Year 8 Revision Checklist: The Graveyard Book (Chapters 1–3, Focus: Pages 70–73)

1. Learn the Key Events

Make sure you can explain:

- What happens when Bod encounters the ghouls on pages 70–73.
- Who the ghouls are and the noble titles/names they give themselves.
- Where the ghouls claim to come from and what they say about Ghulheim.
- Why Silas leaves the graveyard and who is left in charge of Bod (Miss Lupescu).
- How Bod feels about Miss Lupescu's lessons and Silas's absence.
- How the ghouls persuade Bod to step through the ghoul-gate.
- What the ghoul-gate is and where it leads.
- How Bod's hurt pride and feelings of neglect influence his decisions.

2. Know the Important Characters

Revise:

- **Nobody "Bod" Owens**
    - His feelings about Silas leaving and being left with Miss Lupescu.
    - Why he is so easily persuaded by the ghouls on pages 70–73.
    - How his desire for appreciation and adventure leads to poor choices.
- **The Ghouls (The Bishop of Bath and Wells, The Duke of Westminster, The Honourable Archibald Fitzhugh, etc.)**
    - How they speak, move, and present themselves to Bod.
    - How Gaiman makes them seem both terrifying and strangely appealing/flattering.
    - Their true nature vs. the promises they make to Bod.
- **Silas & Miss Lupescu**
    - Silas's role as Bod's guardian and mentor.
    - How Silas's departure impacts Bod's emotional state.
    - How Bod's resentment toward Miss Lupescu sets up the events at the ghoul-gate.

3. Key Vocabulary

Be able to define and use:

- **Guttural**
- **Skittered / Scuttled**
- **Chattered**
- **Wasteland**
- **Abomination**
- **Ghoul-gate**

You may be asked to find meanings from the text or define these words based on context.

4. Important Quotations

Revise these and what they reveal:

- Descriptions of how the ghouls move and speak (e.g., words like *"skittered"*, *"chattered"*, or *"guttural"*).
- Descriptions of the ghoul-gate and the city of Ghulheim on pages 71–73.
- The flattering phrases and promises the ghouls use to coax Bod.
- Key lines showing Bod's feelings of loneliness, anger, or resentment about Silas leaving.

5. Themes to Revise

- **Temptation and Deception**
    - How the ghouls use flattery to trick Bod into danger.
- **Belonging, Rebellion, and Isolation**
    - How Bod's feeling of being unappreciated leads him to seek validation from strangers.
- **Safety vs. Danger (The Graveyard vs. Ghulheim)**
    - The contrast between the protective environment of the graveyard and the threat of the wasteland.
- **Trust and Guardianship**
    - The impact of Silas leaving and Bod's reaction to authority figures like Miss Lupescu.

6. Inference Questions Practice

Be prepared to explain:

- Why Bod is so easily convinced by the ghouls on pages 70–73.
- How Neil Gaiman makes the ghouls seem both scary and appealing.
- How Silas leaving affects Bod's feelings and his choice to enter the ghoul-gate.
- What Bod's choices reveal about his maturity level at this point in the novel.
- How Gaiman creates tension leading up to Bod stepping through the ghoul-gate.

7. Language & Structural Analysis Practice

When analysing a quote or dramatic sequence, ask:

- **WHAT?**
    - What is happening in this section of text?
- **HOW?**
    - What words, sensory details (sight, sound, smell), or dramatic verbs has Gaiman used?
    - How does he manipulate narrative structure and pacing to build suspense?
- **WHY?**
    - Why has he used these choices? What effect do they have on the reader (creating disgust, dread, or tension)?

Night Before the Test: Quick 10-Minute Revision

- ✅ Learn who the main ghouls are and where they want to take Bod.
- ✅ Memorise what the word **"guttural"** means and key verbs describing the ghouls (e.g., *skittered*, *scuttled*, *chattered*).
- ✅ Revise why Bod is angry/lonely enough to trust the ghouls.
- ✅ Pick **2 sensory descriptions** of Ghulheim / the ghoul-gate to practise language analysis.
- ✅ Practise one paragraph explaining how Gaiman creates tension leading up to the ghoul-gate using specific action/dramatic verbs.
- ✅ Remember the **WHAT-HOW-WHY** structure for longer analysis answers.

Top Tip: Most of the marks come from explaining **why** characters feel or act a certain way and supporting your ideas with **specific quotations and language analysis**, not just retelling the plot!