



MURRAY HAUNTED TALES CONTEST



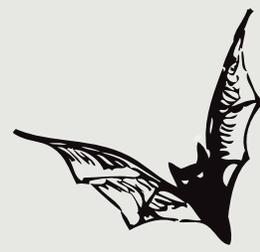
STORY STARTS

Welcome to the Murray City Haunted Tales Contest, where wretched writers make hair-raising literature live forever! Everyone loves a spine-chilling story or petrifying poem. And we want them all!

What should you write about? Getting started can be, well, such a pain in the neck. So here's a list of story starts to get your artistic blood flowing. None of these topics are required, they're just bat-brained ideas to get you thinking. Take a bite!

Grades 3-6

What happens when...

- A girl finds a werewolf puppy
 - A baby's babbling causes magic to happen
 - Your best friends win a trip to Transylvania
 - Your classroom closet is a portal to another dimension
 - The new principal is actually a witch
 - The people in the old folks home are zombies
 - You travel back in time to the Salem witch trials
 - You discover your mom's new broom can really fly
 - You and your friends discover a dangerous secret at school
 - A dog has magical powers
 - Your family vacation in the woods goes all wrong
 - Your team is cursed until it can win the championship
 - Trick-or-treating trips start getting scary
 - You find a million dollars in your trick-or-treat bag
 - Halloween creatures go to summer camp
 - A cat with a giant appetite
- 
- 

MURRAY HAUNTED TALES CONTEST



STORY STARTS



Grades 7-12

Build on the story prompts above, give them your own twist, or come up with your own story ideas!

Opposite Day. Sometimes the scariest stories are about things that were never scary in the first place. Chuckie is a doll. “It” involves a red balloon. List some things in your daily life that are cute, innocent, and harmless – then turn them into vicious and horrific threats!

Big or Small. What gets more frightening the larger it gets? Is something even more terrifying if it’s small? Try the same contrast with other senses: Can you make something extra eerie because it’s deafeningly loud (or sinister in silence)? What if it’s incredibly hot or cold? Sweet-smelling or foul?

Invisible or Everywhere. What threatens your main character because it can’t be seen? (Can you build tension because it can be smelled or heard instead?) What about someone or something that is everywhere? How can your protagonist respond to that?

Worst Moments Made Worse. What’s the worst thing that’s ever happened to you? Now blow it out of proportion and make it worse. How can something bad in your life become truly fearsome and appalling?