

# CP Biology/ BioMed Biology Summer Reading Assignment

## Skeptic's Guide to the Paranormal by Lynne Kelly

- ❖ Paperback: 272 pages
- ❖ Publisher: Basic Books; 1st Thunder's Mouth Press Ed edition (March 25, 2005)
- ❖ ISBN-10: 1560257113
- ❖ ISBN-13: 978-1560257110
- ❖ Or you may read it online for free at:

<https://epdf.tips/the-skeptics-guide-to-the-paranormal0c869d7537c753583114dd5f95cf329b29834.html>

### Summary:

The Skeptic's Guide to the Paranormal describes some of the best known paranormal claims and the explanations which can be offered to explain what is weird and wonderful. The book does not scoff at or ridicule believers – but rather explores in matter of fact language what is commonly believed, the various theories that have been put forward to explain the phenomenon and, finally, the scientific explanation. What is obvious in every chapter is that Ms Kelly has not jumped to any conclusions, but has instead kept an open mind and approached the issues scientifically. From fire walking, to spoon bending, ghostly apparitions, and Yetis, she explores all the available evidence in detail.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Briefly summarize paranormal claims of interest presented in the book
- Assess the believability of the claim by outlining arguments **both for and against** the paranormal claim using evidence presented in the reading and possibly online
- Use their own **evidence-based critical thinking/reasoning skills** to argue why they believe or disbelieve the paranormal claim

### Your Mission:

- \* Read “**Skeptic's Guide to the Paranormal**” – Yes, the whole book!
- \* Choose the **three chapters** that you find most interesting and complete a Claim – Evidence – Reasoning sheet for **each** chapter. (See format below. Use this format for each of your Claim-Evidence-Reasoning sheets)
- \* Be prepared for a class discussion on the book.

**Skeptic's Guide Assignment Rubric:** This rubric outlines the learning objectives and expectations for this assignment. This assignment will count as your first graded assignment of the semester. It will be 25 pts of a test/major assignment grade.

<b><u>Component</u></b> <b><u>5 pts each</u></b>	<b><u>Not Yet...</u></b> Evidence of not quite reaching the objective	<b><u>Learning Objective</u></b> Standards for performance	<b><u>Wow!</u></b> Evidence of going beyond the learning objective
<b>Topic Summaries</b>		Summary of paranormal phenomena are brief but complete and accurate	
<b>Claims</b>		Claims are worded correctly and completely	
<b>Evidence</b>		Provides appropriate and sufficient evidence to both support and refute claims	
<b>Reasoning</b>		The supporting evidence is tied to the student's claims and is scientifically accurate	
<b>Neatness, organization, spelling/grammar</b>		The assignment is neat, properly organized, with few spelling and/or grammar mistakes.	

**Teacher Comments:**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Paranormal Phenomenon (Chapter Title):**

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**Brief Summary of Paranormal Topic:**

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**Your Claim:**

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*What conclusion can you make about the original paranormal phenomenon?*

Example: Crop circles are real paranormal phenomena **OR** Crop circles are not real paranormal phenomena

**Evidence:**

*What evidence did you find in the chapter to support and refute the paranormal claim? You must have at least three pieces of evidence in each column. Use a numbered list here.*

Evidence **FOR** the phenomena

Evidence **AGAINST** the phenomena

