SMALLTOWN TALES EPISODE: The Skull at Oak Point Park **Young Adult Fiction**

STORY: Tammy rushed out the door with her little dog, Chaucer. She was excited for a picnic at Oak Point Park with her friends Fred, Dawn, and their kids, Carrie and Benito. On the way, she stopped at Crusty's to get a big box of their yummy spaghetti. She got to the park early to save a table. Since she couldn't hold both Chaucer and the food, she let Chaucer run around while she set things up.

Soon, Fred and his family arrived. The kids ran off to play with Chaucer. But just a few minutes later, everyone heard Carrie scream. They ran toward the trees and saw Chaucer pulling at something strange. It looked like a skull! While the grown-ups were busy, Benito secretly took one of the teeth and put it in his pocket.

Later, the town's doctor, Jennifer Bouker, looked at the skull and said it was very old and very big. "This must have come from someone who was over 8 feet tall!" she said. People in town started talking about old stories again—like one from the 1800s about a farmer who found a big skull too. A few days after that, the farmer died, and the skull was never seen again. Some say it was cursed.

Police put tape around the spot in the park to keep people away. Tammy and her friends stood there, shocked. Was this an old bone from a real giant... or a warning to leave old secrets alone?

THE CHARACTERS:



She doesn't really believe the skull is real. She wants to sell the park to Bratt Industries so the city can make more money.

Mayor Misha Harris



Carrie loves being outdoors and exploring nature. She often digs around her ranch looking for Native American artifacts.

Carrie Kneuw



Fred owns a big horse ranch nearby. His kids, Benito and Carrie, love riding horses and going on adventures around the town and the ranch.

Fred Kneuw



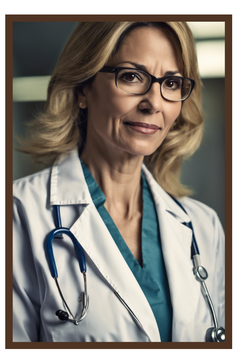
Benito took a tooth from the skull and hid it. Now he wonders... is the story about the curse real? Will spooky things happen to him and his family?

Benito Kneuw



She teaches history and old things like bones and tools at the high school. She dreams of opening a museum in town to show and teach about Native American culture.

Tammy Tran



Dr. Dawn, the town's doctor who also loves to study old things like bones and fossils, thinks the skull is real. But she's not sure if she should tell everyone just yet.

Dr. Dawn

THE SETTINGS:



It's a school with over 600 kids. They just won a big contest about digging up old things, like bones and fossils..

Middle School



The park is the town's favorite picnic spot. Long ago, people from the past lived there.

Oak Point Park



It's a fun place where locals hang out. The back rooms are open for everyone to hear what's happening in town.

Crusty's



The Kneuw Family Horse Park is very important to the people and town leaders.

Kneuw Horse Park



Bratt Industries is the town's biggest boss, giving jobs to lots of people. They want to buy Oak Point Park.

Bratt Industries



City Hall is the place where the town leaders work and where important rules are made.

Courthouse & City Hall

Group's Win Conditions:

■ Choose one character, one activity, and one place card for each part of your story. Don't use the same ones twice; ■ Use the ideas on the story cards to help tell your story; ■ Follow the tips on the Plot card to keep your story strong; ■ Work together and add to each other's parts so your story makes sense.

Everyone makes two parts of the story:

■ Pick who goes first; ■ Taking turns in a circle, each person says their part and writes it down. Everyone will make two parts. ■ You have 35 minutes to make a story with six parts.