

A Spooky Night

by Katie Clark

Kyle and Jasmine rode their bikes up the hill toward the Old Hickory Town mansion. They had been dared by their neighbor Trenton to go inside the gates and look around.



Thunder rumbled in the distance. Kyle didn't see any lightning, but his sister should be safe.

"What if it rains?"

"I guess we'll get out of here," he said. They pedaled up the steep hill.

The mansion appeared to have been abandoned for a hundred years. No one lived there, and the place was a part of people's dreams and nightmares.

Just then, the ground trembled under their feet. It was as if someone had fallen down on Kyle and Jasmine's heads.

"Hurry!" Kyle said. He pedaled as fast as he could. Jasmine kept up, and soon they were at the top of the hill. Water dripped from their hair and clothes, and they found shelter under a huge, old tree.

"How will we get inside?" Kyle asked. He looked at the tall, iron fence around the mansion.

Jasmine pointed to the gate. "Look," she said. "It's unlocked."

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After a few minutes, the rain softened to a mist. They left the shelter of the tree and rode to the gate. Two giant pillars stood on either side of the gate. On top of the pillars were statues shaped like lions. The eyes of the lions followed them as they approached.

Kyle shivered.

"I guess it won't be hard to sneak in," Jasmine said. She pushed open the gate and they walked their bikes onto the property. Vines and overgrown grass covered everything, even parts of the old mansion.

Kyle and Jasmine were wet. The front door was there.

Kyle gulped.

"We don't have gates. We've already

Jasmine shrugged what if it's open?"

Kyle wasn't excited. He left his bike and it turned easily.

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ed, but they were still didn't want them

had to get inside the

we won't go in. But

it want to seem like a e tried the door handle,

The hinges shrieked in terror as the door opened. The darkness greeted them.

"Did you bring a light?" Kyle asked.

Jasmine shook her head.

They stepped inside the house, and something rustled from the darkness. Scratching sounds echoed across the room, and Kyle's heartbeat sped up.

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"I think we better go!" he said.

Jasmine bolted out the door, and Kyle followed her. Before he could close the door, a giant creature bounded out after them.

Kyle screamed and closed his eyes, but then he was covered by the furry creature. It licked his face.

Jasmine laughed, and Kyle opened his eyes.

A giant dog sat on his chest. Its tongue hung out, and its tail wagged.

Kyle laughed and Jasmine said.

Jasmine grinned.

They said goodbye and rode home. It had been a spooky ride.

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1) Sort the sensory details as appropriate.

the tall iron fence, the furry creature, hinges shrieking in terror, a giant creature bounding, old Hickory Town mansion, thunder rumbling

Sight	Touch	Hear

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2) Identify and explain the sensory details in the passage. They said the mansion was old and creepy.

ed them.

3) Which fact about the mansion is not true?

- a) It was hardly fifty years old.
- b) It was covered with vines and overgrown grass.
- c) Its front door was unlocked.
- d) People said the mansion was haunted.

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4) Compare and contrast Kyle and Jasmine.

5) Find instances of _____ in _____.

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