

THE MYSTERIES OF HARRIS BURDICK-3

INSPIRED YOUTH WRITING October 2018 Vol. 31, No. 1

Students looked at pictures and quotes by Chris Van Allsburg from the book The Mysteries of Harris Burdick. Here are the stories the students wrote after looking at the pictures.

A STRANGE DAY IN JULY

He threw with all his might, but the third stone came skipping back.



By Yaritza A., 5th gr.

The Sea Monster

One foggy day, Janet and Jason went to the pond to throw some rocks. It was their favorite thing to do on a foggy day. Jason was throwing rocks. But, when he threw his third rock, it came back. Jason was so surprised and told Janet. But she did not believe it.

Then Jason did it again, as Janet watches. It did the same thing, and Janet said, "Wow," as she stood up. And then Janet saw something shiny in the pond and screamed, "AHHHH!"

Jason said, "What happened?"

"I saw a monster in there!" But Jason did not believe it. He looked at the water and saw a giant eye. He said, "Wow!"

"You see it, right?" said Janet, very surprised.

"Yeah," said Jason.

"I think it was the monster who pushed back your rock, because I saw a horn in the water and disappear."

"Same," thinks Jason.

The sea monster pulled them into the water, and they saw a kingdom covered in glitter. The glitter monster king made them the princess and prince of Glitter Kingdom, and they lived happily ever after.

By Korah W., 5th gr. Today I will tell you a scary, scary, scary story that happened in 1981. One time long ago there was a sister and a brother. They went under the water, but they knew how to breathe without anything. The little girl walked in the water, and she fell on the sand. The sea shells blew away, and there was Bloody Mary. She came and said, "Put back those sea shells, and follow the sea shells." The kids did not want to go, but they did, and Bloody Mary possessed the children. The water at first was so colorful, but then it got so dark. They went in the dungeon. Then the people on the shore helped the kids. And Boom!!! The people picked up the kids and the man made a potion, and boom! The children were not possessed anymore.

By Mustaq D., 5th gr., and Izzy

It was a dark morning in the town. Two kids decided to walk to a lake. They found three stones. The boy threw the stones, and when he threw the third one, it came skidding back! All of a sudden, a big monster came out of the lake. He looked very creepy and furry. He was blue, with three eyes. He started to splash the kids with water. He took one of the kids and threw him into the water. And then he said, "Hello," but the boy's sister couldn't hear him. His sister got away, and the boy was still in the water.

The monster talked. He said to the boy, "What's your name?" in a creepy voice.

The boy said, "My name is Jonathan."

His sister's name was Julita. She got home and said to her mom, "Jonathan is in the water. A monster took him."

Then his mom said, "Let's get him."

The monster said to Jonathan, "Come home with me."

Jonathan said, "No. I want to go home."

The monster said, "I don't care about your house."

"I care about my house."

Then Jonathan got out of the water, and he got home. They all lived happily ever after.

By Lexy V., 10th gr.

What I think was happening before the story was they were probably playing around in the ocean, and the boy was throwing rocks. The ocean would have probably pushed the rock back. The girl was looking at the boy while he was throwing the rock. What finally happened was that the boy kept on throwing the rocks while the girl picked them up, and afterwards they probably went to their house to go eat. The next day they went to the ocean again and saw something sparkly coming towards them until it jumped. They saw a dolphin. They named him Spark.

By Reaisha J., 5th gr.

There was a boy who died by drowning, so he haunted people who came to the lake at night! If you go to the lake at night, he takes you from the shore and grabs you. You go into the water and you drown. So one day a boy and his sister set out to skip rocks, and the third rock came skipping back. That's when the water came and swept them away. They went missing. A month later their parents found out that they died and drowned.

By Berenice R., 4th gr.

I see a girl and a boy by the ocean, and a boy is seeing something in the ocean. And there are rocks. The girl is wearing a dress, and the boy is wearing a shirt and pants. Maybe they wanted to see the ocean. Maybe the girl is wearing a dress because when they are done seeing the ocean they are going to a birthday party.

By Nariah D, 1st gr., and A.R. The Shiny Rocks.

On a strange day in July, a boy and a girl went to a beach. They saw seashells and shiny rocks. The boy and girl liked the shiny rocks. The girl and boy were happy. The boy picked up three rocks. He threw with all his might, but the third stone came skipping back. The girl watched. The girl picked up the rock with the boy, and the rock was a shiny explosion.

By Marilu G., 4th gr.

One day it was the 4th of July. There were a girl and a boy. Their names were Emily and Jack. They were celebrating the 4th of July. Emily and Jack and their family were all together. They live near the Atlantic Ocean, so they walk there.

Emily and Jack's family were setting everything up to eat. While the family were setting up everything, Emily and Jack went near the ocean together. They were throwing stones that they found in the sand. Then their mom called them over to eat. Everybody had fun on the 4th of July.

By Dayveana B., 6th gr.

He threw with all his might, but the third stone came skipping back. So the when the little girl saw it come back, she thought it was weird, and when the boy threw it and thought, "Is there a ghost or a spirit by us?" Then he said, "Come on, Sister. Let's go." But when they were running, they saw something weird in the woods. Then they ran faster. Then his sister, when they were running, she tripped, and the ghost grabbed her. The boy was running after her, but he couldn't make it.

By Ashley S., 1st gr., and her tutor Meada

He picked up a rock and threw it into the pond. The girl also threw rocks. When he threw the third rock, it came back. The third rock had a connection with them. It came back so it could be with them. The kids were surprised, but kept the rock. They also colored the rocks. The kids also swam with the rocks. The rocks and kids had a fun day.

By Emiya E., kindergarten

The boy and the girl were walking. They were picking up rocks.

By Kayla, 1st gr., with her tutor

Emily and Cyril went to the beach in the morning because it was sunny out. While they were walking, Emily stopped and sat down on a rock. Cyril kept walking while Emily took a break, and he picked up some rocks and started throwing them into the water. A fish jumped and ate one of the rocks, and Cyril jumped in catch the fish. Emily fell asleep on the rock while Cyril swam far away. Emily woke up and asked, "Where's my baby brother?" And then Emily jumped into the water to find Cyril, but a big shark came to eat Cyril and Emily.

By Dorieana, B., kindergarten., and her tutor

Once upon a time in a far away land, Nick and Sharby wanted to go to the lake. They were skipping rocks into the lake. Nick threw a rock into the water. The stone made a little “plop” sound. Then Nick swam into the water to get it. Nick couldn’t swim, so Sharby swam to save him. Sharby had so much fun, and they went to the park.

By Jai’yana, 4 yrs. old, and her tutor The boy is throwing the rocks. The girl is watching. The boy threw the rock on the ground. The boy and the girl were brother and sister. The girl looks like Elsa (from *Frozen*). There are other rocks on the ground. The boy looks like Olaf (from *Frozen*). The rock looks like Anna. The other rocks look like Christophe and Sven. The rocks that the girl is standing on look like the singing trolls.

ARCHIE SMITH, BOY WONDER

A tiny voice asked, “Is he the one?”



By Monish A., 5th gr., and his tutor

Scary the Ghost loved Halloween. Every year he would look for a child to steal. When everyone was trick-or-treating, he observed who he would steal. He thought of stealing a kid named Archie Smith, because Scary thought he could help him steal other children. At night when Archie was sleeping, Scary and his ghost friend snuck into Archie’s room. Scary’s ghost friend asked, “Is he the one?”

Scary the Ghost stole Archie. Scary also erased his mind so he could not run away. Archie’s parents were freaking out when they could not find Archie. There were headlines on the news, there were posters all over the city of Townsville, and all over the State of Maine where he lived. Scary trained Archie in

how to steal.

The next year Scary got more kids than the last 20 years combined. But Scary’s spell started to wear off. Archie suddenly let go of all the children, and Scary started to fade away. His power was gone. Without it he was nothing, so he would not come back again.

Archie found his way home, and his parents were astonished that he was alive. Archie is having a wonderful life.

By Fidel V., 7th gr.

There is a tiny voice asking him if he is an only child. He is in a dark room, and his window is open. Since his window was open, his friends came over and

tried to prank him and scare him, but they decided they did not want to. There was a mysterious light. It might be fireflies or a flash light.

While Archie slept, he was having a bad dream that he was in a sail boat, and there was a storm, and there were sharks in the ocean. The sharks started to circle the boat. The sharks rose out of the ocean and began to fly. Archie then realized that they were not sharks, but they were flying fish, and the storm was actually the wind blowing in his bedroom window. The bad dream ended up being a good dream.

By Gabriel O, 4th gr., and Merrill

Once upon a time there was a boy named Jeff. This boy was sleeping. Then he got a doll named Chucky. This doll was possessed. He killed people with a knife. The only way to kill him is to melt him into something that looks black. Then in years, Chucky will come alive again. This kid named Jeff came out with a boat so he can play. The clown has a red balloon. This clown is no ordinary clown. It is a killing, eating clown named It. He thinks that It ate his brother named Georgie. Then he ate his brother named Google. Then Jeff fought him and Jeff won. He did not eat the brothers but swallowed them.

By Itzel V., 6th gr., and her tutor Jeanie B.

A Halloween Story, or the Funny Stank in the Hood

One night, Georgie left his window open. It was a chilly night, but he needed fresh air. He needed the air because his feet stank! Everyone in the neighborhood could smell them. No one knew where the smell was coming from. He was too tired to wash his feet before he fell fast asleep. The blanket did not help the smell to stay there. Soon, people were checking to make sure the lids on their garbage cans were on tight and the smell was not coming from them. They saw an orange cloud coming out Georgie's window. A few of them went closer to see what it might be. Some of them fainted. The others realized that this was Georgie's bedroom and the cloud was coming out of his bedroom.

"Is he the one?" one of them said before he, too, fainted. Then they started yelling, "Wake up and wash your feet!" But Georgie was so tired, he didn't hear them and kept on sleeping. They got their drums and started banging on them so loud. But, soon the drummers were exhausted, and they worked up a sweat. Now everyone stank like Georgie's feet!

By Josiah M., 4 yrs. old, and his tutor

The boy had finally gone to bed. After a long day he wanted to sleep. He had a long day sailing in his sailboat. After that he played with his yo-yo. He had learned many tricks. When he decided to go outside, he played baseball with his favorite bat. Now he needed to get a lot of sleep for tomorrow to play more.

The boy was trying to sleep when there was a tapping on the window. The boy looked out his window and saw a dragon! The dragon smiled at the boy. The boy went outside and petted the dragon. Soon, the boy said good-bye to the dragon and went to bed.

By Marwan D., 7th gr.

A tiny voice asked, "Is he the one?" Something spooky is coming in the window, and the child was sleeping. The monster was coming very close to take the child. The boy woke up and he saw the window open, and the monster went after him. The boy saw the monster. The boy screamed, and the monster screamed, too.

By Jeffrey V., 5th gr.

The mouse said, "Is he the one?" The window shuts. The lamp turns on. Then the boat moves. The mouse brings in his friends. Then they lock the door. Then the parents try to open the door, but they are too late. Then the cats got the bat and was about to hit him. Then he woke up, and it was all a dream.

By Lorenzo V., age 4, and his tutor

A boy was sleeping. He is sleeping in a bed. Here was a boat on his wall. He likes to play with the yo-yo. A tiny voice asked, "Is he the one?" The tiny voice was his toy car. The toy car wanted to know if he was nice.

By Raul V., 3rd gr. A breezy fall night. Silence. There was only wind coming from the window. It was Halloween night. There was this kid named Archie Smith. He was skeptical about ghosts and ghouls. However, tonight there was something different in the air. Abruptly, a ghosted rushed into the room, and Archie was lost and never seen again.

By Phyllis R., 6th gr. The devil wants to take this little boy's soul. He wants it to be able to go on earth and take more and more souls so he can get better and bigger. The devil's wife is named BigFreedaTheMeanDiva, and she is here to kidnap Archie. As she walks into his room to take him, he wakes up. He saw her and he used a water gun to destroy her fire body. She melted and yelled, "I WILL BE BACK!"

By Hassan Jamal D., 4th gr., and Schuyler

Archie was sleeping. Archie left the window open. A ghost or thief can steal all of his things. A flooding light came out of the window. The flooding light came to the lamp and the lamp exploded. When the lamp exploded, the boy will wake up from his sleep. And he takes his baseball and he started to play with the baseball.

By Toby M., Andre M.'s grandmother

9-year old Archie Smith lay in his bed trying to go to sleep, but he kept hearing voices saying, "Is he the one?" He was really scared, and he couldn't go to sleep. One night as he lay in bed, he sees lights in his room. It frightens him. But he kept hearing the voices saying, "Is he the one?" He was very scared. He tried to tell people about the voices, but nobody will believe him. He was so scared of the lights that he didn't even face the window. Then one night he figured it out. It was the voices of aliens in his mind saying, "Is he the one?"

By Jason R., 3rd gr.

A room was dark. The light was off and the window was open. When the window was open, tiny lights came into his room. The boy was sleeping. But he never noticed. He had a yo-yo, bat, sailboat, and a lamp. The tiny lights were going through his bed where he slept. The shadow was going to his bed. The shadow was shaped like a man. But when the boy noticed, he got shocked. The boy got shocked because he didn't know if it was his dreams or not. But when he really woke up, it wasn't his dreams. The boy didn't know what to do.

By Carlos F., 6th gr.

In Chicago there is a kid sleeping, and as you can see, there is a dragon, and he likes boats and baseball bats. He wants to eat the kid. That's why his eyes are glowing.

By Aiden S., 4th gr. The two balls of energy are maybe trying to weaken something he's very good at.

Once a boy named Archie Smith was a very smart and strong person. He could help with his strength and maybe he could think of very creative things. But one day while he went to sleep, two glares came to weaken his strength and his intelligence. The glares are working for one of his family's enemies, and his name was the Destroyer, and he had never ever caught Archie's strength and intelligence. His family stayed prepared whenever he was trying to take his powerful things in his body. Then the glares were closing in. Then Archie had a very bad dream, and suddenly his parents came in. Then they alerted Archie. Then he woke up and they all got out of the house.

UNINVITED GUESTS



“His heart was pounding. He was sure he had seen the doorknob turn.”

By David C., 3rd gr.

Once upon a time there was a little kid named Georgie who lived in a house, but not a normal house. It was a haunted house. His parents didn't know it was a haunted house. He knew it was haunted because there were dead bodies in the attic. The bodies had no skin. There were only the bones. But the blood was everywhere. A teenager named Allen was Georgie's oldest brother. His room was in the basement. One day it was 2 a.m. Allen was asleep. He woke up because he heard a squeaky sound that the doorknob made. His heart was pounding so fast. The next day he checked the squeaky sound, but nothing was there. Allen told his mom, “Let's go to a store to change the door knob.” They

changed it. He was glad that they changed the doorknob. Once Allen told his dad the whole story, his dad didn't believe him. Since his dad didn't believe Allen, he slept next to Allen. They woke up to a squeaky sound that the doorknob made. His dad didn't believe what he heard. Allen told his dad, "I told you, but you didn't believe me!" His dad grabbed a bat and checked what was in there. He also grabbed a flashlight so he could see what was in there. Allen was holding the flash light. A zombie popped up, and his dad whacked the zombie in the head. They waited until morning to show his mom. Once they saw it, they packed up their stuff and left. They found a new house and lived there. And Allen never heard a sound again.

By Toby M., Andre's grandmother

One stormy night John was home alone. He had a house in the country, and he was on his computer. All of a sudden, he starts to hear strange noises inside his house. He kept trying to figure out where the noise was coming from. He checked the kitchen. Then he checked the bedroom, but nothing. So he went back on his computer to finish his work. But the noises he heard were louder. He called out, "Who's there?" but nobody answered him. Then he went outside. Nobody was there. His heart starts pounding really fast. He was really scared, so he went back inside. All of a sudden, he heard the doorknob turning. This time he was really scared. He checked the front and the back door. Nobody there. He had no phone in his house, but he kept hearing the doorknob turning again. This time he opened the door, and there was his girlfriend trying to get in.

By Malik O, 2nd gr., and his tutor

He came in the house and saw spooky stuff. Then a superhero came. He was from Star Wars. The Star Wars person's name was Zeb. Zeb fixed up the house.

By Rodrigo A., 4th gr. I went down stairs to go wash my clothes, and I noticed the door, and the door handle moved. I was scared because I never knew what was in the door. I asked one of my neighbors if they were brave. One of my neighbors was brave, so he opened it, and it was a mouse that tried to open the door to get food.

By Jessica K., 2nd gr., and Annie The family is getting ready for Halloween. They are going to get dressed up. Next, they went outside to get candy from their neighbor. Then, they tried to open the door. They turned the doorknob, but the door did not open! They forgot the key. "Oh, no!" said the boy. "We forgot the key! What should we do?" "We should get a ladder." But it was inside the house! "We should get the security, but he was on a day off!" He was sure he had seen the security. He was back, and he opened the door. "Hurray!" said the family. They decorated the house, but they did not forget the key.

By Donovan F., 2nd gr., dictated to his tutor Mimi

His heart was pounding. He was sure he had seen the door knob turn. He opens the door and says, "Put your hand in the air!" because he was a cop. Before, the cop was working on a computer, but he was really playing Roblox on his iPad. The cop's name was Cherry, and his wife's name was Mandeia, and they were having a nice afternoon.

Mandeia dies. All Mandeia had to drink was milk. Cherry didn't know about the poison, but Mandeia did, and she still drank it.

An invisible wizard tried to break into their house and tried to open the door. Before Mandeia died, she went into Cherry's room and Cherry gave her his gun so she could shoot the invisible wizard who was trying to break into their house.

By Baron F., kindergarten, dictated to his tutor

He saw the stairs. He heard something fall. The window was open. He smelled something stinky. The basement was dark. The ice skate stinks. The shelf has wheels. The man flew to California. The man ate shrimp and lemonade in California. He played hide-and-seek with his friend. He saw a hole in the ground. He had a fun time.

By Erin C., 2nd gr., dictated to her tutor Ruby

I see skates. The room is dark. There is a scary door. There is a man there. "His heart was pounding. He was sure he saw the doorknob turn." There was a carpet behind the door. The carpet was brown and clean. The door opened, and the man was scared. The man shivered. The man said, "Who turned the door knob?" The man didn't want to get his mail, because somebody turned the door knob.

By Deamiuya P., 1st- gr., and her tutor. SCARY STUFF

I have a dangling skate. My room is comfortable. I don't like staying in my room because my light keeps going off and on.

By Zakiyya B., 2nd gr., and her tutor Erin

His heart was pounding. He was sure he had seen the doorknob turn, so he got very, very scared. Then he panicked. After he panicked, he fell, hit his head on the floor, and he fainted. Then, the door creaked open. The boy woke up and he saw something with red eyes. It was watching him. When it saw that he was awake, it showed itself. It had blood streaming from its eyes. Then he saw that the dress was bloody. ...

By Jah'Lil C., 3rd gr.

A door was in the basement. The man was scared. He is scared because the door knob was moving by itself. He thinks it's a ghost or a person trying to steal from him. He was so scared that he ran up the stairs as fast as he could. He was thinking, "I should never have left my door open."

By Nely A., 4th gr.

Tiana was doing her homework while her older sister, Tonya, was helping her. They were in the basement. From up the stairs, Tiana heard her mom yell, "Who locked the basement door?"

Tiana yelled back, "the door isn't locked!" Tonya went up the stairs to try to open the door for her mom.

"It's locked!" Tonya cried when she tried to open the door. Tonya pulled a pin from her hair and unlocked the door. After Tonya opened the door, she saw a bloody hand on Tiana's shoulder. Tonya got scared because she realized it was a killer. Then the killer killed Tiana and her family. The family haunted the house many years after their deaths. Many families moved there and died until the house got burned down.

By Toby M., Andre's grandmother.

Scott Peters was a young 36-year old. He lost his parents in a car crash. They left him everything by him being the only child. He stayed in his parents' home in Virginia and he loved it. It had an upstairs, downstairs, plus a basement, and an attic.

One windy night the trees were hitting the windows. His father had always told him about spirits in the house. One night lying in bed he heard a lot of pounding, so he got up to see. But nothing. So he went back to bed. Five minutes later he heard the doorknob turning. He went to see what it was. Nobody's there. Back up he goes, and there was the doorknob again! "Who's there," he said. And what he saw in the shadow of darkness were his parents.

By Jacob H., 3rd gr.

It was a bright day. Mr. Leo was going to get Halloween candy. Suddenly he heard a squeal, "Eeekk," then a grunt, then laughter. Mr. Leo was freaked out. He didn't know what to do. He got a broom and turned on all the lights.

"Ahhhhh! I just saw the doorknob turn. It's here." So he got a kitchen knife and ran back.

The door opened. "Ahhhhh," the woman with a ski mask said.

"TAKE IT OFF!!" So she did. "JUDY! How dare you scare me like that!" "Sorry, Dad."

By Monish A., 5th gr.

The owner of this house heard a noise coming from the basement. The owner thought the noise was just wind hitting the window. At first, he didn't think much of the noise, but the noise only got louder. Finally, he went to the basement, and looked at the window, and no wind was hitting it. He just saw the doorknob move. He was scared and nervous. The door opened. Two people came out of the cellar. The owner of the house recognized the two people. He remembered the two people were the robbers who robbed him four years ago. The robbers were not caught on the night of the robbery. The owner called the police. The police arrived.

By Marco O., 7th gr.

Mario was ice skating with some of his friends. Mario was the shortest one there. After he finished ice skating, he went back home. Mario always enters through the smallest door because he is short. Then he uses the stairs to hang up his ice-skating boots. Then he goes upstairs, but then he hears his doorknob turn, and he turns around really scared. When the door opens, it is his brother Miguel. He asks him if he can open the big door for him to enter. Mario opened the door, and Miguel had fresh baked bread, which they ate. Then Miguel left, and Mario went to sleep.

THE SEVEN CHAIRS



The fifth one ended up in France.

By Itzel V., 6th gr.

14 years ago, in an old church, something creepy was happening with the chairs. 7 of the chairs started to float. One of the 7 chairs had a nun sitting on it. The fifth one ended up in France.

By Yasmine H., 9th gr.

Once upon a time long ago there were 8 nuns but 7 chairs, which meant either someone wasn't supposed to be there, or one had to get killed for the latest commandments. They were all named Mary, according to Father Joseph the Third. There was also Janice. Father always called her Janice, not Mary. There was something special about Janice, but they never knew what. One day

on a late Sunday night one of the Mary's heard something slightly odd coming from downstairs in the basement. She didn't know whether or not to wake up one of the other Mary's to go with her downstairs, because she knew that they had a big day tomorrow, so she decided to just go by herself. When she went down each step, it was as if the noise was getting louder and louder, but it was as if it was on the ceiling or the basement. When Mary had gone to the basement, she saw Father Joseph the Third praising the ceiling, and he was bowing down to Janice. Father then saw Mary the 4th and demanded her to leave. Mary the 4th said "No," and yelled, "Janice." Then Janice saw Mary the 4th and struck her with lightning from the demons inside of her. Mary the 4th's body was never found, but blood was always stained on the floor.

By Mya H., 6th gr. There's a nun floating on a chair. She's floating on a chair because the demons are possessing her. The men are watching her because they are possessing her from the outside. There are seven floating chairs, and the fifth chair landed in France.

By Bianca V., kindergarten, dictated to her tutor, Arden

The fifth chair ended up in France because Princess Bianca wanted it to be. She won the trophy of the fifth chair for her mother, because she is the best. The evil beast wanted to be just like a winner. To be just like Princess Bianca, the beast took her trophy of the fifth chair; Princess Bianca is protecting herself from the evil beast by lifting her chair very high. Her guards save her just in case someone tries to pretend that they are going to tell Princess Bianca, but they try to take the fifth chair trophy.

By Gregorio F., 7th gr.

There are seven chairs of the world, and each chair is the god of an important area in the world. One of the chairs, as you can tell, ended up in the capital of France. After this chair appeared, so did the rest. The chairs have appeared all over the world in other capitals of the world, like the United States of America, Russia, etc. These mysterious chairs have appeared and even have started to take control of the world's government. They told all of the countries, "We will reveal ourselves in due time, and until then you must remain calm. If you panic, we, no.... the world will be in danger." This message made almost everyone horrified; but nobody panicked, except me... Goodbye.

By Alejandro S., 8th gr.

There are seven chairs around the world. They went to seven churches around the world. They started to float. There was a nun on one of the chairs, and it started to float, to France, to a church. The chairs were haunted, and the nun on top of the chair got possessed. The two church workers had never seen a floating chair with a nun. This was the first time they saw her, and they went to help her and talk to her. After they went to help, the nun possessed them. The nun disappeared and was never to be seen again.

By Michelle F., 4th gr.

One day there were two priests who went into the church at midnight. They saw a nun up in the sky sitting in a chair. The priests asked her what she was doing in the sky. The nun didn't answer. They decided to get a ladder and to go where the nun was sitting. When they got to the top, the nun disappeared. People say that they see her in every church nearby.

By Emmanuel O., 8th gr.

There was a church, located in the woods, owned by 7 wealthy kings. These kings were greedy and powerful. They had maids and servants who hated them. Then, in the middle of the night, they were murdered in their chairs. The chairs were covered with blood and ripped clothes. The servants were behind the murder. The kings were dead, but their spirits stayed in the church, in the chairs, and whoever sat on the chair would die a painful, gruesome death. The servants thought they were safe, but they were far from safe. A few days later, the servants decided to rule the castle. 7 of them sat on the chairs. Then one of the chairs floated in the air and went really high, too high. Then the chair flipped, and the servant cracked his head; blood covered the floor, pieces of his skull all over the place. The other servants knew they weren't safe.

By Leonela C., 8th gr.

"The fifth one ended up in France." That could mean anything. Fifth one? Almost anything can be counted as five. Boats, people, tickets, witches. Maybe witches. Maybe not.

The witch in disguise looked around.

"What am I thinking?" she said.

Somebody looked at her.

"Sorry!" she called out to him. He looked at her strangely.

"What are you doing here? It's late," he said.

"O-oh! I'll leave!" She then walked out of the church. He thought of her strangely. "What was she doing so late in here?" he thought.

"Someone saw me. Might as well expose myself," she said in sarcasm. This woman was much younger than other witches, so she thought more "immature," than other witches.

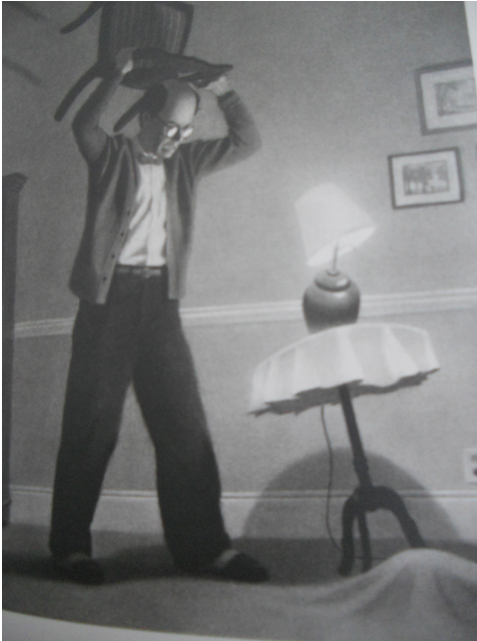
Her sister was the one to be jealous. She was never praised for her work.

The next day, she came back to the same church. But she wasn't disguised this time.

Another woman, about the same age as the witch, but ...

UNDER THE RUG

"Two weeks passed and it happened again."



By Omaree M., 4th gr.

A rat is under the rug because the man left food on the floor. The rat is looking for more food. The guy is mad at the rat because the rat is looking for food and is breaking his stuff. He threw the chair at the rat. The rat ran away, and the guy never saw the rat again.

By Itzel V., 6th gr.

Jerry was watching a movie. Then he went to go and make some popcorn. When Jerry was coming out of the kitchen, he saw something moving inside of the rug. Jerry walks around it and got the chair to hit it. He threw the chair at the thing that was inside the rug. When Jerry threw the chair, the lights went off. Then when the lights were turned on, the thing that was inside the rug wasn't

there anymore.

By Malachi H., 3rd gr., and his tutor

He was sleeping when something woke him up. He picked up the chair. He saw a bump on the rug. He got scared. It was a big hamster. The man started whacking the hamster.

By Norma A., 5th gr. MR MERHAM Two weeks ago, Mr. Merham was walking through the living room. His eyes were in *SHOCK* when he saw a big bump under the carpet. He quickly grabbed a chair and was ready to smash whatever was under there. Then that big bump under the carpet disappeared. This week Mr. Merham came back from work one evening, and remembered that he forgot something in the living room. So Mr. Merham went to the living room and was walking by the lamp, and he stopped in shock because the big bump was back. Mr. Merham grabbed the chair again to hit the bump, but he missed. He accidentally hit the lamp and the big bump disappeared, never to be found again.

By Carlos C., 2nd gr., and his tutor Lucy

One time, there was someone under the rug. The man got very mad. Finally, the person under the rug went away. But after two weeks, he came back. The old boy went under the rug again. The man feels mad. He wants to hit the person under the rug. The man looked under the rug and saw a baby lion. The entire time the man thought it was a boy under the rug, but really it was a lion. The baby lion was scared because he thought the man was about to hurt him. The man didn't hurt the lion, and they became friends!

On the wall there were pictures. The lion and the man decided to draw more pictures for the wall. They turned the lights on so they could see. The lion and the man decided to draw yellow rugs with the zoo in the background. It was so funny. They lived happily ever after.

By Tanish A., age 4, and his tutor Ellie

Once upon a time, there was a man named Mr. Watson. He teaches. He came home from school and saw a bump in the rug. He screamed and then tried to hit it with a chair. It flattened down. Two weeks passed, and it happened again. He did the same thing. It moved to the bedroom. It came in the bedroom and watched some games. The brother said, "Let's play at the arcade." They went to the arcade together. They played Candyland. They played Bingo. They went home and played hide-and-seek. They colored together.

By Priscilla H., 7th gr.

One day, I was coming home from the office. I had just put my coat in my room. I was walking in the hallway, heading towards my living room. Then I see a "lump" moving under my rug! I run and grab a chair, but when I got back it was gone.

Everything was the same for the next two weeks. Same routine, wake up, eat, go to work, come home, eat, sleep. I left a chair by the lamp in case that thing ever came back. I was walking down the hallway and I see the "lump" again! I grab the chair and hit it with everything I had. I reach under the rug and grab something that feels like fur. The "lump" turns out to be my neighbor's cat Fluffy!

By Himaneesh D., age 4, and his tutor

The man is mad! He's mad at the big bug. He wants to smash it. Two weeks passed and it happened again. The police took the man because he smashed the bug. He went to jail. He got keys and broke out! He went outside of the jail. He takes out the hose for back up. He messed up the hose and broke it! The police were sleeping, but the police woke up. The police see all the bad guys. He goes to jail again. And he never ever came out again!

The Story of a Man and a Ghost, By Jason R., 3rd gr.

One day there was a man who lived in a spooky house in the spooky woods. It was 3:00 a.m. There was a spooky ghost in the spooky house. And they killed people. He heard the boom sound, so he went to the kitchen to grab the chair, and he went to the living room to hit the ghost under the rug. When he hit the ghost under the rug, HE DISAPPEARED.

Watch for PART 2, "The Story of a Man and a Ghost."

THE HARP

"So it's true, he thought, it's really true."



By Arianny L., kindergarten, and her tutor

The man and the dog walked in the water. Then they climb in the tree. Then they jump on the grey rocks. After that they see the harp. "So it's true," he thought, "it's really true."

By Layla S., 4th gr.

Once upon a time there was a small town called Storybroke. The people that lived there were all a part of a fairy tale. One day Emma went into the forest and saw a gold harp sitting on a rock. Emma picked it up and she freed the evil queen. You see, a long time ago the evil queen took something from Rumpelstiltskin and we all know magic comes with a price. So instead of asking, she stole it, and when Rumpelstiltskin found out, he

turned her into a gold harp, and she said when she is free she will have her revenge. So when Emma picked it up, she turned into the gold harp, and the evil queen had her revenge.

By Jordynn J., 3rd gr.

"So it's true," he thought, "it's really true." David the human and Dave the dog were looking for Chicka the cheetah when they saw a magical harp. They took it and it haunted them. It played when no one was there, and they were scared. And the harp ate them. And they went into its stomach. They saw other people there. They became friends. They escaped the harp.

By Sarahi R., 5th gr.

Once there was a lost boy in the Jungle of the Harp. He was trying to find his dog. On his way searching for his dog, he heard the sound of a harp. Then he heard raindrops. He also heard a whooshing sound. Everything together sounded like actual music. He followed the sound and finally found the harp. He saw spirits celebrating to honor their people. He was shocked when he saw them. One of the ghosts caught him and told him, "Come on and celebrate!" He stayed all night till he woke up and found out it was all just a dream.

By Emily A., 1st gr.

I see a man and the dog. I think the man and the dog heard something coming to them and then he saw a harp. He walked to see the harp. He played the harp. He played so well. Then the dog joined in, too. He went home with the harp. He played so well he decided to join a band.

By Leydi A., 6th gr.

One day I was in the rainforest and I saw a harp. It was really creepy because it was so dark outside. All I heard outside were little animals singing and walking on the leaves. I thought I was alone, but then I hear a dog. I turn around and see a very scary dog looking at me. Then a guy comes out of nowhere and says, "Sorry that my dog interrupted you." Then they both left.

By Tyra R., 4th gr.

What I see in this photo is a man with a stick and a dog, and a harp. I think this story is true because I read the book about it, and at the end of the page it said it was a true story. The story is about the harp. I wonder how the harp got there, if the man put the harp there, and if he wanted to be in the story. I think the man told the dog maybe to put it there. Probably the man was just sitting there, and the kid was really scared.

By Maukeyla J., 6th gr., and her tutor

Once upon a time, there was a boy in the forest. He was looking for magical sticks, but he couldn't find them, so he went into the forest and made a wrong turn. There were ghosts talking to him. He was scared because he couldn't find another way to get out of the forest. There were magical trees talking to him in the forest. The boy was never found again.

By Rachel F., kindergarten

The man and the dog saw a monkey. The dog got scared and he woofed. The monkey got sad and climbed a tree.