

Agenda:

DGP #3

Scary Story peer edits

 Dialogue

 Suspense

Revisions to story

Exit ticket

Homework: Complete your story and submit to the contest by 11:59 tonight! Make sure to CC: cmai@lcps.org

Saugus contest

Please provide the following information on your ghost story by next class.

- **Who or what is your ghost?**
- **What does your ghost want?**
- **Who are the other characters in your story?
Please describe them and what their roles are in your story.**
- **Describe your setting.**

Make sure your story has:

suspense
metaphors
similes
dialogue

a beginning hook

proper grammar and mechanics

How to Write a Ghost Story

1. Know the genre. Read 50 of the best ghost stories.
2. Build your story around a character who is already haunted...even before he or she meets the ghost. Ghost stories are, inevitably, always about the way the past keeps spilling loose to stain the present.
3. Keep in mind you don't need the cliches of a haunted house or graveyard - hauntings take place in the mind.
4. To write a good ghost, keep in mind "ghosts are primal expressions of need. They keep flashing into existence because there's something they want, and they aren't going away until they get it." In that sense, they're not very different from a good living protagonist.

5. A good story is a good story - the same rules apply to ghost stories as to any other genre.

6. "Don't wait too long to start rattling the chains." In other words, hook the reader quickly with a scary event or at least the foreshadowing of one.

Dialogue

Internal dialogue can be distinguished from spoken dialogue with italics

How could I get out of the house without alerting my parents? That was the big question. Alyssa paced quietly around the room contemplating this dilemma.

Punctuation for spoken dialogue:

"I am really not sure what to do at this point," Amy snapped, turning her head abruptly and heading for the door.

"Well, what can I do?" I asked out loud. The sound of silence answered me.

Rachael was a beautiful woman; she'd been told so since the day she turned sixteen. At forty-two, she was determined to see herself as the ingenue. Carl wanted to tell her she was now more femme fatale than ingenue. And that was all right by him.

“I still got it, don't I, baby?” she asked his reflection.

“More than ever, honey.”

Rachael was a beautiful woman; she'd been told so since the day she turned sixteen. At forty-two, she was determined to see herself as the ingenue. “You're stunning, sweetheart,” Carl said, pausing by the dressing table. He wanted to tell her she was now more femme fatale than ingenue, that she turned him on more than she had as a younger version of herself. But Rachael was not only beautiful. She was touchy. And being reminded of her age wouldn't keep her happy.

Carl was all about keeping Rachael happy.

“Simply stunning,” he said again

Changing Speakers

Begin a new paragraph each time the speaker changes.

She looked up at the man hovering over her. “I’d wanted to tell you for years. I just didn’t know what to say.”

“We’ve been married for thirty-four years, Alice. You couldn’t find a way, in *thirty-four* years of living together and seeing each other sixteen hours a day, to tell me you were already married?”

“I’m sorry.”

