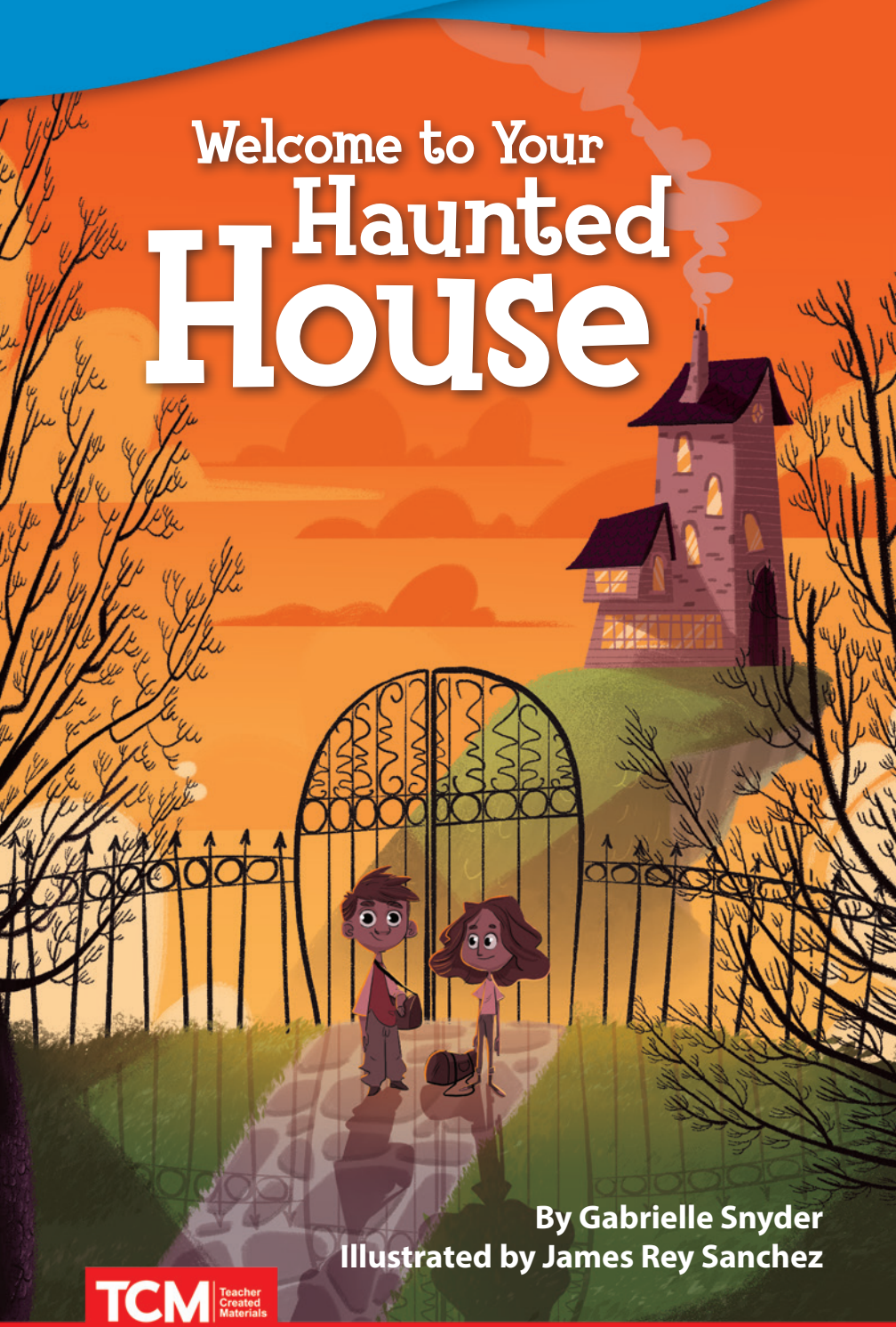
Welcome to Your Haunted House



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TCM Teacher Created Materials

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CHAPTER ONE



Moving

Jason and I were at home playing our new favorite game called *try not to laugh*. I had him hiccup-laughing when Mom and Dad strolled into the family room. It's time for a family meeting," announced Mom.

"Uh-oh! What did you do this time, Jason?" I asked.

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"No one is in trouble, Anna," said Mom, pushing her glasses to the top of her forehead. "We have some great news! We've bought a new house that's much closer to your school and our work, and we'll be moving as soon as we get everything packed up."

"It'll be an epic adventure for the whole family!" said Dad. "And you'll actually be able to walk to school every day."

"You're going to adore the new house," said Mom. "It's full of charm and, dare I say, mystery."

"There might even be some secret passageways for you to discover," said Dad.

I sighed and glanced at my big brother. He rolled his eyes. I could tell that he wasn't excited about the move either.

Later, while we were packing, I asked Jason, "Do you think there'll be anything fun to do at the new house?"

"I sincerely doubt it," he said. "I bet

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there's no tree house or tire swing like we have here."

The day of the move, a gigantic moving truck pulled up in front of our house. While the movers loaded up, Jason and I wandered from room to room and then meandered out the back door into our yard.

"Goodbye, tire swing," said Jason, "I'm gonna miss you!"

We climbed the ladder up to our treehouse and surveyed our soon-to-be old domain.

We sat in silence, just listening to the crows cawing on the telephone wires, until Mom called us to leave. "Farewell, tree house," I whispered, climbing down the ladder for the last time.

As we pulled away from our old house, the sun sparkled at full wattage. But as we drove across town to the new house, dark clouds drifted across the sky, obstructing the sun.

We drove up a long, winding

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hillside road.

"Spooky," said Jason.

I laughed nervously.

Finally, we pulled up to the new house—an ancient Victorian. It was a dingy gray with trim that might've been white a century or so ago.

Dad said, "Why don't you two investigate our new, er, new-ancient house while Mom and I get the furnace going?"

Jason and I began our tour outside, navigating around the house and gazing at it from every angle.

"It is truly gigantic, so that's got to be worth *something*," said Jason.

We ran to the backyard and contemplated the backside of the house. From the daylight basement to the dormer windows set against the sky, the house looked eerie.

Something caught my eye: a swirling movement in one of the upstairs windows.

"Did you see that?" I whispered.

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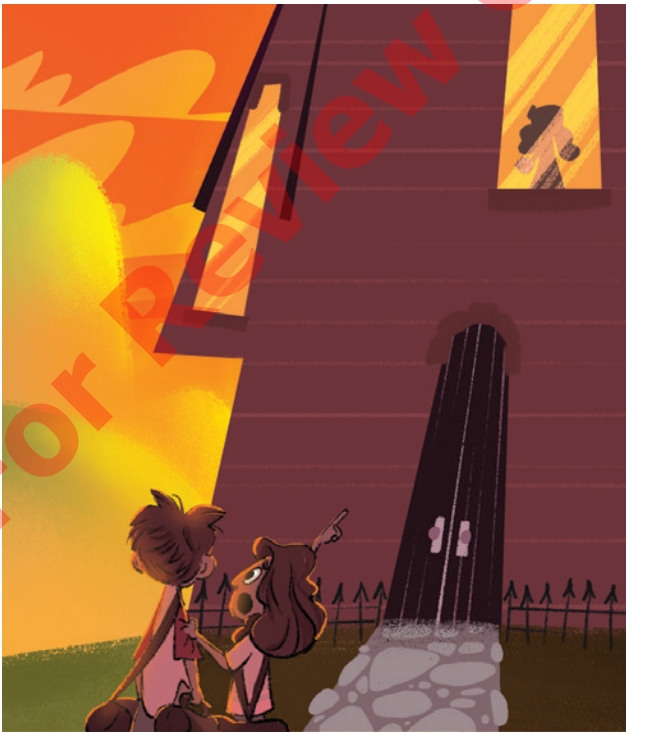
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"See what?"

"There," I said, pointing. "In that window."

"That's weird," he said. "It looks like someone is moving around up there. But…it must be Mom or Dad."

"No," I said, "*that* doesn't look like either of our parents. That person looks…transparent."



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Book Club Questions

1. Why don't Anna and Jason want to move to the new house?
2. What is Anna's first impression of the new house?
3. How does the ghost introduce herself to the kids?
4. Who set up the fluffy tea party, and why do you think they set it up?
5. How do Mom and Dad react to Anna and Jason's claims that there is a ghost in the new house?
6. What changes Anna's mind about Mabel?

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