



The Fifolet

*Written by Johnette Downing
Illustrated by Jennifer Lindsley*

Book Activity Packet

About the Book

A tale of trickery and greed, pirogues and buried treasure, will o' the wisps and dancing light—*The Fifolet* tells of a fire sprite who exists all over the globe. But nowhere does the sprite burn as bright as in the black swamps of Cajun bayou. Legend says if you see a fifolet, a blue flame of light, you may just disappear. Where do you go? Nobody knows—nobody except maybe Jean Paul Pierre.

Product Details

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31 color illustrations Ages 5-8 Grades K-3

Price: \$16.99



About the Author

Johnette Downing is an award-winning and internationally recognized singer and songwriter. Her many accolades include eight Parents' Choice Awards, four iParenting Media Awards, and four National Parenting Publication Awards. She wrote and/or illustrated *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Bugs*, *Why the Crawfish Lives in the Mud*, *How to Dress a Po' Boy*, *Why the Oyster Has the Pearl*, *Why the Possum Has a Large Grin*, *Macarooned on a Dessert Island*, and other Pelican titles. Downing holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre degree, and lives in New Orleans, Louisiana with her husband.

About the Illustrator

Jennifer Lindsley is an artist, illustrator, and art instructor based in Louisiana. She earned her associate of arts degree in acting from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and her Bachelor of Arts degree in design technology from the University of Northern Colorado. She is the proprietor of ACME Studios, LLC, in New Orleans, Louisiana. She teaches children and adults the basics of art technique and instructs them to apply specific skills to a variety of media. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Reviews

"Johnette Downing thinks like a kid but writes like a magician. This Cajun tall tale is a little bit scary and a lot of fun."

— **Julie Kane, former Louisiana Poet Laureate**

"South Louisiana breathes ambiance and history, and Johnette Downing brings to life one of the most colorful myths surrounding Cajun culture, the fifolet, those pesky swamp gases that inspire great legends. As usual, Downing does it with charm, style and down-home fun."

— **Cheré Coen, Lafayette Daily Advertiser**

"The Fifolet is a great, spooky story steeped in Cajun folklore but told in typical Johnette Downing fashion—just silly enough to not give you nightmares!"

— **Bree Sargent, education director, Acadiana Center for the Arts**

“Used by both teachers and parents at home, Johnette Downing’s books are such a delight! This one will be especially appealing in teaching about folktales and superstitions. I always look forward to her upcoming titles.”

— **Kathy Mulloy, Head of Programming, Lafayette Public Library System**

“Johnette Downing has penned a delightful children’s book involving those pesky swamp gases that have inspired numerous legends. In “The Fifolet,” swamp lights attract fishermen Jean-Paul Pierre Downing into the swamps in the hope of finding treasure, but they are not what they seem.”

-**Chere Coen, The News Star**

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Contents:

Coloring Sheets

Paper Plate Craft

Treasure Hunt and Fifolet Template

Book Club Discussion Questions





A Stuffed Paper Plate Fifolet

By Johnette Downing

Supplies

2 paper plates
Cotton balls
Stapler and staples
Markers

Directions:

1. Draw and color the image of the Fifolet on the backsides of two paper plates.
2. Place the paper plates together so that both backsides are facing out. This will give you a pouch on the inside.
3. Staple around the edges of the paper plate leaving the topside open.
4. Using the topside opening, fill the paper plate pouch with cotton balls so that the plates create a soft creature, like a stuffed animal.
5. Staple the topside opening of the plates to seal the cotton balls inside the two plates.
6. Presto! Now you have a stuffed Fifolet.



Treasure Hunt

Wherever you see a Fifolet, treasures exist!

By Johnette Downing

Supplies:

- 1 small wooden or tin treasure chest
- 1 or more packages of chocolate coins (depending upon the number of children)
- Scissors
- Removable Glue Dots

Directions:

1. Fill the treasure chest with the chocolate coins.
2. Using the Fifolet template cut out the Fifolets into individual rectangles. (Duplicate the template if desired depending upon the number of children)
3. Place glue dots on the backs of the rectangles.
4. Hide the Fifolets around the room by affixing them to walls, bookshelves, etc.
5. Explain to the children that when they find a Fifolet, a treasure exists.
6. Ask children to find the hidden Fifolets.
7. When children find a Fifolet, they may open the treasure chest and get a treasure.
8. Play the game until each child has found a Fifolet and has received a treasure.
9. For added fun, change the contents of the treasure chest to include different types of treasures such as free choice of activities, extra recess time, healthy snacks, etc.

Treasure Hunt

Fifolet Template





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Book Discussion Questions

1. Jean Paul fishes every day and night, brings home nets of fish, but shares them with no one. How much is enough?
2. As humans, do we have a moral obligation to share? Why or why not?
3. Jean Paul hungers for more fish. What do you think he does with nets full of fish every day that he cannot possibly eat?
4. What constitutes a treasure?
5. Jean Paul seems to have everything he needs – food, shelter, transportation and clothing. What treasure does he hope to find when he gets back into the boat to find the *Fifolet* the second time?
6. Does the *Fifolet* entice Jean-Paul or vice versa? Why?
7. When have you been greedy and what were you trying to gain?
8. When do you trust your gut instincts? When do you not?
9. Jean Paul becomes a *Fifolet*. Will he entice others? Why or why not?
10. A *fifolet* is depicted in cultures around the world as a ball of light or as a person or spirit carrying a lantern of light. In the beginning of the book, Jean Paul is depicted by the illustrator as a man carrying a lantern of light. What is the illustrator trying to say about Jean Paul?
11. Why do humans often attribute supernatural powers to natural phenomena?
12. What is a superstition?
13. What is the role of superstitions in modeling human behavior?