(Luke) 14 \_\_\_\_ 41 (Alex)

In multiplication, the two times table is a fast way of counting by twos. Practice multiplying by two below.

$2 \times 2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $2 \times 9 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $2 \times 3 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $2 \times 0 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $2 \times 6 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$2 \times 8 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $2 \times 1 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $2 \times 5 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $2 \times 4 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $2 \times 7 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

While playing in Luke's yard, Penny threw the ball six times, but she missed twice. Luke threw the ball five times, but missed once. Who won? \_\_\_\_\_

In a rematch, Luke made seven baskets and Penny made three. What were their scores? Luke \_\_\_\_\_ Penny \_\_\_\_\_

Who won? \_\_\_\_\_

## This Side of Magic

Answer key for Chapter Two Math

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30,  
32, 34, 36, 36, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56

Now, use  $<$ ,  $>$ , or  $=$  to show who has the winning score, Luke or Alex.

(Luke)  $26 < 44$  (Alex)

(Luke)  $6 > 4$  (Alex)

(Luke)  $16 < 14$  (Alex)

(Luke)  $20 < 24$  (Alex)

(Luke)  $10 < 32$  (Alex)

(Luke)  $8 = 8$  (Alex)

(Luke)  $38 > 36$  (Alex)

(Luke)  $14 < 41$  (Alex)

In multiplication, the two times table is a fast way of counting by twos. Practice multiplying by two below.

$2 \times 2 = 4$      $2 \times 9 = 18$      $2 \times 3 = 6$      $2 \times 0 = 0$      $2 \times 6 = 12$

$2 \times 8 = 16$      $2 \times 1 = 2$      $2 \times 5 = 10$      $2 \times 4 = 8$      $2 \times 7 = 14$

While playing in Luke's yard, Penny threw the ball six times, but she missed twice. Luke threw the ball five times, but missed once. Who won? \_\_\_\_\_ they tied \_\_\_\_\_

In a rematch, Luke made seven baskets and Penny made three. What were their scores? Luke 14 Penny 6

Who won? \_\_\_\_\_ Luke \_\_\_\_\_

## **This Side of Magic**

### Chapter 3

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In **This Side of Magic** by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Jones, Natalie keeps a spy notebook. Today, pretend you are a spy. What do you notice about your surroundings? Spies, as well as reporters, must watch carefully to observe the 5 Ws and I H. They are:

who      what      when      where      why      how

Look around your classroom, lunchroom, or playground today. Pretend you are Natalie and are looking for suspicious things. Write down anything unusual. If you can't find anything, be like Natalie and make it up! Don't forget to put down who is involved, what is happening, when it is happening, where it is happening, why it is happening, and how it is happening. An example might be a visitor to your school. Perhaps he is really a boggart!

*Caution: Be careful of what you say! It will get Natalie into trouble some day and it might get you too!*

# This Side of Magic

## Chapter 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In **This Side of Magic** by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones, Mo is a very unusual cat. But in fact, there are many unusual animals in this world. Use the Internet or a research book to help you find out about four other animals. Tell two facts about each animal.

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## **This Side of Magic**

Chapter 5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Character Web

Choose one character from **This Side of Magic** and make your own character web in the space below. For extra credit, try a second web on the back. When you make your own stories, make your own character webs to get you started.



## **This Side of Magic**

Chapter 6:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Who Did it?**

Read chapters one through six of **This Side of Magic** by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Jones. Decide which character did what is in each square below and write their name below the question.

Who wore a tutu?

Who dropped a bracelet?

Who keeps a pink notebook?

Who is a fast runner?

Whose father is a judge?

Who got dressed up like a baby?

Who likes basketball?

Who lives in a very old house?

Who gets bit by a thorn?

Who has a friend die?

Who likes history?  
(there can be three answers  
here)

Who can talk, but isn't  
supposed to?

## **This Side of Magic**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Characters are important. Create a character below by filling in the blanks. You might like your character so much you choose to write a story about them on the back.

Character's name: \_\_\_\_\_

What do they wear? \_\_\_\_\_

Name some of their friends. \_\_\_\_\_

What does their bedroom look like? \_\_\_\_\_

What is their favorite book? \_\_\_\_\_

What is their favorite sport? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of their school? \_\_\_\_\_

## This Side of Magic

## Who Did it? Answer Key

Read chapters one through six of **This Side of Magic** by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Jones. Decide which character did what is in each square below and write their name below the question.

Who wore a tutu?

Bobby

Who dropped a bracelet?

Luke

Who keeps a pink notebook?

Natalie

Who is a fast runner?

Penny

Whose father is a judge?

Natalie

Who got dressed up like a baby?

Mo

Who likes basketball?

Luke

Who lives in a very old house?

Mr. Leery

Who gets bit by a thorn?

Luke

Who has a friend die?

Mr. Leery

Who likes history?  
(there can be three answers  
here)

Mr. Leery, Mr. Crandle, and  
Penny's grandmother

Who can talk, but isn't  
supposed to?

Mo

## **This Side of Magic**

Chapter 7:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Fact or Fiction?**

Mo is an unusual cat. Read the sentences about cats below and put an x by each sentence that is fiction or make-believe or untrue. Did you guess correctly? Your class can discuss the answers.

Cats are mammals with a backbone.

Cats and dogs speak the same language.

Cats are mammals with hooves. They use their hooves to climb up trees.

In ancient Egypt cats were the most respected of all animals, for they helped to keep down the rats that attacked their grain.

The domestic cat belongs to the same family of animals as the lion, tiger, jaguar, and leopard. (Animals that are kept as pets are domestic.)

Cats hibernate during the winter. Hibernate means to sleep.

The largest member of the cat family is the tiger.

The male lion has a long shaggy head mane.

Cats build nests in trees of sticks and leaves for their kittens.

Write one true (non-fiction) sentence about cats on the back of this paper. Write one untrue (fiction) sentence about cats on the back. Can your friends guess which is made-up?

## **This Side of Magic**

Chapter 7:

### **Fact or Fiction ANSWER KEY**

Mo is an unusual cat. Read the sentences about cats below and put an x by each sentence that is fiction or make-believe or untrue. Did you guess correctly? Your class can discuss the answers.

Cats are mammals with a backbone.

**X** Cats and dogs speak the same language.

**X** Cats are mammals with hooves. They use their hooves to climb up trees.

In ancient Egypt cats were the most respected of all animals, for they helped to keep down the rats that attacked their grain.

The domestic cat belongs to the same family of animals as the lion, tiger, jaguar, and leopard. (Animals that are kept as pets are domestic.)

**X** Cats hibernate during the winter. Hibernate means to sleep.

The largest member of the cat family is the tiger.

The male lion has a long shaggy head mane.

**X** Cats build nests in trees of sticks and leaves for their kittens.

Write one true (non-fiction) sentence about cats on the back of this paper. Write one untrue (fiction or made-up) sentence about cats on the back. Can your friends guess which is made-up?

## This Side of Magic

Chapter 8:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

“Where do you think fairy tales came from?” Mr. Leery asked. “Those same stories are based on tales passed down from generation to generation, told by ancestors who once lived side by side with the magical realm.”

What does the word ancestor mean?

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What is a generation?

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For homework, ask someone you know to tell you a story about something that happened to them when they were younger. Write it down below. Who knows, it might just turn into a fairy tale for children hundreds of years from now. Use the back if you need more room.

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## This Side of Magic

Chapter 10:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one of the creatures from chapter 10. Find out five interesting legends or beliefs about the make-believe creatures from your library or from the Internet. List them below. Use those five 'facts' to make a short presentation about your creature. You might want to dress in costume or draw a picture of your creature, or make a Powerpoint program to help your presentation. Some helpful presentation tips are noted in a box below.

Chapter Ten creatures:

Elves  
Fairies  
Centaur  
Genie  
Phoenix  
Unicorn  
Dragon  
nymphs

Presentation tips:

Tell what your presentation is about at the beginning and at the end.  
Speak loudly and clearly  
Speak slowly  
Any presentation materials should be large enough for all to see.  
Act confident (if you act like you know what you're talking about people will believe you!)

List your five 'facts' below. Note: they aren't really facts because the creatures are make-believe!

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_



# This Side of Magic

Chapter 11:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

In **This Side of Magic**, Penny gets a unicorn for her link, Luke gets a dragon, and Natalie gets a rat! If you were a Keyholder, what creature would you like to get for a link? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

Circle the facts that you think are true about rats.

- An adult rat can squeeze through a hole as small as the size of a quarter.
- Most rats die before they are one year old.
- Rats have really strong teeth. They are so strong, they can chew through cardboard boxes, cinderblock, electrical wires, aluminum and lead.
- Rats use the senses of smell, taste, touch and sound to find food.
- Rats spread the Bubonic Plague many years ago. Known as the "Black Death" it killed many people. The fleas on the rats actually infected humans, but the fleas got the disease from the rat's blood.
- Rats from pet stores can learn tricks like walking on a tight rope.

Use the facts above (they are all true) to answer these questions about rats.

1. True or false, rats are known to carry disease. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name two ways rats can find food.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. True or false, rats often live to be twenty years old. \_\_\_\_\_

4. True or false, rats can cause electrical fires. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Cardboard boxes stored outside are safe from rats as long as the lids are closed. True or false?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Pet rats are very smart and can learn tricks. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_

## **This Side of Magic**

### Chapter 11 Answer Key

All facts should be circled.

1. True
2. Smell, taste, touch, or sound
3. False
4. True, by chewing wires
5. False
6. true