
Skeleton Picnic
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TCM
Teacher Created Materials

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## Chapter One

# Tell Me a Story

"Dad, tell me a story tonight, OK?" Annabelle called to her dad, who was passing by her bedroom door on his way down the hall. "You tell the best stories!"

When he popped his head in her doorway, Annabelle quickly added with a giggle, "But don't tell Mom!"

"The best stories, eh?" Dad grinned. "Well, OK, you've got me hooked."

Annabelle smiled.

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"Well, daughter of mine, what will it be? Princesses? Mermaids? Fairies? Ballerina ponies?" Dad asked with a wink.

He knew that fairies and ponies were not her usual things. But warrior fairies who shot lasers from their wands and wore combat boots with their tutus were something she could get behind.



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"Dad, how about…" Annabelle began, pausing as she thought. Then, with sudden inspiration, she added, "A spooky story?" She shuddered and smiled at the same time. Annabelle loved spooky things!




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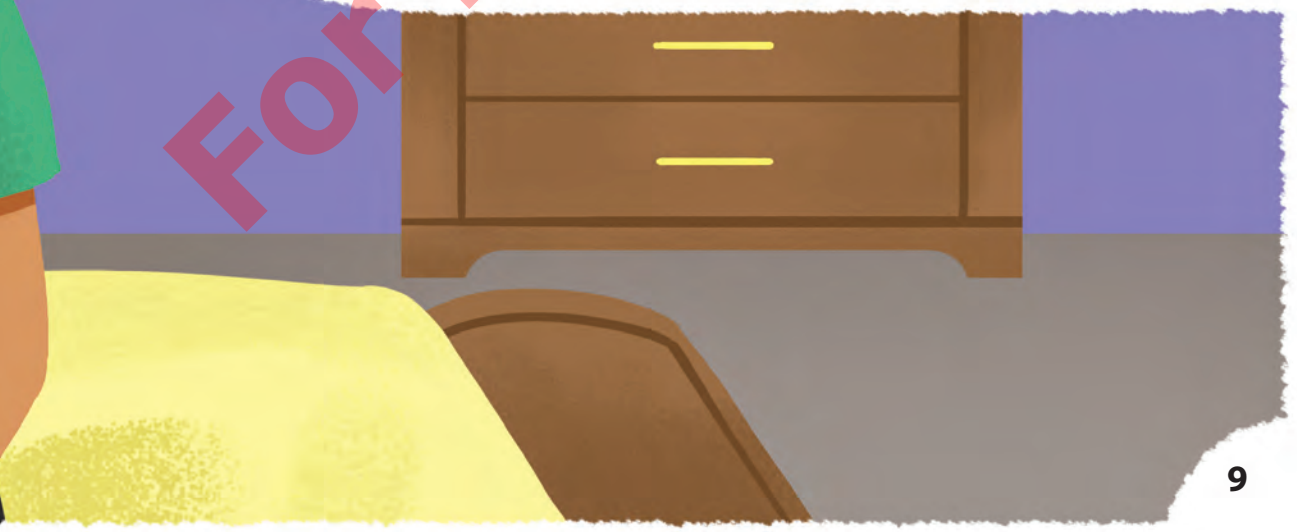
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"Spooky, huh?" Dad asked. "OK, how spooky? I mean, do you want spooky that will make you laugh? Do you want spooky that will give you a chill? Or do you want spooky that will have you crawling under the covers with Mom and me?" Dad winked.

She thought a minute. Spooky with a laugh sounded just right.

"The first one, Dad!" she giggled.

"You've got it, Annie B," he said, using her nickname. "Here goes." And Dad began his story.



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# Skeleton Picnic

Annabelle wants an extra special goodnight story that will also spook her a little—and make her laugh. Well, Dad has the perfect story to tell. It's "Skeleton Picnic" coming right up!

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**Reading Levels**
Guided Reading: M
DRA Level: 28
Lexile® Level: 570L

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