Exit Ramp to the Underworld



Marianne Posadas

Linhan Ye

Nelson Literacy Directions

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Exit Ramp to the Underworld

Written by Marianne Posadas
Illustrated by Linhan Ye

Contents

1	In the Darkness	4
2	Do Not Disturb	8
3	Let Me Be at Peace	15
4	A Horrifying Discovery	21
5	A Frightening Day	29
6	Something Weird	37
7	A Ghoul Revealed	45

NELSON
CENGAGE Learning
For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**

Meet the Characters

For teachers' inspection ONLY



Adriana Allman

One of the Allman twins.



Annabelle Allman

The other Allman twin.



Mr Corbett

A Department of Roads worker.



Mr Gregory

Another Department of Roads worker.



Jebediah Allman and friends

The inhabitants of the old Ingleford cemetery.



A Crow

The guardian of the old Ingleford cemetery.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Dear Reader

Many years ago, in my home town, a new road was built through an old cemetery. I thought it must have been spooky working there, and I'm sure not everyone agreed with the plans to disturb the old tombs and gravestones.

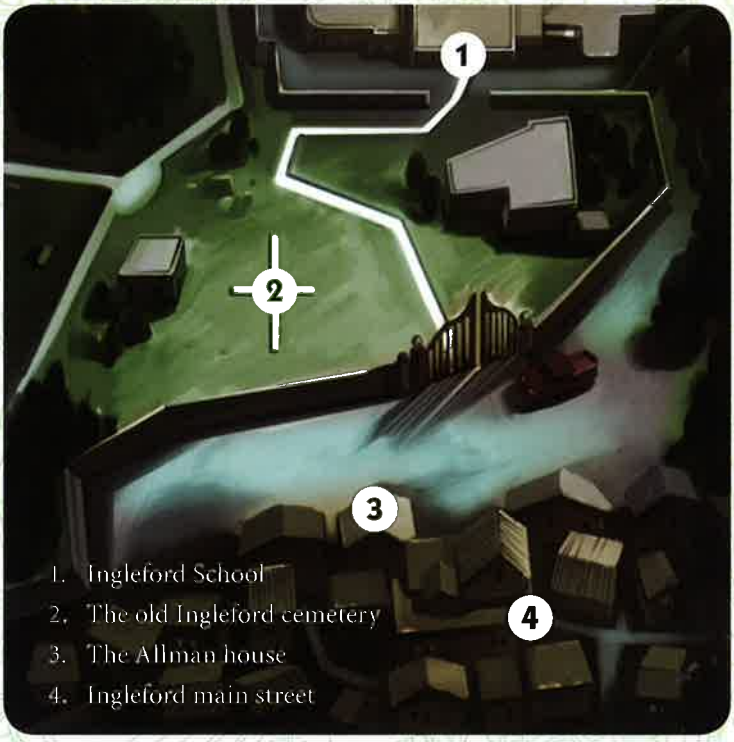
POST CARD

That event gave me the idea for this horror story. I hope you enjoy it - but be warned - don't read it alone!

Marianne Posadas

Author

Ingleford Cemetery



1. Ingleford School
2. The old Ingleford cemetery
3. The Allman house
4. Ingleford main street

1 In the Darkness

For teachers' inspection ONLY

The torch flickered ominously. The life in its tiny bulb petered into nothing. Suddenly, **the room was plunged into an eerie darkness. The shadowy walls seemed to be closing in.**

No one breathed. Slowly, as her eyes became accustomed to the gloom, Adriana Allman put down the book of horror stories from which she'd been reading aloud. She jumped in alarm when she saw the shape of her twin sister's head hovering in front of her.

"Annabelle!" she hissed. "Annabelle, don't move!"



For teachers' inspection ONLY

The moon slipped out from behind a cloud. Annabelle's head became connected to a neck, shoulders and torso. Despite Adriana's plea, Annabelle's dark form loomed over her sister. Her eyes widened.

"Don't come any closer," hissed Adriana, with a growing sense of foreboding.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Then something clattered noisily to the ground. Annabelle's ghostly outline stumbled and let out a cry. Adriana clamped her eyes shut, her worst fears confirmed. Urgently, her fingers scrabbled on the wall next to her.

Where was it? Where? Where? Adriana searched in vain. Then, as she was about to leap out of bed and fling open the door, her fingers bumped into something. An enormous feeling of relief swept over her.

She flicked on the light switch. The dark room was transformed in an instant. The Allman twins recoiled involuntarily and blinked.

Adriana looked at the red stain slowly spreading across the floor. Her fingers reached out to touch the sticky dampness.

Annabelle looked at the scene in horror. Adriana's eyes, filled with anxiety, flicked upwards at her sister.

Annabelle crept downstairs, step by step, holding her breath with each footfall. The still night air seemed to magnify every creak emanating from the

For teachers' inspection ONLY

protesting floorboards. She glanced over her shoulder. No one else in the house stirred.

Silently, she felt her way towards the laundry. There, salvation in the form of a bucket and a sponge awaited. If she could blot out the evidence before the morning, no one would ever know.

In the darkness, Annabelle's fingers passed over the cupboards until they fell upon the handle she wanted. Without a sound, she grasped the handle. Slowly, she opened the cupboard.

With an almighty clatter, an army of demented brooms, mops, buckets and dustpans fell on her!

Worse still, as she scrambled backwards, she heard the sound she had been most dreading. A single heavy footstep coming from the other bedroom.

Annabelle's heart plunged. There was nothing for it. She was about to meet her fate!

2 Do Not Disturb

For teachers' inspection ONLY

"I told you not to move," said Adriana. "I told you."

"How was I meant to know where you'd left your raspberry cordial?" said Annabelle, looking downcast. "I was only trying to find the light switch."

Teresa, the twins' mother, shook her head. She looked at the spilled raspberry cordial soaking into the carpet.

"You girls!" she said in exasperation. "How many times have I told you not to read by torchlight? It's bad for your eyes – and the carpet."

"Sorry, Mum," said the twins in unison.

"I'll clean it up," added Annabelle.

"*The Grim Graveyard of Ghastly Ghouls*," said Teresa, reading the title of Adriana's book. "Whatever next?"

"*The Shadowy Sepulchre of Silent Shame*!" piped up Adriana. "It's a whole series from our school book club and ..."



For teachers' inspection ONLY

"If you want a bedtime story, I can tell you one," yawned Teresa. She headed towards the door of the twins' room. "It's called *The Twin Torture of Tired Teresa*. And," she added, as she closed the door, "it DOESN'T have a happy ending!"