

Sabriel / Garth Nix

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead. *Gr. 6+*

The Spindlers / Lauren Oliver

Accompanied by an eccentric, human-sized rat, Liza embarks on a perilous quest through an underground realm to save her brother Patrick, whose soul has been stolen by the vilest of creatures—the spider-like spindlers. *Gr. 4+*

Ask the Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World /

retold by Arielle North Olson (j 398.25 Ols)

A collection of 22 scary folktales from countries around the world including China, Russia, Spain, and the United States. *Gr. 4+*

Clockwork / Philip Pullman

Long ago in Germany, a storyteller's tale and an apprentice clockwork-maker's nightmare meet in a menacing, lifelike figure created by the strange Dr. Kalmenius. *Gr. 5+*

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark / retold by Alvin Schwartz (j 398.25 Sch)

Stories of ghosts and witches, "jump" stories, scary songs, and modern-day scary stories. *Gr. 4+*

Splendors and Gloom / Laura Amy Schlitz

When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London. Soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it's too late. *Gr. 5+*

The Egypt Game / Zilpha Keatley Snyder

A group of children, entranced with the study of Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend the Professor before they move on to new interests, such as Gypsies. *Gr. 5+*

Mt. Lebanon Public Library

16 Castle Shannon Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15228

(412) 531-1912

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Creepy Stories for Older Readers

*These tales of horror, suspense, fantasy, and mystery
will send a shiver down your spine!*

Suggestions from the Mt. Lebanon Public Library

The following titles may be found in Juvenile Fiction unless otherwise noted

Skellig / David Almond

Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel. *Gr. 5+*

The Wikkeling / Steven Arnston

Henrietta and her pals Gary and Rose all have headaches with an unknown cause and experience other strange incidents—including the appearance of a threatening creature called the Wikkeling—and are hopeful that an ancient bestiary can help solve these mysteries. *Gr. 5+*

The Seer of Shadows / Avi

In New York City in 1872, fourteen-year-old Horace, a photographer's apprentice, becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs, but when Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn. *Gr. 4+*

The House with a Clock in Its Walls / John Bellairs

A boy goes to live with his magician uncle in a mansion that has a clock hidden in the walls which is ticking off the minutes until doomsday. *Gr. 4+*

Doll Bones / Holly Black

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl. *Gr. 5+*

Skeleton Man / Joseph Bruchac

After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange 'great-uncle,' Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety—and maybe even for her life. *Gr. 5+*

The Beast of Noor / Janet Lee Carey

Fifteen-year-old Miles Ferrell uses the rare and special gift he is given to break the curse of the Shriker, a murderous creature reportedly brought to Shalem Wood by his family's clan centuries before. *Gr. 5+*

The Dreadful Revenge of Ernest Gallen / James Lincoln Collier

When Eugene starts hearing a voice inside his head telling him to do awful things, it leads him to look into his small town's past before the Depression, and to discover long-hidden secrets about his neighbors and his town. *Gr. 5+*

Revenge of the Witch / Joseph Delaney

Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties." *Gr. 5+*

The Ghost of Fossil Glen / Cynthia C. DeFelice

Allie knows it's not her imagination when she hears a voice and sees in her mind's eye the face of a girl who seems to be seeking Allie's help. *Gr. 4+*

Ghost Knight / Cornelia Funke

Eleven-year-old Jon Whitcroft and new friend Ella summon the ghost of Sir William Longspee, who may be able to protect Jon from a group of ghosts that threatens him harm from the day he arrives at Salisbury Cathedral's boarding school. *Gr. 4+*

Coraline / Neil Gaiman

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others. *Gr. 5+*

Also: Coraline graphic novel adaptation (j GRAPHIC CORALINE)

The Graveyard Book / Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard. *Gr. 5+*

A Tale Dark and Grimm / Adam Gidwitz

Follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales. *Gr. 4+*

Wait Till Helen Comes / Mary Downing Hahn

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom. *Gr. 4+*

The Ghost's Grave / Peg Kehret

Apprehensive about spending the summer in Washington State with his Aunt Ethel when his parents get an overseas job, twelve-year-old Josh soon finds adventure when he meets the ghost of a coal miner. *Gr. 4+*

The Girl Behind the Glass / Jane Kelley

Moving from Brooklyn to a rental house in the country strains the relationship between eleven-year-old identical twins Hannah and Anna Zimmer, a situation made worse by the ghost of a girl who is trapped in the house because of problems with her own sister eighty years before. *Gr. 4+*

The Shadow Hunt / Katherine Langrish

Wolf, on the run from the oppressive monastery where he was raised, rescues a strange child on Devil's Edge, home of ghosts and demons. He takes her to a grand castle and strikes up an unlikely friendship with a girl named Nest, thinking he's finally found a place to call home. But dark forces are conspiring, and a sinister enemy is looming closer than they could ever realize. *Gr. 6+*

The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural / Patricia McKissack

A collection of ghost stories with African American themes, designed to be told during the Dark Thirty—the half hour before sunset—when ghosts seem all too believable. *Gr. 4+*

The Hunt for the Seventh / Christine Morton-Shaw (5+)

When his father starts a new job at Minerva Hall as gardener, twelve-year-old Jim discovers an ancient curse that needs to be unraveled before disaster happens. *Gr. 5+*

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow / retold by William Moses (j IRVING)

A superstitious schoolmaster, in love with a wealthy farmer's daughter, has a terrifying encounter with a headless horseman. *Gr. 4+*