

This booklet consists of weekly tasks in all areas of English: reading, writing, grammar and spellings.

 **How do I use the booklet?**

- Set aside time each week to complete the tasks. You don't have to do one every day.
- Take your time to read and understand the extract. Ask an adult if you need help understanding the text.
- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you start a task.

 **How do the lessons work?**

Below are some suggested timings for each lesson:

- **Reading** - 30 minutes (including time to re-read, look up words and ask questions)
- **Writing** - 45 minutes
- **Grammar** - 5 minutes
- **Spelling** - 10 minutes

**Can parents, carers and siblings help?**

Yes, of course! Family members can help in the following ways:

- Read the extracts with you aloud.
- Gather all the exciting and difficult words you want to find out about or use in your writing and put them on display.
- Help you with the planning of a story
- Write a story at the same time as you. You could then compare your stories and check each other's writing.

 **What else can I do if I love reading and writing and I want more of a challenge?**

- Keep writing stories using your own ideas.
- Explore [www.lovereading4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk) or [www.newsela.com](http://www.newsela.com) to find other extracts to read and write about.

These packs include the wonderful resources from:

## Week 6: Grammar and Spelling prompts

### Grammar

#### Circle the verb in this sentence.

She was standing at the bottom of the huge staircase with polished banisters.

#### Insert the missing inverted commas in this sentence.

I will be your guide today at Grimstone Hall, she added.

#### Underline the expanded noun phrase in this sentence.

Mrs. Fox was a tall woman dressed in smart dark-green clothes.

#### Add the missing inverted commas to this sentence.

I won't overload you with history, Mrs. Fox said.

#### Circle the adverb in this sentence.

Jasmine confidently asked the first question of the day.

### Spelling

**Practise each word. Choose two and write their definitions.  
Choose two to write in sentences.**

accident(ally)

actual(ly)

address

answer

appear

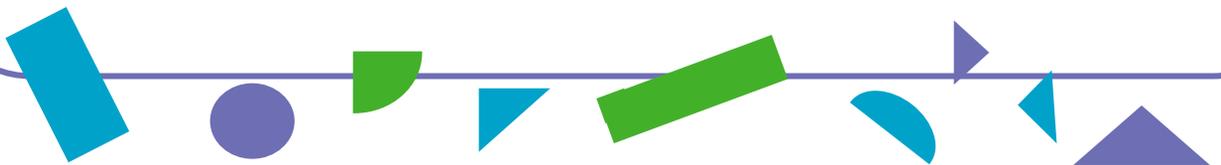
arrive

believe

bicycle

breath

breathe



## Week 7: Reading and writing prompts

## Seven Ghosts – Pages 1 – 12

## Reading

**On page 1:**

1. What ruins the atmosphere of a ghost story?

**On page 3:**

1. Why are the children excited?

**On page 3/5:**

1. All the ghosts are:

a) soldiers

b) children

c) women

d) animals

**On page 5:**

1. What 3 bad things happened to the building before it was saved?

**On page 7:**

1. What will the writer of the best story get?

## Writing

Using your imagination, write a paragraph that explains why Dr Syrus put a curse on the mirror. Can you include brackets?



## Week 7: Grammar and Spelling prompts

### Grammar

**Change any word that needs a capital letter.**

jake thought there was something strange about grimstone hall. he thought dr syrus' mirror was strangest of all.

**Choose the correct coordinating conjunction, and, but or so to complete this sentence.**

Mrs Fox told the children about the ghosts\_\_\_\_\_ she also mentioned the curse of Dr Syrus.

**Change the underlined words to the simple past tense.**

Jake takes his headphones out and listens to the guide.

**Change these sentences from the simple present to the simple past.**

It is a tight squeeze in the passage. The children follow Mrs Fox to the roof.

**Which of these adjectives best describes Dr Syrus?**

a) kind

b) mysterious

c) lazy

### Spelling

**Practise each word. Choose two and write their definitions. Choose two to write in sentences.**

build

busy/business

calendar

caught

centre

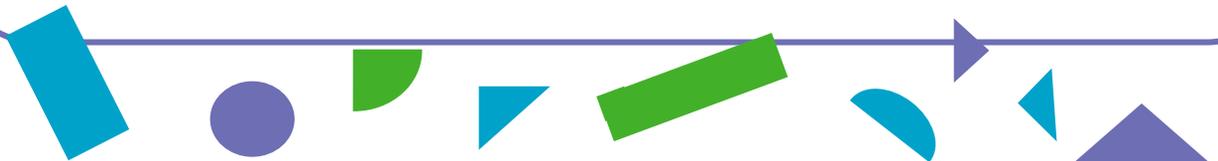
century

certain

circle

complete

consider



## Week 8: Reading and writing prompts

## Seven Ghosts – Pages 1 – 12

## Reading

**On page 8:**

1. Do you think Jake believed Miss Fox saw the ghosts?  
Why/Why not?

**On page 10:**

2. Why do you think Jake glanced back at the mirror?
  - a) he wanted one for his house
  - b) he thought it was great
  - c) he was still thinking about it

**On page 11:**

3. Why did Jake feel dizzy and freaked out?

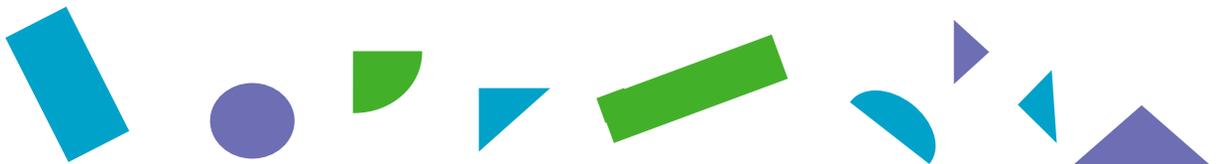
**On page 12:**

4. In which two years was the ghost seen?

## Writing

**Using your imagination, write your own story about a ghost at Grimstone Hall.**

- How did it get trapped there?
- Which room does it lurk in?
- What does the ghost look like?



## Week 8: Grammar and Spelling prompts

### Grammar

**Add the missing inverted commas to these sentences.**

One child put up her hand.

What is wrong with that mirror? she interrupted.

**Circle the verb in this sentence.**

The children pushed past each other in the narrow passage.

**Continue this sentence using and, but or so.**

Grimstone Hall was a frightening place \_\_\_\_\_.

**Which of these adjectives best describes Grimstone Hall?**

- a) modern
- b) haunted
- c) pleasant

**Add any missing capital letters to these sentences.**

the children knew something was strange in grimstone hall.

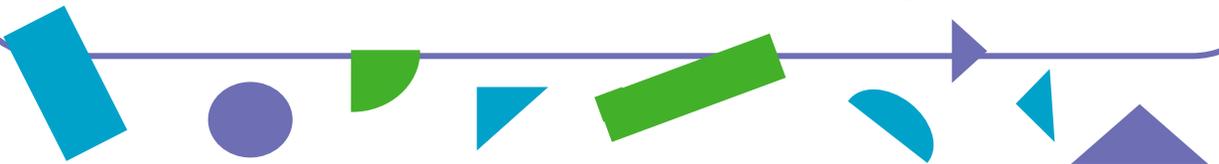
mrs fox had seen the ghosts of children.

### Spelling

**Practise each word. Choose two and write their definitions.  
Choose two to write in sentences.**

continue  
decide  
describe  
different  
difficult

disappear  
early  
earth  
eight/eighth  
enough



# Extracts

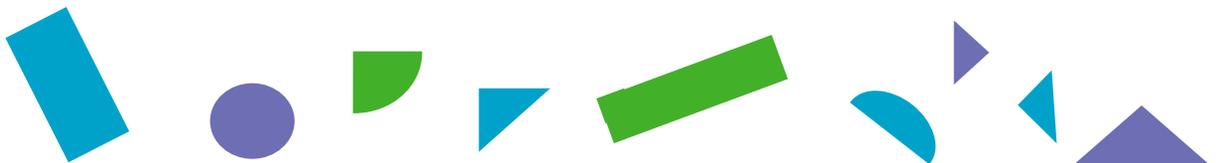
## Be The Change Poems

Extract from [lovereading4kids](#): find out more about the book and the author



## Seven Ghosts

Extract from [lovereading4kids](#): find out more about the book and the author



# Be the Change

**Liz Brownlee** does readings and workshops, with her assistance dog, Lola, at schools, libraries, literary and nature festivals. She has fun organizing poetry retreats, exhibitions and events, and runs the poetry website Poetry Roundabout. She is a National Poetry Day Ambassador.

**Matt Goodfellow** is from Manchester. He spends his time writing and touring the UK and beyond visiting schools, libraries and festivals to deliver high-energy, inspirational poetry performances and workshops. Before embarking on his poetry career, Matt spent over 10 years as a primary school teacher. He is a National Poetry Day Ambassador.

**Roger Stevens** visits schools, libraries and festivals, performing his work and running workshops for young people and teachers. He is a National Poetry Day Ambassador, a founding member of the Able Writers scheme with Brian Moses and runs the award-winning poetry website [www.poetryzone.co.uk](http://www.poetryzone.co.uk) for children and teachers.

*Other poetry titles from  
Macmillan Children's Books*

*The Same Inside*

*Reaching the Stars*

The title 'BE THE CHANGE' is written in a large, bold, hand-drawn font. The letters are white with thick black outlines. The word 'CHANGE' is particularly large and has a boot-like shape at its base. The words 'POEMS TO HELP YOU SAVE THE WORLD' are written in a smaller, similar font below 'CHANGE'. There are several small, stylized leaves scattered around the text, some pointing upwards and some downwards.

**BE  
THE  
CHANGE**  
POEMS TO HELP  
YOU SAVE THE  
WORLD

by

**Liz Brownlee,  
Matt Goodfellow  
Roger Stevens**

MACMILLAN  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS

*For Bob Alderdice and Rob Bostock, educating the  
next generation – M. G.*

*For Emmelie and Jem and all our children's children – L. B.*

*For the bees. Good luck! – R. S.*



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# Contents

<b>Ways to Change the World</b>		<b>1</b>
Start Now	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	1
Captain Save-the-Planet	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	2
Munch, Crunch, Packed Lunch . . .	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	4
Couch Superstar	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	6
Promise	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	8
Are You Flushed?	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	9
Richest Boy in the World	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	10
Funny Fruit and Wonky Veg	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	11
Ways I Have Raised Money for Charity This Year	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	12
Recycling Paper	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	14
Grandad's Tomatoes	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	16
Poem for Amina	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	18
My Favourite Thing	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	19
Glitter Quitter	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	21

Things Not to Throw in the Ocean	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	22
Ex-Specs	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	24
A Message to You	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	25
Greta Thunberg	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	27
The Greenway	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	29
The First	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	31
It Sucks	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	34
Garden Treasure	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	36
People Are Amazing	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	37
Always in My Pocket	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	39
Feeding the World	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	40
It Could Be You	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	41
<b>The Natural World</b>		42
Congratulations	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	42
The Dodo's Lament	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	43
Lone Blue Whale	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	44
Thank You	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	46

Cows	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	48
Help Needed	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	50
Jelly Wishes	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	51
Biodiversity	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	52
The Sea Speaks	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	53
Orangutan	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	54
Conservation		
Conversation	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	56
Food Chains	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	58
Walk in the Woods	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	60
Snow Leopard	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	61
Symbiosis	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	63
<b>Tricky Questions, Talking Points</b>		<b>64</b>
Hunger	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	64
Who Owns Planet Earth?	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	65
Equality	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	67
Fleeces	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	68
The Bottom Line	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	69

Crossing the Road	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	70
City	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	72
Toilet Talk	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	73
It's a Skin Thing	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	74
Getting to the Truth	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	75
Windmills on My Mind	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	77
No Joke	<i>Matt Goodfellow</i>	79
Weathering Weather	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	80
Listening Bench	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	82
A Polar Plea	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	84
Dump It	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	85
Let Us Save the Planet	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	86
Snow	<i>Liz Brownlee</i>	88

# Ways to Change the World

## Start Now

be the change  
you want to see  
walk the walk  
stand with me

take the challenge  
spread the word  
we can make  
our voices heard

every single  
action helps  
with a friend  
or by yourself

be the change  
you want to see  
walk the walk  
stand with me

*Matt Goodfellow*

# Captain Save-the-Planet

I am Captain Save-the-Planet

I am GREEN

Not green like The Green Lantern

Not green like The Incredible Hulk

No, I am green like the forests

like grass, like ferns

and the green, clean air

that blew across the planet

long ago

I am Captain Save-the-Planet

I am strong

Not strong like my arch enemy Radioactive

Man

who burns the sky

with invisible rays

Not like Coal Power Man

who spews out deadly fumes

No, I am strong like the wind

turning a million wind turbines

I am strong like the sun

heating a million homes

I am Captain Save-the-Planet  
and I am looking for an assistant  
Would you care to apply?

*Roger Stevens*

What would your planet-saving superpower be?

# Munch, Crunch, Packed Lunch . . .

Your packed lunch can  
if you plan it  
help to save our  
ailing planet,  
you'll be saving  
just by scrapping  
straws and packets,  
plastic wrapping,  
get an eco  
box or two  
made of wheat straw  
or bamboo,  
put in your lunch  
and with no oil  
the shut-tight lid  
won't let it spoil,  
banish crisps  
and juice in boxes,  
fill with wraps

and nuts and coxes,  
sliced ham rolled up  
(roast or parma),  
blueberries, grapes  
or a banana,  
carrot slices  
eggs and cheese,  
pizza pieces  
pickled peas,  
naan bread sarnies,  
carrot crunch,  
sustainable  
sustaining lunch!

*Liz Brownlee*

Packed lunches contribute to a lot of unrecyclable waste products. **You can help!** See how creative you can become making lunches with no plastic packing whatsoever. Have a competition each week to see who has brought the greenest lunch to school! Use a reusable water bottle for drinks. Sometimes a reusable plastic box is the only solution; but these can last a long time.

# Couch Superstar

If changing the world seems far-fetched and  
crazy

because, frankly, my dear, you're incredibly  
lazy

more likely to yawn and stretch on the sofa  
than strap yourself in to the change  
rollercoaster

here's an idea you mustn't forget:  
there are ways you can help without breaking  
a sweat

put on a jumper, keep thermostats low  
get a blanket and rug – feel that warm, cosy  
glow

switch electrical equipment off at the wall  
now you're part of the change with no effort at  
all

just two tiny things, but look what you are:  
a champion of change - a couch superstar

*Matt Goodfellow*

**You can help!** Check out the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals website for more tiny things you can do which make a big difference.

# Promise

You see them in doorways  
you see them in parks  
there are so many of them  
that after a while  
you don't even notice them  
We were in Nottingham  
and one of them  
played a tune on a toy xylophone  
and Mum put a five pound note  
in his cup  
Mum says  
as you grow up  
you'll find that life doesn't always turn out  
as planned  
You have to help people  
if you can

*Roger Stevens*

Crisis, a charity for the homeless, says the latest figures showed that 4,751 people slept rough across England on any given night in 2017.

# Are You Flushed?

Flushing loos will use a quarter  
Of your day's amount of water  
'If it's yellow, let it mellow'  
Science says just let it be  
Save the planet, save your wee!

*Liz Brownlee*

**You can help!** Yes, it's true – scientists say that it is fine to leave your wee in the loo, and saving water saves energy as well as water, because it has to be pumped through pipes every time you turn on a tap or flush the toilet. You can also save water by turning off the tap in between rinsing your toothbrush.

# Richest Boy in the World

Miss Moss divided the class  
proportionally  
by the wealth in the world  
John was one of the hundred multi-billionaires  
who owned half  
of all the world's money  
Six of the class were reasonably well off  
The rest of us were the millions  
of really poor people  
and some of us couldn't even afford a place to live  
After the lesson, at playtime, I asked John for a  
crisp  
and he gave me the whole packet  
and he said,  
If I do get rich, when I'm grown up, do you know  
what?  
I won't forget you.

*Roger Stevens*

The richest 1% of the population in the UK own as much as  
the poorest 55% of the population.

# Funny Fruit and Wonky Veg

make a change  
with a simple pledge:  
pick funny fruit  
and wonky veg

different looks  
same great taste  
now none of it  
need go to waste

*Matt Goodfellow*

1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted in the world each year. In a pile it would be roughly the same size as the mountain Ben Nevis. Wonky fruit and veg tastes the same! Does it matter? Food production takes a massive amount of the planet's resources such as oil and water. Disposing of waste also uses energy. **You can help!** Embrace ugly fruit and veg!

# Ways I Have Raised Money for Charity This Year

*(or attempted to)*

Shaved Dad's eyebrows and half his  
moustache off

*(in hindsight it would have been better to ask him  
first and not do it while he was asleep the night  
before an important business meeting with his new  
boss)*

Dyed my hair pink and wore pyjamas to school  
*(again, possibly should have checked with the  
Headteacher, Mrs Jones, that this was OK – she  
nearly fainted when she saw me)*

Did a sponsored run around the school field  
with Stephen  
*(who had to stop after one lap because the cut  
grass was playing havoc with his hay fever and he  
got stung by a wasp)*

Made 12 iced fairy cakes to sell at playtime  
*(left them on the kitchen worktop where they were  
gobbled up by Frankie, the French Bulldog, who  
was then violently sick on Mum's fluffy slippers)*

*Matt Goodfellow*

Please protect your mum's slippers before raising  
money for charity.

seven  
ghosts

**ALSO BY CHRIS PRIESTLEY**

*The Wickford Doom*

*Flesh and Blood*

*Still Water*

seven  
ghosts

CHRIS PRIESTLEY

# *To Tamsin*

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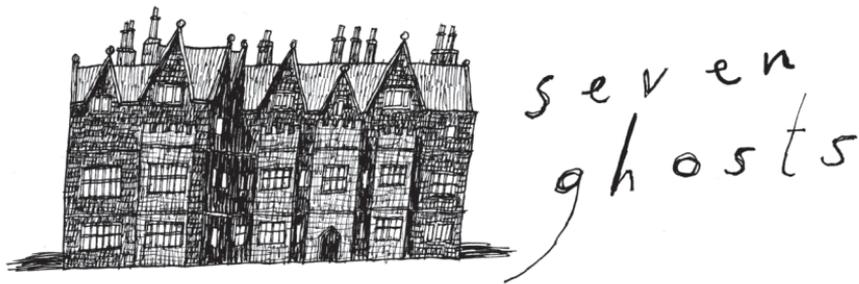
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## CONTENTS

Seven Ghosts . . . . .	I
Ghost 1 . . . . .	13
Ghost 2 . . . . .	32
Ghost 3 . . . . .	52
Ghost 4 . . . . .	65
Ghost 5 . . . . .	82
Ghost 6 . . . . .	104
Ghost 7 . . . . .	124





Jake heard the clapping and took his headphones off, letting them loop round his neck. He was standing in a group of maybe twenty other children in a large hall lined with mirrors and gold-framed paintings. It was all pretty fancy.

Jake checked his phone and leaned around the boy in front of him to look at the woman speaking. She was standing at the bottom of the huge staircase with polished banisters.

“Good morning, everyone!” she said. “My name is Mrs Fox.”

Mrs Fox looked at Jake and seemed to sigh.

“Phones off, please,” she told them.  
“Nothing ruins the atmosphere of a ghost story more than a jokey ring-tone.”

Jake muted his phone and put it in his pocket.

“I will be your guide today at Grimstone Hall,” she added.

Jake shuffled forward a bit to get a better view. Mrs Fox was a tall woman dressed in smart dark-green clothes. She had pale skin and bright-red lipstick and big glasses with black rims.

Mrs Fox glanced at Jake a second time and gave him another funny kind of look. This made him frown, because who was she to look at him like that? She didn't even know him.

“You have been chosen from hundreds of entrants,” Mrs Fox went on as she looked back at the other children. “We felt your stories were the twenty best ghost stories sent to us from schools all across the country. The

Grimstone Hall Trust have been holding this ghost-story competition for several years now. Each year we invite children to submit their stories, and our panel of authors choose the twenty they think are the best. This year they chose your stories. So give yourselves a round of applause.”

The group of children paused with embarrassment for a moment, then did as they were asked. Jake joined in, and Mrs Fox clapped too. The children stopped clapping when Mrs Fox did.

“Now on to the business of today,” she said with a smile. “As you all know, Grimstone Hall is thought to be the most haunted house in England.”

A ripple of excited murmuring went round the group. Jake smiled.

“But there’s something more important than that,” continued Mrs Fox. “I think we are the only haunted house where all the ghosts



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~~RESTRICTED~~  
AREA

KEEP OUT

are children. It's rather special, don't you think?"

Jake wasn't sure how special it was, but Mrs Fox didn't seem to want an answer to her question.

"I won't overload you with history," Mrs Fox went on. "I will just say that there has been a manor house on this site since the Middle Ages. The house you're in today was mostly built at the end of the seventeenth century by the Gilbert family. A trust bought Grimstone Hall in 2002 with help from National Lottery funding. There had been another plan to make it into flats, but it never happened and the building began to crumble. It was vandalised and burgled. There was a small fire, but we managed to save the building in the nick of time."

Mrs Fox paused to let the children take this in.

"Grimstone Hall became what it is now – a hugely successful hotel, conference centre and

venue for writing festivals. It seems there is no shortage of people who want to spend the night in a haunted hotel. People even get married here! An annual horror festival began here in 2005 and has been going ever since. Then the Grimstone Hall Trust decided to have a children's festival too, and as part of that we hold our national ghost-story competition. That's where you come in."

Jake looked at the other children. They all looked just like he thought they would. Nice kids from nice homes. They looked like the kind of kids who couldn't wait to put their hand up in class. The kind of kids who didn't get into trouble. The kind of kids who probably didn't even know what trouble looked like. He was already wishing he hadn't let his English teacher persuade him to enter his story.

"I am going to take you on a tour of the house and some of the grounds," said Mrs Fox. "I'll introduce you to seven ghosts and their stories. The ghosts might even appear to us. You never know."

Two of the younger children at the front gasped.

“I should add,” said Mrs Fox. “While many people have seen our ghosts over the years, you would still be very lucky to see one – or, rather, unlucky.”

Mrs Fox smiled to herself.

“Afterwards, you will all go back to your schools and write your own story inspired by our day together. The writer of the story chosen as the best will get our lovely trophy and some very generous prizes. So soak up the atmosphere as we go round and see if you can come up with a really wonderful story to wow our judges. Any questions before we begin?”

A girl to Jake’s right put her hand up.

“Jasmine, isn’t it?” said Mrs Fox, checking her list of names.

“Yes, miss,” said Jasmine.

“What would you like to ask?” Mrs Fox went on.

“Have you ever seen a ghost, miss?” Jasmine asked.

A strange look came over Mrs Fox’s face, and she paused before saying, “Yes, I have. I have seen all the ghosts at Grimstone Hall.”

The children gasped. Jake frowned. Really? It was easy for her to just say that she’d seen a load of ghosts, but did she have proof?

“I will tell you about that later,” continued Mrs Fox. “If we have time. Come along. There’s a lot to see, and we are having a special lunch in the dining room at twelve thirty. The chef here is rather marvellous but also a bit frightening. He will get very cross with me if we are late.”

Someone’s hand went up near to Jake.

“Miss,” said the boy as he pointed to a mirror on the wall. “Why is this mirror cracked?”

Jake turned to look where the boy was pointing. Jake hadn't spotted the round mirror that looked like a fish eye. It had a thin diagonal crack running across it.

"Ah," said Mrs Fox. "Well, Harry, I'm glad you asked. That is a rather special mirror. It came from a man called Dr Syrus. He was supposed to be a magician. But not the good kind. One of the owners of Grimstone Hall bought the mirror in an auction. He was very keen on objects and books with strange pasts."

"But why is the mirror cracked, miss?" said Jake.

There was something about this mirror that nagged in Jake's mind. Like a memory he just couldn't grab hold of.

"It got broken some years ago," said Mrs Fox. "Before Grimstone Hall was open to the public."

"Isn't breaking a mirror supposed to be bad luck, miss?" said Harry.

“Yes,” said Mrs Fox, nodding. “So they say. The mirror was believed to be cursed by Dr Syrus. Some of the trustees of Grimstone Hall wanted to replace the glass, but most felt it might be better to just leave it be ...”

Jake stared at the mirror. Why did it bother him so much? But Mrs Fox clapped her hands as he tried to think, and she started up the staircase. Everyone just watched her go.

“Well, come on,” she said, looking back at them. “Follow me. We’ll begin with the roof!”

The children set off after Mrs Fox up the grand staircase. Jake followed them but glanced backwards towards the mirror as he went.

When they arrived at the very top of the stairs, the house seemed a bit less grand than it had at the bottom. There were no fancy lights or expensive-looking furniture. The walls were plain and the floors were bare.

“This way,” said Mrs Fox, and opened a door to a darker staircase. “Don’t be alarmed. This passage is a bit of a tight squeeze and rather steep, but it doesn’t last for very long.”

They started to climb. Jake was the last one to come out onto the roof.

“Whoah!” Jake said as he stepped out.

“It is rather high up,” said Mrs Fox. “Apologies if you suffer from vertigo, but we did ask on the questionnaire you all filled in.”

Jake felt dizzy, but he couldn’t complain. He hadn’t filled in the questionnaire. He couldn’t see the point in it. Jake leaned back on one of the chimneys and tried to settle himself. He looked out over the trees and could just make out the top of his block of flats. The tree branches shivered in the breeze and seeing them move made Jake feel even dizzier. Something flapped past his head. Something white and blue. What was that? Jake shook his head. He needed to calm down. He was just freaked out by being this high up, that was all.

“Let’s begin,” said Mrs Fox. “The ghost I am going to tell you about has been seen many times over the years by many people. In 1874, a workman fell from this roof after seeing him. Over a century later, a visiting American general swore he also saw the ghost during an air raid in 1943. But our story starts at the beginning, in 1822 ...”