

Blithe Spirits. . . A Halloween Dozen

A Bulletin Dozen Booklist

October's crisp, crunchy leaves and brief, brisk days beckon young people to curl up with a good book or two. What better way to help your readers celebrate fall and Halloween than with ghost stories. This month's offering, which revisits a Dozens topic last featured way back in July 1997, includes a wide range of ghostly encounters from which to choose. Sometimes it's the move into a new house that causes difficulty—for the new family and the resident ghosts. At other times it is the spirits who feel compelled to leave their places of eternal rest and to roam. Sometimes the ghosts are frightening the living daylights out of the corporeal characters, but other times they're calling to us for help. No matter what type of shade appeals to your readers, they are sure to find some favorites among these creepy stories.



—Debra Mitts Smith
September 2003



THE BULLETIN

OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The *Bulletin* Dozen is a monthly theme-based booklist available from the *Bulletin's* website. Since we're awfully fond of bakers here at the *Bulletin*, we thought we'd adopt their philosophy of generosity and throw in an extra one or two when we have them to offer—so don't expect an even dozen.

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See the *Bulletin's* website:
www.lis.uiuc.edu/puboff/bccb/
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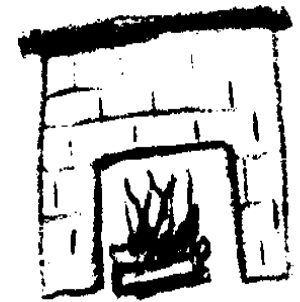


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Blithe

Spirits...

A Halloween Dozen



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Aiken, Joan. *A Whisper in the Night: Tales of Terror and Suspense.* Delacorte, 1981.

Gr. 6-

Thirteen supernatural tales of undying loyalty, ghostly apparitions, and mysterious strangers keep readers on edge. (BCCB 12/84)

Brittain, Bill. *Who Knew There'd Be Ghosts?* illus. by Michele Chessare. Harper & Row, 1985. Gr. 3-6

A shady offer to buy the old Parnell House pushes Tommy, Harry, and Books into joining forces with the house's resident ghosts to prevent the sale.

Carlson, Natalie Savage. *The Ghost in the Lagoon;* illus. by Andrew Glass. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1984. Gr. 2-4

Tommy and his dad's efforts to do some night fishing are thwarted by the lagoon's ghoulish inhabitant. (BCCB 4/85)

Fleischman, Sid. *The 13th Floor: A Ghost Story;* illus. by Peter Sis. Greenwillow, 1995. Gr. 3-6

A long-departed ancestor's message to meet her on the non-existent 13th floor of an office building leads to Buddy and his sister's being transported back through time. (BCCB 10/95)

Fleischman, Paul. *Graven Images: 3 Stories by Paul Fleischman;* illus. by Andrew Glass. Harper & Row, 1982. Gr. 8-

While a copper figure may offer guidance, two other images hold the key to deadly deeds. (BCCB 3/83)

Hague, Michael, ad. *Kate Culhane: A Ghost Story;* ad. and illus. by Michael Hague. SeaStar, 2001. Gr. 3-6

Kate Culhane's grieving by her mother's grave is cut short by a request emanating from a nearby plot to "Open this grave for me." (BCCB 9/01)

Hurst, Carol Otis. *The Wrong One.* Lorraine/Houghton, 2003. Gr. 3-5

The Spencer family's sadness of having to move from the brownstone in Brooklyn to an old farmhouse is replaced by an increasing sense of unease. (BCCB 7/03)

Ibbotson, Eva. *Dial-a-Ghost;* illus. by Kevin Hawkes. Dutton, 1996. Gr. 4-6

After a German bomb leaves them dead and their house destroyed, the Wilkinson family tries to find a new home and meaning to their after-life existence. (BCCB 9/01)

Johnston, Tony. *The Ghost of Nicholas Greebe;* illus. by S. D Schindler. Dial, 1996. Gr. 6-9

When a dog digs up one of Greebe's bones, his spirit returns vowing not to rest until he finds the errant femur. (BCCB 10/96)

Manns, Nick. *Operating Codes.* Little, 2001. Gr. 6-9

Life in their new house near an abandoned airfield finds fifteen-year-old Graham and his five-year-old sister Mattie witnessing a past tragedy. (BCCB 2/02)

McAllister, Margaret. *Ghost at the Window.* Dutton, 2002. Gr. 4-6

Ewan has barely adjusted to the way his new house slips in and out of centuries when one of the house's earlier inhabitants calls out to him for help. (BCCB 9/02)

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Jade Green: A Ghost Story.* Atheneum, 2000. Gr. 7-10

Judith soon regrets breaking her uncle's request that she not bring the color green into the house. (BCCB 2/00)

Prelutsky, Jack. *Halloween Countdown;* illus. by Dan Yaccarino. HarperCollins, 2002. 2-4 yrs

Count ghosts as they swoop, fly, and circle through the house. (BCCB 10/02)

Rocklin, Joanne. *This Book Is Haunted;* illus. by Jo Ann Adinolfi. HarperCollins, 2002. (I Can Read Books) Gr. 1-3

A friendly poltergeist shares some creepy stories and ghoulish poems with beginning readers. (BCCB 10/02)

Ruby, Laura. *Lily's Ghosts.* HarperCollins, 2003. Gr. 5-8

Lily's none too happy about moving with her mother into her gruff great-uncle's house, especially when she begins to suspect the place is haunted. (BCCB 9/03)

Wright, Betty Ren. *The Ghost of Popcorn Hill;* illus. by Karen Ritz. Holiday House. 1993.

Gr. 3-6

When Martin and Peter discover two lonely ghosts hanging around their family's new home, they decide that it's time the ghosts meet each other. (BCCB 6/93)

