

# Scary Stories

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## Fiction

Arden, Katherine. *Small Spaces* (series). Eleven-year-old Ollie discovers a chilling ghost story about a deal made with "the Smiling Man," a sinister specter who grants a wish for the ultimate price. She begins to wonder if he might be real when she stumbles upon the graves of the very people she's been reading about.

Auxier, Jonathan. *The Night Gardener*. Orphans Molly and Kip travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house—but the house and its family are not quite what they seem. Soon they are confronted by a mysterious spectre and an ancient curse that threatens their lives.

Baptiste, Tracey. *The Jumbies* (series). Corinne claims she isn't afraid of anything, certainly not jumbies, tricksters made up to frighten children. But then she chases an agouti into the forbidden forest, and must call on her courage and learn to use ancient magic she didn't know she possessed to save her island home.

Beatty, Robert. *Serafina and the Black Cloak* (series). Serafina has never had a reason to venture beyond the Biltmore estate ground, but when children there start disappearing, only she knows why. It's the terrifying man in a black cloak who stalks Biltmore's corridors at night.

Berk, Josh and Sandra Mitchell. *Camp Murderface* (series). Ohio, 1983: Corryn and Tez are ready for summer, but before they can so much as toast one marshmallow, terrifying things start happening their scary-as-heck camp. Can they survive the summer?

Brooks, Elizabeth. *The Whispering House*. Visiting the bewitching Byrne Hall, near where her sister Stella died, Freya discovers a portrait of Stella—one she had no idea existed, in a house Stella never visited. As Freya lingers in this mysterious house, the darkness behind the locked doors of the estate threatens to spill out.

Brown, India Hill. *The Girl in the Lake*. Celeste isn't excited to visit her grandparents' lake house for two weeks, especially when strange things start happening and her cousins accuse her of playing dangerous tricks. One night, she looks in a steamy mirror and sees her face, but twisted, different. Who is the girl in the mirror? And what does she want?

Bruchac, Joseph. *Skeleton Man*. Molly's father, who grew up on the Mohawk Reserve, always had the best scary stories, like about a man with such insatiable hunger he ate his own flesh before devouring those around him. But ever since her parents mysteriously vanished, those spooky tales have started to feel too real.

Cervantes, Angela. *The Cursed Moon*. Rafael loves entertaining his friends with terrifying tales he creates on the spot. He's really proud of his latest creation, until strange things start to happen and he realizes the Caretaker is real. He has brought the ghost to life, and only he can stop him.

Chow, Derrick. *Ravenous Things*. Twelve-year-old Reggie is still grieving the passing of his father when a strange man promises to reunite the two, if Reggie only follows him deep into an underground subway system where horrors worse than Reggie ever imagined lurk around every corner.

*Don't Turn Out the Lights*. A life-size baby doll who stalks its prey. A flesh-hungry ogre who jingle jangles when he walks. A haunted house just dying for a visitor. What do all these things have in common? Turn off your lamps, click on your flashlights, and prepare to be scared!

Fleming, Candace. *On the Day I Died*. Set in a real life graveyard outside Chicago, each story takes place during a different time period from the 1860s to the present, and ends with the narrator's death by supernatural causes.

Garza, Xavier. *Creepy Creatures and Other Cucuys*. These stories curdle with the creepy and crawling characters of traditional folklore and brim with the supernatural: children who made deals with duendes, the ghostly specter of La Llorona, and even the Devil himself.

Gilbert, Matthew J. *Hawkins Horrors*. Dustin, Lucas, Max, and their friends want to rent videos one night. But when a blackout changes their plans, they swap seven twisted tales based on their hometown. What secrets lurk in an old asylum? Is a harmless teddy bear actually controlled by a supernatural force?

Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear* (series). The house has a legend: two enslaved people were killed there by bounty hunters, and Dies Drear himself, the abolitionist who had made the house into a station on the Underground Railroad, was murdered there. The ghosts of the three were said to walk its rooms...



Heidicker, Christian McKay. *Scary Stories for Young Foxes* (series). When Mia and Uly are separated from their litters, they discover a dangerous world full of monsters. To find a home, they must face unspeakable things that dwell in the darkness: a zombie a witch, a ghost who hunts them... and other things too scary to mention.

Hermon, Daka. *Hide and Seeker*. Twelve-year-old Zee has returned after a year's absence, talking wildly about some danger that is approaching. Soon his friends are pulled into a shadowy world and forced to play a terrifying game of hide-and-seek where they will have to confront their worst nightmares in order to find their way home.

Howe, James. *Bunnacula* (series). Harold the dog and Chester the cat must find out the truth about the newest pet in the Monroe household—a suspicious-looking bunny with unusual habits... and fangs!

Jones, Gareth P. *Constable & Toop*. Something mysterious and terrible is happening throughout Victorian London: the Black Rot has arrived—empty haunted houses suck in unsuspecting ghosts and imprison them. The living and dead must work together to destroy the Black Rot before it destroys both the ghost and human worlds.

Lawrence, Lorien. *The Stitchers* (series). Thirteen-year-old Quinn knows that there's something off about her neighbors who have lived there for as long as anyone can remember and never seem to age, but she could have never have imagined how terrifying the truth could be.

Mafi, Tahereh. *Whichwood*. Laylee can barely remember before she was left the sole remaining morderhoor in Whichwood, destined to scrub the skins and souls of the dead in preparation for the afterlife. But soon everything is turned upside down as she rediscovers color, magic, and the healing power of friendship.

continued on back



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## Fiction, cont.

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *The Keeper*. After moving to a new state, James starts getting mysterious letters from someone who claims to be watching him. James and his sister are obviously in danger. But no one believes James—not even his parents.

McKissack, Pat. *The Dark-Thirty*. A collection of ghost stories with African American themes, designed to be told during the Dark Thirty—the half hour before sunset—when ghosts seem all too believable.

Meloy, Colin. *The Stars Did Wander Darkling*. The most ordinary things have taken on a sinister edge: a penny on a doormat. A man in a brown suit under a streetlamp. An ax chopping in the middle of the night. An ancient, long-buried evil has been unleashed upon the community, and it's up to Arthur and his friends to stop it before it's too late.

Oh, Ellen. *Spirit Hunters* (series). Harper doesn't trust her new home, but she isn't sure she believes the rumors it's haunted, either—until her younger brother starts acting strangely.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Ghostlight*. Gabe tells the story of Rebecca Strand's mysterious death and haunting of the lighthouse every day during Toronto Island's ghost tour, trying to make it scary for the tourists. But he doesn't actually believe in ghosts—until he finds himself face to face with Rebecca Strand, and the true story of her death is far more terrifying than he imagined.

Peck, Richard. *The Ghost Belonged to Me* (series). When Alexander notices an eerie light coming out of the barn, he thinks his friend Blossom Culp is trying to spook him. But slimy footprints appear out of nowhere, whimpering sounds float down from the hayloft, and now there's a ghost standing there, warning him of great danger ahead.

Poe, Edgar Allen. *Tales of Mystery and Madness*. A sweet little cat drives a man to insanity and murder. A sister calls to her beloved twin from beyond the grave. You are about to enter a world where you will be shocked, terrified, and secretly thrilled.

Riazi, Karuna. *The Gauntlet* (series). When twelve-year-old Farah and her two best friends get sucked into a mechanical board game, they know it is up to them to defeat the game's diabolical architect to save themselves and others trapped inside, including her baby brother, Ahmed.

Senf, Lora. *The Clackity*. To rescue her aunt from the ghost of a serial killer, twelve-year-old Evie embarks on a journey into a strange world filled with hungry witches, ghosts, and a story thief, all while trying to fulfill her deal with the Clackity.

Smith, Ronald L. *Hoodoo*. Hoodoo Hatcher was born into a family with a rich tradition of practicing folk magic. When the mysterious Stranger comes to town, he starts dreaming of the dead rising from their graves. The entire town is at risk from the Stranger's black magic, and only Hoodoo can defeat him.

Smy, Pam. *Thornhill*. 1982: Mary is a lonely orphan at the Thornhill Institute For Children as it closes. When she's left to face a volatile bully alone, her revenge will have a lasting effect, even on Thornhill itself. 2017: Ella's new home has a perfect view of the abandoned Institute—and a girl in its window. Ella is determined to befriend the girl and unravel Thornhill's shadowy past.

Strong, Karen. *Eden's Everdark*. Twelve-year-old Eden, on a visit to her late mother's Georgia birthplace, discovers a creepy sketchbook that leads her to Everdark—a spirit world ruled by an evil witch who Eden must defeat in order to make it back home.

Stroud, Jonathan. *Lockwood & Co.: The Screaming Staircase* (series). Ghosts, haunts, spirits, and specters are appearing throughout London. Lucy and Anthony are forced to take part in the perilous investigation of one of the most haunted houses in England. Will they survive?

White, J.A. *Archimancy* (series). Cordelia Liu knew Shadow School was going to be different, but she didn't expect the school grounds to be filled with ghosts. She and her new friends are determined to find out why the ghosts are there, but someone is willing to go to extreme lengths to ensure that the ghosts remain trapped forever.

William, Alexander. *A Properly Unhaunted Place*. Rosa comes from a family of librarians who specialize in ghost appeasement, but her mother has moved them to the world's only unhaunted town. Jasper can't imagine his town any other way... until an angry apparition thunders in and turns it upside down.

Wright, Betty Ren. *Christina's Ghost*. Christina is not looking forward to spending the summer with Uncle Ralph in his spooky, isolated Victorian mansion, but things change when she sees the ghostly figure of a small, sad boy. Could he be linked to the murders that happened there years before?

Bagieu, Pénélope and Roald Dahl. *The Witches*. Witches are real, and they are very, very dangerous. When an eight-year-old boy and his grandmother come face-to-face with the Grand High Witch herself, they may be the only ones who can stop the witches' plot to stamp out every last child!

Grime, Chris. *Secrets of Camp Whatever* (series). Eleven year-old Willow doesn't want to go to her dad's weird old summer camp, but soon she finds herself neck-deep in a mystery involving stolen snacks, suspected vampires, and missing campers, all shrouded in the sinister fog.

Lai, Remy. *Ghost Book*. July Chen sees ghosts. But her dad insists ghosts aren't real. So she pretends they don't exist. Which is incredibly difficult now as it's Hungry Ghost month, when the Gates of the Underworld open and dangerous ghosts run amok in the living world.

Ly, Ginger. *Suee and the Shadow*. When Suee transfers to the dull and ordinary Outskirts Elementary, she doesn't expect to hear a strange voice speaking to her from the darkness of the school's exhibit room, or to see her shadow come to life. Suee must confront a stunning secret hidden by her shadow under her own two feet—something very dark and sinister that could put Suee and her friends at risk!

## Nonfiction

Atwood, Megan. *Real Life Ghost Stories: The Greenbrier Ghost* (series, 133.1 ATW).

Bielski, Ursula. *Creepy Chicago: A Ghosthunter's Tales of the City's Scariest Sites* (977.311 BIE).

Campbell, Jen. *The Sister Who Ate Her Brothers* (398.2 CAM).

Claybourne, Anna. *Don't Read this Book Before Bed* (133.1 CLA).

Everett, J.H. *Haunted Histories* (133.122 EVE).

Giannini, Alex. *Horror in Illinois* (133.1 GIA).

Goddu, Krystyna Poray. *Creepy Chicago* (977.311 GOD).

Jones, Dan Sasuweh (Ponga Nation). *Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories* (398.2 JON).

San Souci, Robert D. *Short and Shivery: Thirty Chilling Tales* (398.25 SAN).

Schwartz, Alvin. *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* (series, 398.25 SCH).

## Graphic Novels

Alvarez, Lorena. *Nightlights* (series). Every night, tiny stars appear in Sandy's bedroom. When she catches them, she can create wonderful creatures to play with, and later brings them back to life in drawings. When a mysterious new girl appears at school, her fascination with Sandy's talent soon turns into something far more sinister.