

# Feu Follets in Crowley

by

Catherine Cramer

# Dedication

I dedicate this story to the many teachers who influenced my life. Thank you for being one of the many reasons that I decided to become a teacher. I am grateful to you for the kindness you showed and the way you influenced me to be a better person. Also, to my future students, you are the reason that I have come so far. I am excited to meet all of you and to watch you grow.



## Author's Purpose

The purpose of this story is to support early literacy for young children and to align ELA content to Louisiana Believes Social Studies standards.

This story is an original work of historical fiction in Louisiana folklore. Children from grades 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> can read and learn from stories. The work is humorous and problem-solving. The story showcases teamwork, children working together to achieve a goal.

# Feu Follets in Crowley



Once upon a time in south Crowley Cemetery there was a group of children playing. It was quiet, late one night when the children saw balls of blue fire that were illuminating all around the graveyard. The grounds began to fill with fog that gave off a musty smell. The children ran home because they were afraid and did not know what was happening.

There were two brothers, Kevin and Josh. Their parents told them the tale of the Cajun fairies or Feu Follets, glowing lights that are really lost souls wandering the earth. These tricksters might lure children into a lost world. The boy's parents told them to be careful at night, to watch for the balls of fire because Feu Follets are nocturnal.

The next night the boys went to meet their friends in the graveyard. Kevin and Josh told their friends the story of the Feu Follets. The children were not believers, so they decided to be brave and wait until they saw the balls of fire once more.

They sat around and told scary stories while they waited in the graveyard until dark. At around 9 o'clock is when they saw the first Feu Follet. Claire said, "I think that it looks

like a dancing ball of light instead of fire.” Then the children all agreed and said, “It does look like floating lights or marsh fires!”

By 9:30 p.m. the graveyard was filled with these Louisiana “*will of the wisps,*” Feu Follets! They decided to trap those tricksters. The children went home to form a plan to catch the Feu Follets.

The next day the group met to form the best plan. Kevin and Josh lead the group and decided that the best plan was mixing all of their plans together. Claire had to run home to get a round shaped gourd with a small opening in the top that her dad brought home from north Louisiana. The children decided that the gourd was a perfect trap for the Feu Follets.

That night, the children went to the graveyard at 10 o’clock, because they wanted

to make sure that the Feu Follets were going to be out. They gathered at one of the houses and then made their way over to the graveyard. The supplies were ready, and each child made sure each person knew what they were doing. The children planned to trick the dancing balls of light into the gourd so that they could not get out.

Some of the children approached from the left and the others approached from the right. All the children were armed with cayenne pepper because the Feu Follets became itchy if they encountered it. The children surrounded the graveyard and attacked the Feu Follets. When the children threw the pepper on them, they started dancing around. This group of brave children captured the balls of light in the gourd and closed it tight.

As the story is told, that night those children stopped the Feu Follets from tricking anyone else and lived happily ever after.



## VOCABULARY

**Cemetery-** is a burial ground or graveyard.

**Feu Follets-** Cajun fairies that are said to be lost souls wandering the Earth.

**Gourd-** a large fruit, grown in North Louisiana, that is fleshy and have a hard skin, only some are edible.

**Illuminate-** making visible or bright by shining light on it; light up.

**Musty-** is a stale or damp smell.

**Nocturnal-** active and awake at night.

**Trickster-** a person that deceives people, or a person that plays pranks.

REFERENCES

- Eustis, E. (2015). Scared of the Dark? Why You Shouldn't let the Feu Follet Light the way.  
<https://www.visitlakecharles.org/blog/post/feu-follet/>
- McConnaughey, J. (1985). The Loup Garou, the Feu Follet and the Cauchemar : In the Bayou, They Still Indulge in Spirits. Los Angeles Times. Interview with Dr. Patricia Rickels.  
<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1985-12-20-ss-5198-story.html>
- Reneaux, J. J. (1992). Ghost Stories: Fifolet. In *Cajun folktales* (pp. 141–144). essay, August House.



**CC BY-NC-ND:** This license allows reusers to copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form only, for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.

AUTHOR'S BIO



Catherine Cramer is an Elementary Education major, at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Catherine likes to play tennis, to spend time with family and friends, and babysit children. She also likes baking and watching Netflix. Catherine would like to teach for many years and then become a lead teacher in a curriculum position.