



THE NINJA CLUB SLEEPOVER

ACTIVITY GUIDE

Willa and her best friends love ninjas. They have matching ninja backpacks and ninja t-shirts, and at school they even form a ninja club. But Willa has a secret: she's a werewolf! Worried that no one will understand, she hides the truth from her friends. Until her friend Val has a sleepover for her birthday . . . and it's on the night of the full moon.

Willa is overcome with nerves. When an accident reveals that her friends were hiding secrets too, she realizes maybe it's not so important to be a normal ninja. After all, a paranormal ninja can do so many cool things!

Join three remarkable friends as they discover that ALL of us are weird in our own special ways. Lovable and lively illustrations accompany this charming story that explores facing your fears and fitting in, encouraging readers to celebrate their true selves.

With these games to play with friends and writing prompts and projects to do on your own, practice your ninja skills, embrace your own unique qualities, explore the (super) natural world, and have a ton of fun!

LAURA GEHL is the author of popular picture books, including *One Big Pair of Underwear* (Beach Lane) and the *Peep and Egg* series (FSG/Macmillan). Laura is not a fan of sleepovers, but she does love naps. She lives with her husband, four kids, and large stash of dark chocolate in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

MACKENZIE HALEY is an illustrator, runner, and cat whisperer who currently resides in Louisville, KY. She has completed two full marathons (slowly), fostered about twelve cats (not at the same time), and received her BFA in illustration from the University of Dayton.

WRITE ABOUT IT!

Choose one of the following prompts and write a paragraph or share your story with a friend or parent:

a) Author Laura Gehl wrote this book to remind kids that ALL of us are weird in our own special ways. What makes YOU weird?

b) Have you ever had a secret that your friends didn't know? Did you worry they wouldn't like you anymore if they knew your secret? Did your friends ever find out? What happened?



c) Have you ever found out a secret about a friend? Did your friend tell you, or did you find out another way? Did your feelings about your friend change when you found out the secret?

d) Which would YOU want to be—a vampire, a fairy, or a werewolf? Why?

e) Many kids are nervous about going to a sleepover for the first time. Have you been to a sleepover? Write about your first sleepover or about something else you did for the first time. Were you scared? How did you get over your fear?

f) Willa and her friends play ninja club at school. If you were going to start a club at your school, what club would you want to start? Why? Write about the club you would want to start, or make a poster for your imaginary club.



I AM A NINJA, AND NINJAS ARE BRAVE!

TURN A ROOM INTO A NINJA MAZE!

With crepe paper or painter's tape, make a ninja course in a room in your house (with parent permission, of course!). Tape from sofa to sofa, from tables to the wall, etc. so that there are pieces of tape (or crepe paper) that people must step over and crawl under.



IN THE DARK, NINJAS NEED TO USE THEIR SENSE OF HEARING. CAN YOU?

This is a great party game! Blindfold one person at a time. Another person will approach the blindfolded person and say “Hi _____” in a normal voice (no disguising voices allowed!). If the blindfolded ninja correctly guesses who spoke, the speaking person then becomes the next blindfolded ninja.

PHASES OF THE MOON

Werewolves turn from human form into wolf form when there is a full moon. When is the moon full where you live? For one month, look outside each night and draw the shape of the moon. How long does it take for the moon to change from a full moon to a crescent moon to a new moon (when you can't see the moon at all) and back to a full moon again?

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7
DAY 8	DAY 9	DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12	DAY 13	DAY 14
DAY 15	DAY 16	DAY 17	DAY 18	DAY 19	DAY 20	DAY 21
DAY 22	DAY 23	DAY 24	DAY 25	DAY 26	DAY 27	DAY 28
DAY 29	DAY 30	DAY 31				