

The next morning Nick came down for breakfast. He looked very tired and had dark circles under his eyes. 'What's the matter Nick?' asked his mum. 'You look terrible!' 'I can't sleep in this house', moaned Nick. 'There are lots of strange noises and I think I saw something moving around in my room.'



'He wants to go back to our old house', Eleanor teased. 'Well we aren't going back, Nick. Stop being such a baby!' she said as she left the kitchen. Nick's mum explained gently that old houses often seem a bit scary but that there was nothing to worry about.



'I'm serious!' cried Nick. 'I think the house is haunted!' 'Don't be silly!' said his mum. 'There's no such thing as ghosts.'

Dad and Harry laughed, but Nick didn't mind. He was only just starting his ingenious plan. He decided that first he had to convince Mum. Mum didn't believe in ghosts but maybe he could change her mind.

Activities

5 Underline the verbs that describe how people speak. Complete the definitions.

- a) means to clarify and give reasons.
- b) means to question.
- c) means to complain.
- d) means to laugh at somebody in an unfriendly way.


That night Nick crept downstairs to the kitchen, opened the fridge and took out the eggs. This trick was in the old book. It was quite difficult but he was sure he could do it. The eggs were already boiled. He made up a special mixture and wrote a message on each egg shell. Then he put the eggs carefully on the table under the lamp. He left them until they were completely dry and then he put them back in the fridge.



The next morning Nick came downstairs for breakfast. Oh good! thought Mum. He seems a bit happier today. Mum took the shell off her egg. There was something strange on all the eggs. 'They look like messages', said Harry.

Nick was a bit disappointed. Mum still didn't believe in ghosts. I have to do something much scarier, Nick thought. So he prepared a trick for Harry. He needed an old mirror and a thin white curtain.

Activities

- 6 How do you think the messages get on the eggs? Discuss with a classmate.
- 7  Use the words to write the instructions for Nick's egg trick.

Cook... Write... Dry... Make a mixture...

Story focus

1 Work with a classmate and answer the questions.

- a) How does Nick feel about moving house? Why?
- b) What does Nick find in the attic? How is it useful?
- c) What does Nick do in the first days in his new house? Why?
- d) How does Nick feel in the first days in his new house? Why?
- e) How does Nick feel at the end of the story? Why?
- f) How many people believe in ghosts by the end of the story?

2 Find and classify features in *The haunted house*. Answer the question.

T = typical of a ghost story

NT = not typical of a ghost story

a happy family	<input type="checkbox"/>	mirrors	<input type="checkbox"/>	soap	<input type="checkbox"/>	strange noises	<input type="checkbox"/>
a vain sister	<input type="checkbox"/>	spiders' webs	<input type="checkbox"/>	shadows	<input type="checkbox"/>	vinegar	<input type="checkbox"/>
skeletons	<input type="checkbox"/>	ghosts	<input type="checkbox"/>	a fridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	spaghetti bolognaise	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is *The haunted house* a typical ghost story?

3 Choose two tricks and complete the information. Compare the tricks with a classmate.

The egg The floating head The message on the mirror The skeleton The clock

..... trick

What happens?

Who's the trick played on?

Does the trick make anyone believe in ghosts?

..... trick

What happens?

Who's the trick played on?

Does the trick make anyone believe in ghosts?

The ... trick was with...

It was played on...

It made ... believe in ghosts.

Creative writing

Nick felt a cold shiver down his spine and turned around. There, on the sofa, was a strange figure. It was a very tall woman with long, grey hair. She was wearing a skirt that came down to her ankles and a hat with a veil. She stood up slowly and moved across the

room. She seemed to float through the air. 'AHHHH!' screamed Nick. She lifted an arm and gestured to Nick with a long, thin finger. Then he saw that the face behind the veil was friendly. 'Did I scare you?' asked the ghost.

1 Circle the words to complete the sentences.

- a) The text is about the first time Nick sees *the attic / Great Aunt Lesley's ghost*.
- b) The text describes how *Nick / the ghost* feels.
- c) The way the ghost is dressed is *modern / old-fashioned*.
- d) The way the ghost moves is *normal / mysterious*.
- e) The ghost *is / isn't* a scary creature.

2 Find the information in the text. Write.

- a) how Nick knows the ghost is there
- b) the physical appearance of the ghost
- c) the ghost's clothes
- d) the ghost's movement
- e) the ghost's personality
- f) Nick's first reaction to the ghost
- g) what the ghost does
- h) the ghost's words

3 Work with a classmate. Brainstorm ideas and make word lists.

Vocabulary for describing ghosts:
Ways of moving:
Personality:
Appearance:

Sometimes ghosts fly in the air.

Sometimes ghosts are very sad.

Some ghosts are transparent.