



Title: The Visitors

Author: Greg Howard

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Age Range*: 10 Up

Grade Range: Gr 5 Up
(Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK RESUME: THE VISITORS

BOOK SYNOPSIS

From the author of *The Whispers* comes a heartrending tale of friendship, hard-won truths, and the healing power of forgiveness. A lonely twelve-year-old boy spends his days “stuck” at the deserted Hollow Pines Plantation in Georgetown, South Carolina with no recollection of his name, how long he’s been there, and no idea how to leave. Things never change much for the lost souls at Hollow Pines and time is strange when you’re dead. But when visitors from the living world arrive for the first time in a *long* while, the boy feels a spark of hope. These visitors are around his age, and they seem to understand more than others that the plantation is not just spooky or eerie, it’s a sad place where the unspeakable happened again and again. And if these kids could understand the truth about Hollow Pines, maybe they could help him uncover the dark secrets of his past and help him find a way to finally move on. But Hollow Pines doesn’t like visitors. And with a malevolent spirit lurking in the shadows and painful memories buried deep, and for good reason, the boy wonders if he’ll ever find his way home or be stuck at Hollow Pines forever.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Howard’s intriguing novel . . . is smoothly written, the characters are appealing, and some surprises keep the plot percolating. A ghost story of substance.”
—*Booklist*

“Howard’s fourth novel is ambitious in form and quite successful in that regard; the perspective shifts between the first-person ghost in the present day and a third-person story about a White boy named Will Perkins, bullied for his same-sex attraction by his father, former best friend, and other classmates. There’s a bit of mystery about who the narrator is as well as an interesting—and heartbreaking—twist. . . An atmospheric reckoning with the past and present, heavy but rewarding.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Author Greg Howard deals compassionately with tough issues like racism, homophobia, and bias, both individual and systemic, but manages to avoid preachiness and weave lessons from both history and today into a compelling, atmospheric, and original tale. . . While the story deals with intense issues, the ending offers an uplift of hope.”—*Mombian*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A New York Public Library Best Book Pick
- A CBC Librarian Favorites Award Selection

Updated 3.30.2026

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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