

# ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 2021 SCARY STORY WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

# KIDS INK

## A LITERARY MAGAZINE WRITTEN BY KIDS FOR KIDS

### The Three Headed Dragon

Brianna H., Grade 4

One day there were some little kids entering a snake-filled haunted house, and it was really dark & scary. Then they keep hearing ssssss like snakes, but actually it was a dragon sleeping and the little kids did not know that. The little kids were looking around the haunted house until they saw the dragon, fire coming out of his mouth. It burned every piece of the haunted house and it was all gone. The little three kids freaked out! They ran for their lives, but they were too slow. Next the three kids were captured, and then the dragon turned into a witch. The kids were very surprised. Then the witch laughed at them and the kids got mad. Meanwhile

they wanted to escape, so they tricked the witch to make a spell and turn them into a 3-headed dragon. Finally the 3-headed dragon laughed so hard until they burned the graveyard down. Then they made a spell and burned themselves. Then there was no one left.



### Shadows

By Evelyn R., Grade 6

She walked slowly down the stairs, for every step there was a creak. Had she opened the door, what was inside would've made her shriek. All she could feel was her own coat hung over her like a magic cloak. Drowned in her thoughts, she barely noticed the voice in her head that spoke, "Out with the light, I will cover the world with the dark." The voice declared in a somber tone. "Where was she?" she asked herself, noticing she was not alone. Suddenly, she shrieked, as the shadows pulled her away from the ends of her feet.

### Stuck in a Maze

Joseph G., Grade 3

My name is Joseph and one dark Halloween evening, I was trick-or-treating when I spotted a flickering, spooky jack-o-lantern by a little creepy house. I touched it and everything went black. When I started seeing clearly again, I noticed everything was orange and gooey and the air was so damp it was hard to breathe. I thought for a moment and realized I was stuck inside the spooky jack-o-lantern. First I panicked, then I stopped because panicking was not going to help me get out of the jack-o-lantern. I looked around and found a sign that had a picture of a maze with a vicious looking jack-o-lantern carved onto it. I immediately thought that was my way home. So I followed the sign into the maze where I spent hours looking for my way out; it seemed there were only endless left and right turns. Then I saw the thing I never wanted to see, it was the live, vicious looking Jack-o-Lantern that was carved into the sign, sitting in a corner. It got up and started chasing me with its long pointy teeth ready to eat me for dinner. I sprinted as fast as possible and as I ran I saw a little hole near what looked to be a dead end. I darted towards it not even knowing why and somehow I squeezed through it and found myself beside the flickering jack-o-lantern. I was spooked and confused about what really happened so I ran straight home. My parents were making dinner and asked me why I was home so early. I told them I thought I hit my head because I did not think they would believe my crazy little story.





## Night of the Living Jack-o-lanterns

Elizabeth L., Grade 3

It was a very foggy Halloween night, and Lizzy was fighting with her brother, Alex over what the face should look like when they carve the pumpkin; once they finally decided on something they carved the face out of the pumpkin.

That night they put the jack-o-lantern outside in front of their house. Lizzy was all ready to go trick or treating when she noticed that the jack-o-lantern was gone! When she looked back in front of her, she saw that the jack-o-lantern was there, and it had become alive!

She noticed that all the jack-o-lanterns on her street had done the same and they were forming an army! All the jack-o-lanterns seemed to be mad that people had been carving pumpkins on Halloween for so many years.

She had no idea what to do! It seemed that they all were mad at her, even though everyone else had a part in carving them too. By now everyone else had come outside to see what was going on. The army of pumpkins seemed to be growing angrier, and they were getting ready to attack!

She swore to herself that she would never carve a pumpkin again! And it seemed that everyone else was thinking they wouldn't either. Lizzy decided to tell the jack-o-lanterns that nobody wanted the jack-o-lanterns to do this, and she promised that they would never carve another pumpkin again. After that, all the jack-o-lanterns seemed to calm down a little bit, and slowly they turned back into normal jack-o-lanterns.

## The Nice Ghost

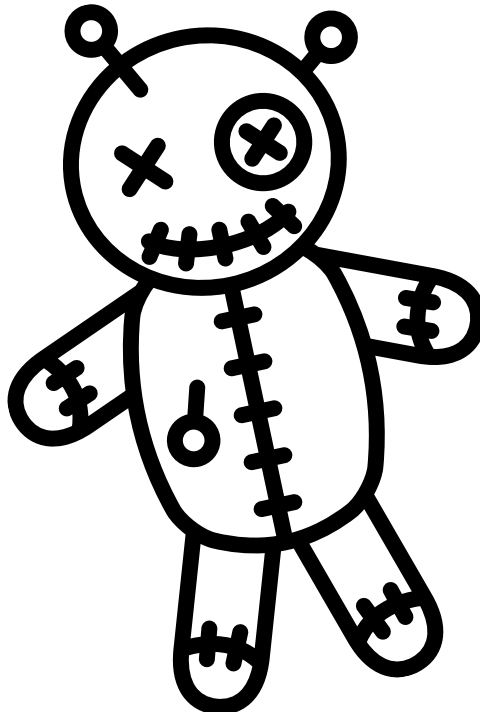
Will R., Grade 2

Once upon a time, there was a lonely ghost named "Bob" who had no friends. He lived alone in a haunted mansion with sticky cobwebs all over.

One cloudy evening, Bob adventured out of the haunted mansion. He found a lonely kid named "Pete." Pete had no bike to ride home. Bob wanted to help him, but Pete got REALLY scared, so Pete ran away.

Bob was sad, but he knew he had a bike in the haunted garage. So Bob ran back and got the bike and flew to Pete. Pete was still scared, but soon Pete got used to Bob.

Pete got on the bike and fell (because the bike was really old). But then Bob helped Pete ride his bike home by pushing Pete.  
The End.



## Happy Halloween

Conor H., Grade 5

Trick or treaters run and shout  
They have fun running about  
Trick or treaters go to houses  
Planting little tiny mice  
HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Jack-o-lanterns are aight  
Boy I wish that they would fight  
Jack-o-lanterns give a fright  
And they can give a delight  
HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Candy can be very sweet  
And it could be good to eat  
You just need to say trick or treat  
And you will get a small sweet treat  
HAPPY HALLOWEEN

## The Legend of the Haunted Train

By Simon L., Grade 3

Billy was walking down the sidewalk when DONG DONG DONG the clock struck three AM and all the street lights went off. The only light was his flashlight and the headlight on an old steam engine in the train yard. He slowly walked over to the train and saw an old faded note on the ground next to the coach car that was attached to the steam engine. It read something like this:

This is the old haunted train and will scare anyone to death, BEWARE.

Billy was brave so he stepped onto the old train. He heard a whistle blow, felt the train jerk to a move and a tingly cold breeze flow up his spine. Bells started ringing as candles lit up and immediately blew out. Then everything was quiet ... so quiet you could hear a pin drop.

Suddenly, ghosts flew out of the walls. Billy screamed so loud that he woke the people in nearby houses. They ran out in their pajamas and saw the train speed by with an eerie whistle. Legend has it, Billy ran to the cab and saw Frankenstein driving the train and a goblin shoveling coal. The rest of the legend is unknown. Some people think Frankenstein ate Billy and some think he jumped off the train, but no one knows for sure as he was never seen again.

## Untitled

By Noah B., Grade 5

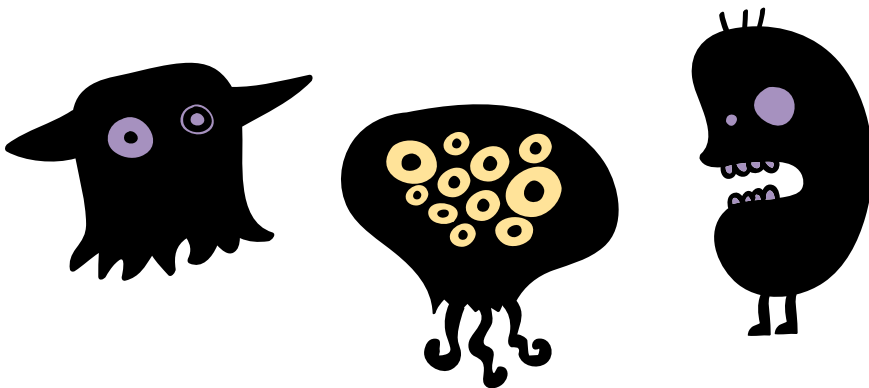
The space shuttle lights keep flickering. I think there might be a ghost. I see a tall shadowy figure. It starts chasing me, horrified by what it could be, I race around the corner, in fear of my life, and I see a door. Longing to get away, I open the door and quietly close it behind me. I am now in the supply closet. I hear a knock on the door so I hold my breath and my heart is racing. I try to think up a plan and one pops up. When I think he went away, I grab a space suit and put it on, and then I grab a chain and burst through the door, sprinting to the wall to chain myself to it as I get ready to pull the lever. Holding my breath, I pull the lever that opens the hatch sucking the shadowy figure out into the vast vacuum of space. Relieved, I closed the hatch but the light... kept flickering.



## Untitled

By Claire S., Grade 2

Once upon a time there lived a spooky family of zombies and monsters. One night one of the zombies went missing in the graveyard. Then one of the monsters did too! All of the zombies and monsters went looking and never came back!



## The Ghost

By Carmela S., Grade 1

Once upon a time there lived a ghost who was walking through the woods. He saw a witch. The witch captured him. She threw him in a pot and ate him. The End.



## The Mansion

By Connor E., Grade 5

One misty Halloween evening, a 13 year old boy named Jake was walking alone in his Halloween costume. His friends were all trick-or-treating with other people and his Mom had given him permission to go by himself.

After an hour or so, he had found an abandoned mansion, just outside of his neighborhood, near the highway, and out of pure curiosity and against his better judgement, Jake foolishly went inside. He entered the dining room which had a giant wooden table and a fire blazing in the large brick fireplace. "Weird," he thought, "How is the fire burning when no one is here?" Just then, something in the shadows caught his eye, and quickly disappeared. Jake ran into the hallway to check it out, but there was nothing and so he continued to the kitchen, where he saw a grey, smooth creature on all fours. Each of its hands had five black, dagger-like claws, and its mouth was unhinged and wide open showing dozens of rows of teeth.

Terrified by what he had seen, Jake ran back through the dining room, to escape out the door, but the door...was gone. The creature had followed him into the room and lunged over the table at Jake

who luckily sidestepped as the creature landed on the dining room table. It cracked under the creature's weight, and the creature rolled into the chimney, sending the bricks showering over the floor. Jake, who had never been more scared in his life, took a deep breath and considered his options, there was a window behind him, but it was locked, a doorway that led into the giant mansion, and a ton of bricks, so Jake picked up a brick and threw it at the monster, but It had no effect and Jake was desperate for a new plan, so he picked up a brick and threw it into the hallway. This time his plan worked, the monster got distracted, followed the noise the brick made in the hallway, and pounced on it. Jake picked up another brick, chucked it at the window, and luckily the old window shattered, and he dove through it and escaped the mansion.

Running straight home, in fear of his life, he was stopped by his friends, who were just about to enter their old abandoned school, Jake joined them, and entered the front office when something in the shadows caught his eye...

TO BE CONTINUED  
(MAYBE)

## Untitled

Lily R., Grade 8

Here lies Jim Reaper  
He was known to be a weeper.  
One cloudy night many years ago,  
Jim Reaper found a pumpkin aglow.  
He watched the pumpkin flicker in the night.  
When a loud SCREECH gave him a fright.  
He slowly crept through the trees  
When he heard a cackle that made him shake in the knees.  
No one knows what happened next  
They found his body, and beside him lay his specs  
Some say he was poisoned, others say he was thrown in a ditch  
But I know he was confronted by the Great Halloween Witch!  
As legend has it, she floats around on her broom on Halloween night  
Shouting, "Happy Halloween everyone!  
May your days be filled with fear and fright!"



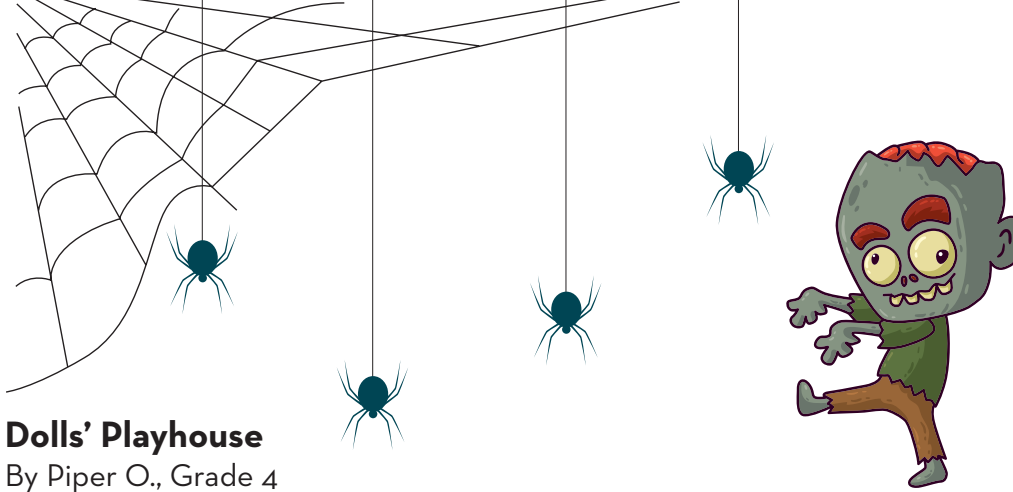
## Untitled

Madison C., Grade 4

Wicked  
Ick  
trick or Treat  
Coffin  
Haunted house  
graveyard  
rest in peace

Cemetery  
After life  
murky  
spine-chilling  
undead  
creeping  
revolting  
poison





## Dolls' Playhouse

By Piper O., Grade 4

Phoebe stepped inside and turned back to her friends. Stupid dare. She didn't want to go into the workshop, but although she thought it was creepy, she had to. She moved inside the workshop and noticed, in the corner of her eye, a dimly lit room. She shuffled inside and examined it.

A dust-covered doll was laying on a table in the middle of the room. Cobwebbed shelves were everywhere. The doll had dusty black hair and was wearing a faded in color pink dress with a bow in her hair that was hanging on by a thread. Phoebe turned around, when a giggle came from behind Phoebe.

It sent a chill down her spine as she turned around slowly and saw the doll. It was no longer laying down, but sitting up holding a sewing string and a needle. When Phoebe's friends noticed she hadn't returned from their dare, they went inside the workshop and noticed the only room with a wide-open door. They tip-toed inside and saw a doll on a shelf that looked like Phoebe and ran for the exit... but not before they too got trapped in what is now known as The Dolls' Playhouse.

The doll giggled and smiled at her new dolls. "We're gonna have so much fun. \*giggle\*"

## Under the Light of a Full Moon

By Ava T., Grade 6

I was walking to work when I heard a sound  
Filled with worry and terrible gloom  
The sound haunted me, that night I lie restless  
Under the light of a full moon

The next day fog billowed low  
My body warned me soon  
I would be in great danger  
Under the light of a full moon

I left my door ajar that night  
Anticipating for the worst  
Then my dog came in  
Looking like he was cursed

The door creaked and my heart boomed  
And last thing I remember before my leave,  
was a figure  
Under the light of a full moon

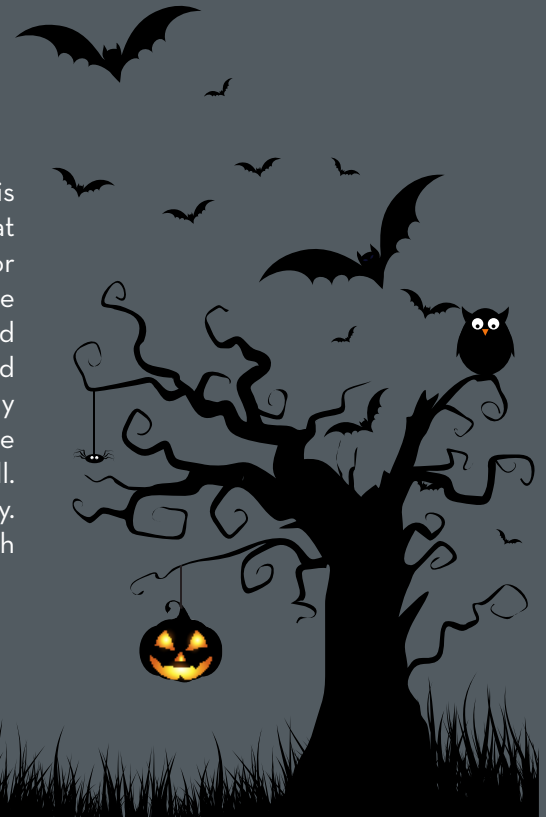


## Untitled

By Gabby M., Grade 6

The wind howled, my hair clouding my vision. The forest was dark and mysterious, the aura terrifying. My friends and I were out playing baseball, in the field near the forest. The ball had been thrown into the forest and I was tasked with getting it back. I walked slowly, and carefully into the gloomy trees. The trees began to sway to the wind, and the crows erupted into the sky. My walk turned into a trot, and then a jog. I looked up, to see my baseball placed carefully in a tree. And

sitting right beside it was a little boy, his white clothes stained by something that was clearly not ketchup. I stood there for a moment, processing everything. Before letting out a shriek and sprinting as hard as I could. I flew through the forest and back to the field, but once I got back my friends were gone. And in their place was the boy I saw, holding the baseball. The boy grinned, his expression creepy. "Would you like to play baseball with me?"







## Untitled

Sahar B., Grade 5

A young girl was walking on a scary, gloomy night and got lost. Two twin girls came up to her, out of nowhere, and she told them of her predicament. They said, "Follow us, we can help you find your home". She followed them without thinking and they brought her to a run-down house, she said "I don't think this is-" but before she could finish her sentence, the twins had disappeared. The door was already opened, a possessed woman called out "Come in, if you like" and she walked in. Would you like to use my computer to search for directions? The girl was getting anxious and terrified because the house was covered with spider webs, had magical doors, and computers on the floor. The girl heard murmurs from the ground saying "help us, we are helpless, you should escape while you still can". She tried to escape, the doors closed

behind her and the woman quipped "you should have listened to the murmurs". The girl realized that she was still holding the computer, tried to let go of it, but it was stuck to her hand. Then, she felt electric shocks, blood dripped from her nose and she became one with the computer. She thought that was the death of her, but that was just the beginning of the nightmare. She also became one with the woman, who was the witch from the darkest abyss. That was the day she became part of something evil, BOO!



## Untitled

By Lyla C., Grade 6

Monday, October 31, 3:00 am

I wake up with a start. I'm drenched in sweat and a chill runs down my spine. I could swear that I heard footsteps walking up the stairs. People say this house is haunted but I don't believe it for one second. \*knock knock knock\* Who could be knocking at my bedroom door at 3 in the morning? \*creek\* the door opens.

Monday, October 31, 4:30 am

I felt a cold hand on my neck and I jump up. I hear something under my bed and my heart stops. I see a black, long hand reaching out from under the bed. I pinch myself to see if I'm dreaming, but I don't wake up. The hand reaches up to me, and I hold my breath and hide under the covers. I feel the hand on my right ankle and I kick hard, but it doesn't work, then the hand yanks me to the floor and takes the covers off of me. I see a tall, black figure with bright red eyes. It picks me up by the neck and it roars and then darkness falls on me.

## Untitled

By Kyla O., Grade 6

I walked alone in the forest, a cool breeze surrounding me. My bright red sweater was like the color of blood, my hair like the color of a full moon. The sun was setting, and the breeze began to pick up. I felt a sudden chill roll down my spine, the hairs on the back of my neck stood. Goosebumps appeared all over my legs and arms. I hadn't been this cold all evening, but now... suddenly, I felt a lifeless hand wrap around my ankle and grip it hard. I flinched. I turned around slowly, and the hand released. But, as I turned forward, I saw a figure floating in front of me. It was a lady, 25, perhaps 30, in a blood stained wedding dress. Not like the color of my sweater however, the blood on her dress was almost purple - indicating she had been roaming around this forest for a while. I started to run away, terrified and perplexed, but then I stumbled backwards, wincing in pain. She was moving towards me fast now, noticing that I wouldn't be able to get back up, and suddenly, she reached out her hand revealing her long, sharp fingernails—the only thing about her that seemed real—and when she was inches away from cutting my pale face, I awoke. It was morning, and I was still shaking from my night's dream, so I decided to dress myself; I walked to my closet and started scrolling through my shirts, dresses, and rompers. I stopped on one particular dress, though; it was bigger than the others, beautifully embroidered, and the most strange part was that it was blood stained, not the color of my sweatshirt, however, the blood on the dress was almost purple - indicating that it had been there a long time.





## Untitled

Gabby Q., Grade 3

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Emma who loved reading. She was always at the library or cuddled up on the couch with a book and her favorite doll, Victoria. Emma thought the doll was adorable and was also always with her, but everyone else thought she looked creepy, which she did. Her hair was stringy and her eyes were red beads but Emma didn't notice it and no one bothered to tell her, so that was that. One day, a few weeks before Halloween, she was reading a story called Emma's Haunting. She normally didn't like scary stories but since it had her name she couldn't resist checking it out. As she got more into it, she realized it was exactly like her life. And, it wasn't even scary! But, as she got closer to the end she read that a doll named Victoria would haunt and curse Emma. Emma couldn't believe

it. She ignored it for a while, but soon she became worried about her doll and threw her away. She was very scared and prepared on October 30th, the day said the doll would strike. As soon as Emma's parents tucked her into bed, Emma heard light footsteps and a scary giggle go up the stairs and open her door....



## The Cursed WWI Trench

By Steven A., Grade 4

Joe and Jessica lived in England in an old town that had stories of a haunted trench left over from WWI. Joe and Jessica asked their parents if they could go and explore the trench, but their parents said "NO! It's way too dangerous, what if you step on a mine like many of our own soldiers who died from that?" Disappointed by their parents' response, Joe and Jessica made a plan to investigate the trench on Halloween night.

After their parents fell asleep, they snuck out and explored the trench. When they found nothing and started heading back home, something grabbed Joe's ankle and he shouted to Jessica, "Let go of my foot!" Jessica nervously said "That's not me Joe." Joe cautiously

looked down and it was a Zombie WWI soldier. Soon all the Zombie Soldiers stood up and started running toward them, but Joe and Jessica were both really fast. They were able to outrun the Zombie Soldiers but once they got out of the trench the Zombies didn't seem to care about chasing them anymore. Joe and Jessica were so shook by what just happened they had to go home and wake their parents to tell them what happened. Their parents called the police because everyone in that town believed the spooky tales. Going to investigate the trench, all the police found was the graves of the dead WWI soldiers and nothing else. This made Joe and Jessica confused, had someone played a trick on them? As Jessica

turned to leave, she found something: it was a small iron key and they thought it might be a cool souvenir to take home so looked for more treasure but they shouldn't because her friends were right, the trench was cursed.

Since that spooky evening, no one has ever seen Joe or Jessica again. Some say every Halloween night you can hear the screams of Joe and Jessica. Some say that they stepped on a mine others say they wandered in the nearby woods but the true story of their disappearance is much much more tragic.





**SPECIAL EVENT!**

# **SHORT AND SCARY WINNING WRITERS READ THEIR STORIES**

**Starting Sunday, Oct. 24 • Families (Best for K+)**

Be prepared to get scared!

Student winners of the Short and Scary Writing  
Contest share their spooky tales.  
View at [elmlib.org/youtube](http://elmlib.org/youtube).

**Thank you for  
all of the  
submissions!**

