

# SPINE-CHILLERS

## So, What Lurks In Your Imagination?

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS & TIPS TO HELP YOU GET WRITING A SPINE-CHILLING MINI SAGA...

Young Writers invites you into the hair-raising world of ghost stories and gothic fiction with Spine-Chillers...

You're challenged to write a mini saga (a story told in up to 100 words!) inspired by the theme.

Whose point of view will you choose to write from?

- The ghost?
- The haunted?
- An observer?
- A clairvoyant?

Whether you decide to write a creepy tale about the paranormal or an unexplained mystery, create folklore or a sense of foreboding, Spine-Chillers helps you plan and write a mini saga, engage with creative writing and create original ideas!

Check out the video that introduces the activity to you in just a minute:  
[https://youtu.be/\\_\\_\\_CuR6yW4sQ](https://youtu.be/___CuR6yW4sQ)

**Fun fact...**  
the voiceover on the video is exactly 100 words! Yep, our instructions are a mini saga!

### CREEPY QUOTES

Check out these famous gothic fiction quotes... and see how the writer sets the scene:

**"Here is a small fact: You are going to die."**

THE BOOK THIEF BY MARKUS ZUSAK

**"My candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open..."**

FRANKENSTEIN BY MARY SHELLEY

**"Mr. Croup began to laugh. It sounded like a piece of blackboard being dragged over the nails of a wall of severed fingers."**

NEVERWHERE BY NEIL GAIMAN

**"Everything down here floats, that chuckling, rotten voice whispered..."**

IT BY STEPHEN KING

**"God! Whose hand was I holding?"**

THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE BY SHIRLEY JACKSON

**"How could you hide from a murderer who lives under your skin?"**

THE TROOP BY NICK CUTTER

### Terrifying Top Tips

Use your senses to create the scene...

**Stench. Dark. Slimy. Chilling.**

Find words that evoke the readers' senses!

Be inspired by fear. What are you or others scared of? Use that fear in your writing:

*"What's that noise?"*

*Thousands of spiders scuttled towards me...*

*A cold hand brushed by face...*

*It was pitch-dark...*

Research writers in the supernatural/horror genre. From R.L. Stine and Derek Landy to Maureen Johnson, James Herbert and Stephen King - whatever your level of terror there is a writer out there for you!

### A Ghostly Glossary

**APPARITIONS/ GHOSTS/ SPECTRES/ POLTERGEIST** - all mean a type of supernatural figure.

**CURSE** - a solemn utterance intended to invoke a supernatural power to inflict harm or punishment on someone or something.

**PARANORMAL** - events or phenomena such as telekinesis or clairvoyance that are beyond the scope of normal scientific understanding.

**MACABRE** - concerned with or causing a fear of death.

**EERIE** - strange and frightening.

**INCANTATION** - a series of words said as a magic spell or charm.

**SUPERSTITION** - a widely held but irrational belief in supernatural influences, especially as leading to good or bad luck, or a practice based on such a belief.

**PETRIFIED** - so frightened that one is unable to move; terrified.