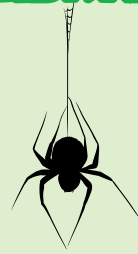


**SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**2024**



**SCARY STORY  
CONTEST**



**SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE  
SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES LIBRARIANS

Thank you to everyone who entered this year's Scary Story Contest! We were thrilled to read so many wonderfully creative (and spooky!) stories. Please continue to feed your creativity in all aspects of your lives. Happy Spooky Season!

-- Mx. Bre Taylor & Ms. Leticia Cheng

### 2024 SCARY STORY CONTEST WINNERS

*Zombie Story* by Rhys B., Kindergarten

*Untitled* by Maggie L., 3rd Grade

*Trick or Trap* by Colleen L., 5th Grade

*The Harrison's House* by Madalena H., 7th Grade



### 2024 SCARY STORY CONTEST HONORABLE MENTIONS

*Carrots* by Faye P., Kindergarten

*The Scary Store* by Han M., 2nd Grade

*Ruby* by Ella G., 5th Grade

*Caves* by Louis Z., 5th Grade

Stories were edited for grammar and format.

Judges for the 2024 South Pasadena Public Library Scary Story Contest:

Mx. Bre Taylor & Ms. Leticia Cheng



# WINNERS

### ZOMBIE STORY BY RHYB, KINDERGARTEN

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Rover who loved climbing trees and taking adventures.

One thing Rover did not like were graveyards, but there was one problem...he lived AT a graveyard because his dad worked at the graveyard! Rover always had to be inside the house before it became dark outside.

One day when Rover was going back to his house before it became dark, Rover's dad, Pauly, needed help with something, and it was bad because he heard his dad scream really loud. He ran over to see what he screamed about. It turns out, there was a missing body in the graveyard...

The only other time in history that there was a missing body at the graveyard resulted in a zombie apocalypse! Rover and his dad needed to save the world! They didn't want the zombies eating their brains! They had to create a plan to stop the zombie apocalypse.

The plan was simple -- Rover and his dad had to split up. Then, they would dig a deep hole to lure the zombies together and use Rover's invention that he created when he was bored at home--a zombie-turning-back-into-a-normal-person zapper! Of course, he would bring his forcefield ray pointer to protect his father and himself. His dad always thought he was silly for making these inventions, but they are sure coming in handy now!

Rover ran upstairs to get his inventions and heard a noise coming from downstairs. Uuuuhhggg! It was getting louder and louder. He hid in his closet so that the zombie couldn't find him. The zombie went further and further away, but it was going after Rover's dad!



Rover had to think quickly. He grabbed his inventions and ran to go save his dad. When he got to his dad, he said, "I'm going to save you!" He blasted the forcefield ray pointer around his dad and himself for protection. The zombie bounced off the shield like a ball. He pointed the zapper at the zombie so that it could become normal again. He only had one shot to do it perfectly! He aimed and fired!

It hit the zombie right as he was going after Rover's dad. again. They watched him return to normal right before their own eyes, but there was another problem.

Its normal body was Dracula!

To be continued...



**UNTITLED  
BY MAGGIE, 3RD GRADE**

Once upon a time not very long ago in a town called Orangeville, there was a girl named Marilyn. People called her Mara. Orangeville was named for the bright orange pumpkins they grew.

Halloween was very soon, so Mara and her father went to the pumpkin patch. When they got there, Mara felt something strange about one pumpkin. When she touched it, she felt some sort of energy. She felt some other ones, but none of the other pumpkins felt like the first one. Even though it felt strange, the pumpkin was perfectly round and ripe as ever, so they took it home.

Later that evening, while Mara and her brother were playing checkers, they heard a loud *THUMP!* It sounded like it was coming from the kitchen. They ran over, but nothing was there, so they went back. Next, they heard a rolling sound. They ran over. Nothing.

Just as they were turning around to get back to their game, something brushed past their ankles. The siblings jumped and looked around, but nothing was there. They did see, however, a trail of pumpkin seeds.

They followed the trailed around the house when it finally stopped at the front door. Cautiously, they opened the door. There, they saw a beautifully carved jack-o-lantern. The jack-o-lantern smiled brightly at them, and taped to its stem was a small note. Mara opened it, and inside it said, "Happy Halloween!"



**TRICK OR TRAP**

**BY COLLEEN, 5TH GRADE**

"See you later," Eveline told her friends. "Happy Halloween!"

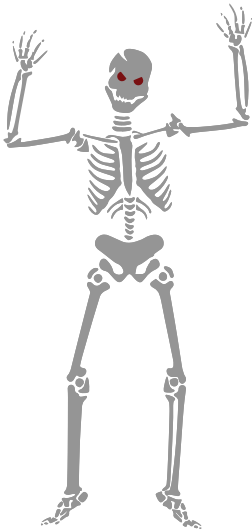
Clutching her bucket of candy, she turned the corner. Two houses down was a house Eveline had never seen before. The house had seemingly grown in the middle of all the houses. It was very festive, too. What appeared to be real blood dripped everywhere, cobwebs covered the house, and the house looked like it was falling apart. It all looked strikingly real. *One last house couldn't hurt*, she

thought.

*Ding dong!* The doorbell echoed throughout the eerily silent house. Nobody came to the door. Disappointed, Eveline turned to walk home. *WHOOSH!* A sudden breeze flung the door open and threw her inside the house. To her dismay, it was empty. The door slammed shut behind her. She realized in horror that there was no handle on the door. She was locked in! Spiders as big as her hand crawled along the dusty floor. Tattered furniture was everywhere. Eveline wandered around, desperately looking for an exit.

*Creak. Creak.* Eveline whirled around. "Hello?" she called.

No answer. She glanced at the floor. Instead of her shadow that had been dutifully following her was now a strange shape, absolutely not her own. It looked like it had tentacles and fangs and was SUPER tall. Eveline turned around. She screamed. The creature that was making the shadow was at least eight feet tall, had lots of tentacles, and one red eye! It had spikes everywhere, and it quickly scampered closer to her.



Eveline ran until she'd lost sight of the monster. She quickly hid in a nearby closet and buried herself in the dirty, stained clothes. *I wish I'd never gone into this horrible, haunted house,* Eveline thought miserably. She slumped against the wall. *Maybe I can stay in this closet for the rest of my life. Maybe --* Just then, the closet rocketed down, faster than any roller coaster in the world, and landed with a thump in the basement.

She opened the door. In the room were skeletons talking and laughing. The skeletons saw her and fell silent. "It's time she's fed to the monster so she can become like us!" a skeleton finally said. All the skeletons glided toward her menacingly, and she quickly started running. Eveline ran and ran.

Another door appeared. Inside this room was slimy green goo. Without a moment's hesitation, she waded in, determined to get out of the haunted mansion. She came upon another door. This door was hauntingly dark, filled with huge bats and spiders, and very cave like.

Eveline scrambled through the room, shooting bats and spiders along the way. Finally, she was outside, free from the haunted mansion. Eveline hurried home, anxious but relieved. The next morning, as Eveline walked to school, she passed the spot where the mansion should've been. But nothing was there. Just some grass and weeds. Nothing more. *Did I dream about it?* she wondered. But Eveline could've sworn that she saw a red eyeball watching her as she walked to school...



## **THE HARRISONS' HOUSE BY MADALENA, 7TH GRADE**

Nothing in a haunted house is real.

Everybody knows that. Right?

Well, not exactly. Come closer and let me tell you a story.

Once upon a time, there lived a little girl who lived in a little house in a little town in the middle of nowhere.

Her name was Opal, and she was ordinary in almost every possible way. She went to an ordinary school and lived in an ordinary house in an ordinary neighborhood. Except for the house on the end of the block.

It gave the impression of something that was trying to be normal but wasn't. Other houses were painted a light blue. The house on the end of the block was painted a shade of deep, dark red, like blood. Other houses had flowers in neat rows. This house has flowers bone dry and dead in woefully empty and cracked ceramic pots. It had been abandoned for as long as anyone could remember, and everyone avoided it like the plague. But it still wasn't that bad, if you crossed the street to avoid it, and avoided walking outside at night.

Until the Harrisons came.

Nobody understood exactly why they had chosen that particular house to renovate and move into--they had said they wanted to give the house a chance, but nobody believed them--but they did. Or, they were going to.

The green fence had barely come up around the property when they just vanished without a trace, with no signs of them moving away. The bewildered construction workers just left, and everybody assumed just assumed they moved



You see, Opal happened to be friends with a group of... well, "daredevils" was a nice way to put it (to say the least). Twin sisters Lira and Kira thought the Harrisons were assassinated--they liked overdramatic things--but Ruby argued that they had died. Opal didn't want to be involved in the whole mess, especially when Kira suggested that they go and find out for themselves.



At first, Opal thought everybody would laugh in her face, but everybody thought it was a great idea. Which was how Opal found herself trembling in front of the house, with her laughing friends, that Halloween.

She hung back, hoping it was just a silly prank, but her friends just giggled in excitement, grabbed her hand, and pulled her inside.

At first it was okay. Mostly. Opal felt herself begin to relax as they continued passing through the house and nothing life-threatening happened. But as they passed a shelf of dolls (creepy), their eyes began to glow...



Ruby disappeared, falling through the floor into nothing as the thick carpet vanished. They started running. Kira screamed as a skeleton--*where did that come from?* Opal thought, frantically--grabbed her ankle and dragged her backwards. Mira started shouting for help, before suddenly going silent. A ghost from the side hallway drifted in and settled around her in a cloud of white. Opal kept running to the small square light at the end of the hallway--*was it getting longer?*--her heart pounding in her throat, until smoky claws reached for her. *So, this is what happened to the Harrisons*, was her last thought before the ground rushed up to meet her, and the night fell like a thunderclap.

## CARROTS

## HONORABLE MENTIONS

**BY FAYE, KINDERGARTEN** It was a warm fall day. The kindergarten students had just finished lunch. They went back into the classroom. The teacher wasn't there. She was still in another classroom.

Suddenly, all the lights turned off. The classroom was pitch black. Then, a ball of light showed up. It looked like a scary ghost.

The students were surprised. Then, they got scared. The ghost spoke.

"Carrots," it said.

"What?" said the students. Then, the ghost said it even louder.

"CARROTS."

This time, the ghost came closer and said it even louder!

"CARRROOOOTTTTSSS!"

The students were frightened!

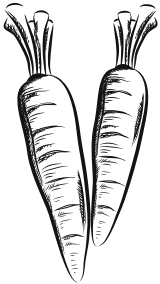
"What do you mean?!" the students yelled to the ghost.

"You forgot to eat your carrots!" yelled the ghost.

The students opened their lunch boxes and ate all of the carrots they had forgotten to eat. After that, the ghost disappeared.

The lights came back on, and the teacher came in.

"What did I miss?" asked the teacher.



There was once a kid named Dave. One day, Dave's dad went to get Dave school supplies. Then, Dave's dad went to get Dave school supplies. Then, Dave's dad heard about cheaper stuff at this other town, so he rode the trolley to get there.

When he found it, he got crayons, an eraser, a pencil, and some scissors. He paid for them later.

When Dave went to school and used his pencil, it made him write, "I have life." Dave yelled, "Aaaaaaaahhhhhh!" and then his teacher asked him what was wrong.

Dave said, "My pencil made me write this." His teacher looked at the paper and read, "I have life." She put her hand on her mouth and gasped.

## THE SCARY STORE BY HAN M., 2ND GRADE

All the other kids came over to Dave's desk and asked, "Your pencil made you write?" Dave said, "Yes." Then, everybody yelled, "Aaaaahhhhh!"

David quickly throws the pencil into the trashcan, but then the pencil flies out of the trashcan. Before the pencil can say anything, the teacher grabs it and throws it into the outdoor trashcan. The pencil was never seen again.



**RUBY**  
**BY ELLA G., 5TH GRADE**

One day, I got a doll. I named her Ruby.

Ruby and I looked alike, with brown hair and deep, green eyes. Her hair was

braided into two French braids, with red ribbons at the end of each one. Her outfit was somewhat fancy--a white lace dress and fancy dress shoes. I noticed a part of Ruby's dress that was dark red in color, almost the color of blood. *Probably just the dress design*, I thought to myself. I carried Ruby everywhere I went.



I was watching TV one night with Ruby on my lap. It was getting late, so I turned off the TV, set Ruby aside, and scurried over to the bathroom to brush my teeth. When I was done, I went back into the living room to retrieve Ruby. I could have sworn that she inched a little closer to me while I brushed my teeth, but I must have been imagining it. For some reason, I felt like something fishy was going on. I grabbed Ruby and walked over to my room. When I got in bed, I suddenly got a text from my friend saying to turn the TV to Channel 7, so I did. What I saw was pretty interesting.

The news anchor was surrounded by big, bold letters saying **BREAKING NEWS**. Hm. I kept watching.

"Beware of a doll with brown hair and green eyes. This doll has supposedly murdered many humans under the age of 18. This doll is about 30 inches tall and looks like this." The woman showed a picture of a doll that looked just like Ruby.

I shivered to myself. "Why does that look like Ruby?" I asked myself. Suddenly, I felt a sharp pain, and everything went...**BLACK**.

**CAVES**

**BY LOUIS Z., 5TH GRADE**

One day, on a foggy summer weekend, Kyle and

his friends were camping in the mountains. What they didn't know was they would never forget about what would happen on that specific night.

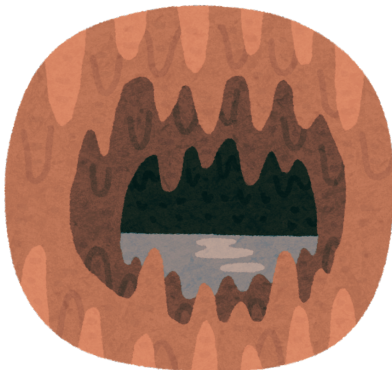
Now, since Kyle, Oliver, Jackson, and Thomas were still barely older than teenagers, their parents obviously gave them a grand lecture about not doing anything risky and coming back the next day as soon as possible, but that made them want to explore even more than before. After setting up their tent and getting their flashlights, they were ready. "We'll split up. If you find something cool, shout," said Jackson. It wasn't long before Thomas shouted, "Guys, come over here!" In about a second, everyone was somehow there. Well, everybody

except Thomas. And what better to do than go into an ominous, dark cave?

The cave itself was enough to scare a lion away. It looked like one of those cool caves where you could find stalactites and stalagmites, except these ones looked more like knives than any type of rock formation. Above those, there were very weird sounds that were a mixture of an owl's hoot and a coyote's growl.

Everybody sorted into a line. Kyle was at the front, holding his flashlight and some rocks; Oliver was holding a flashlight and a tree branch; and finally, Jackson, normally the bravest, was at the back looking paler than usual, apparently too scared to hold anything.

After walking directionless for about ten minutes, they heard a scream and a crowd laughing. Slowly, they got closer to the sound. After seeing a door, they started to rethink their life choices. It was old, destroyed, and there was blood everywhere. When Kyle opened the door, he thought he could say something cool like, "Stop right there, you crooks!" Instead, he screamed something very smart like, "Staaaaaaah!"



Now, there's something you must know about Kyle. He loves seeing his favorite heroes trapped somewhere, but he hates it when he's the one trapped. Instantly, he got his flashlight and saw some weird, gruff-looking person, and a whole group of creepy men, and Thomas trapped in the gruff guy's headlock.

Suddenly, Oliver jumped on the guy, then started running, with the others behind him. Except, he was running the wrong way and, unsuspectingly, going deeper into the giant cave.

One by one, they all started feeling sharp pain in their legs, but they didn't care. They just kept running, but it wasn't a cramp like they thought--it was a snake bite. In absolutely no time, they couldn't run anymore, and it was probably the worst time to--five men came out, all of them ready to kill them.

"Continue walking, or you'll die."

A couple days later, the newspaper came out. The headline was: **FOUR TEENAGE BOYS LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS. THREE FOUND UNCONSCIOUS. POLICE STILL SEARCHING FOR FOURTH.**

