

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

# IN 27 DAYS

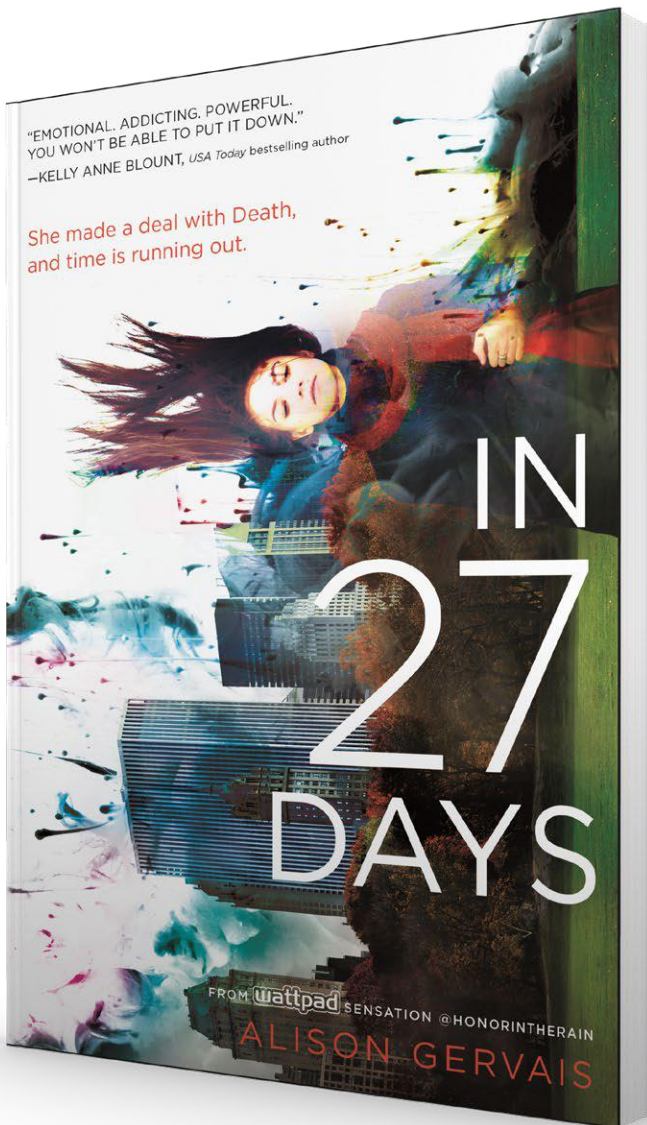
By Alison Gervais





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From award-winning Wattpad author Alison Gervais (@HonorInTheRain) comes *In 27 Days*, a story of redemption, first love, and the strength it takes to change the future.

Hadley Jamison is shocked when she hears that her classmate, Archer Morales, has committed suicide. She didn't know the quiet, reserved guy very well, but that doesn't stop her from feeling there was something she could have done to help him. Hoping to find some sense of closure, Hadley attends Archer's funeral. There, Hadley is approached by a man who calls himself Death and offers her a deal. If Hadley accepts, she will be sent back twenty-seven days in time to prevent Archer from killing himself. But when Hadley agrees to Death's terms and goes back to right the past, she quickly learns her mission is harder than she ever could have known.

Hadley soon discovers Archer's reasons for being alone, and Archer realizes that having someone to confide in isn't as bad as he'd always thought. But when a series of dangerous accidents starts pushing them apart, Hadley must decide whether she is ready to risk everything—including her life—to keep Archer safe.



Watty Award-winning author Alison Gervais has been writing for as long as she can remember. In 2011, she began posting her work on Wattpad.com and has been active on the site ever since. If she's not writing, she can be found re-reading *Harry Potter*, watching *Supernatural*, or trying to win the affection of her two cats, Kovu and Rocket.

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## *In 27 Days* Educator's Guide

Created by Kathryn Elise Barnett, a high school English teacher with a BA of English from the University of Georgia and a MA of Secondary English Education from Piedmont College.

### PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Before reading the novel, discuss these questions with your students. It may be helpful to have your students record their thoughts in order to allow them to reflect when they finish reading the novel.

1. Research the mythological creature Death. Summarize what you learn about how he came to be and what he is able to do.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4]

2. Research the mythological creature Havoc and contrast the powers of Havoc to those of Death.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4]

3. Define elements of suspense.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.4]

4. Define elements of tension.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.4]

5. Distinguish first person perspective, second person perspective, third person perspective, and third person omniscient perspective.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.4]

### POST-READING QUESTIONS

After reading the novel, discuss these questions with your students. If you had your students record their responses to the pre-reading questions, then have them review their responses and respond to the following post-reading questions on the same sheet of paper.

1. Discuss the impact Hadley has on Archer.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1]

2. Describe how the characters in the novel balance each other. Hadley balances Archer, just as the robust nature of Archer's family balances the reserved manners of Hadley's family.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1]

3. Discuss how balance is a central idea in the story.

Consider Death's warning to Hadley that there are forces who will not be happy with her inference and the revenge Havoc intends to exact for her actions.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.5]

4. Contrast the embodiments of Death and Havoc in the story to those described in your research.

• [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.5]

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5. Explain why you think Havoc is specifically described as an attractive man. Consider the symbolism of his embodiment.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.5]

6. Discuss the reasons Archer may have initially wanted to commit suicide.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1]

7. Discuss how Hadley's life changes upon getting to know Archer.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1]

8. Debate whose life changes more after Hadley agrees to the deal with Death; Hadley's or Archer's.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1]

9. Brainstorm a list of themes represented in the novel. Share your list with a partner, and provide specific text evidence to support each theme.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.5]

10. Describe how the point of view of the narrator impacts your reading of the novel.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.6; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.5]

11. Identify moments in the story that build tension for the reader. Explain how those moments of tension relate to suspense in the novel.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.5; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.5]

12. Mentally separate the novel into three sections - Chapters 1-3 | Chapters 4-20 | Chapters 21-34. Describe the shifts in tone from section to section giving text evidence to support your claims.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.5]

## ACTIVITIES

Students may complete the following activities while reading or after reading the novel.

1. Maintain your own journal while reading the novel recording your reactions to each day of reading. Consider whether the characters and events remind you of your own experiences or those of friends. Discuss the way you feel about what you are reading.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.1]

2. Create a chart representing the balance you find in the world around you. Consider such ideas as people's personalities complementing each other and nature has balances through the seasons.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.1]

3. Write a chapter of the novel from Archer's perspective.

- [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.1; RL.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.1]

