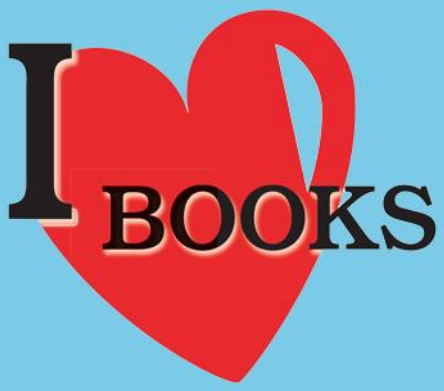


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extracts from

Write Your Own Mystery & Ghost Stories

Written by

Louie Stowell & Megan Cullis

Illustrated by

Pam Smy

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The haunted house

You're lost in a forest, and it's growing dark. Through the trees you spot an abandoned house. It doesn't look very welcoming, but you've got no choice – you need somewhere to shelter for the night.

Write a story about what happens during your night in the house. Use all five senses to describe the atmosphere.

What can you SEE through the window? Is that a face in the glass, or a trick of the light?

Can you HEAR doors slamming upstairs? Or is it just the wind?

Does the air FEEL cold and clammy?

Where is that old, musty SMELL coming from?

What is that unpleasant TASTE in the back of your throat?



Write your story title here.

Who or what is living inside the house? Is it a family of ghosts? Or a lonely spirit, looking to have fun?

Is whatever's inside the house welcoming you in, or trying to get you to leave?



Continued...

A headless horseman

Deep in the countryside, tales are told in hushed whispers of a headless horseman, who gallops across the moors. One day, two friends are walking across the moors, when they hear the sound of hooves, getting louder and louder...

Stories about a headless horseman have existed since the Middle Ages. They're told in countries across the world, from India and America, to Germany and Ireland.

In some stories, the headless horseman is the ghost of a soldier who lost his head in battle.

In others, he's the ghost of a highway man, who had his head chopped off for robbing people.

There's even a story about a huntsman, who lost his head in a fatal hunting accident.

Write your own story about a headless horseman. Who is he and why is he missing his head?

Write your story title here.

Avoid specifics

Leaving gaps in your writing can unnerve your reader – a ghost is much more terrifying in your imagination.

Try keeping your descriptions vague and unspecific – perhaps the ghost is surrounded by a mist, or can only be seen from a distance:

The boy heard metal clinking against the ground. Then he saw the outline of a headless figure, riding through the mist.

Rather than:

The boy looked up and saw a headless horseman wearing a long black cloak and leather riding boots up to his knees.



Continued...

Murder mystery

Someone's hiding a dark secret at a boarding school in the country... The science teacher has been murdered. Who did it? Write a story below about a character who decides to investigate the mystery. The opening lines have been written for you.

Story ideas

Who is hiding secrets, and who has carried out the dreadful crime?

How was the science teacher murdered? And what was the murder weapon?

Where does your character begin hunting for clues? Has anything suspicious been left behind?

Can your character solve the mystery before the police arrive?



It all began on Monday, when a scream was heard coming from the science lab. On that same day, the science teacher mysteriously vanished...

Suspects and motives

Keep your readers guessing by including a few suspects with different motives. Add your ideas to the list below.

- Suspect: *Science technician*

Possible motive: *Jealous of the science teacher*

- Suspect: *Headgirl*

Possible motive: *Angry about not getting her grades*

- Suspect:

Possible motive:

- Suspect:

Possible motive:



Continued...