

# SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE



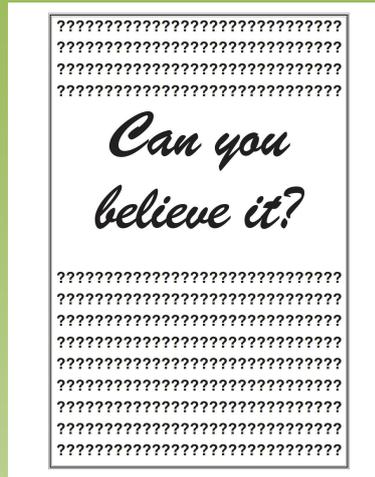
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## 1. The boy who came back

Our house is in Railway Cutting Road. Our garden ends at the cutting once used by the trains. A cutting, for you people who don't know much about railways, is a wide ditch cut through the side of a hill so that the railway line can run straight. Railway trains can't climb hills. If there is a big hill in the way the railway line goes through a tunnel. If there is a small hill it goes through a cutting.

All the houses in our street have their gardens by the cutting. Trains haven't used it for more than fifty years. The railway lines have gone and in their place grass and ferns grow.

A couple of months ago I was standing at the end of our garden having a cigarette when I noticed a small boy. He was two hundred metres from me at the edge of the cutting. As I watched, he made his way down the side to the bottom. At dinner time I told the family that I'd seen him. My sister Sarah wondered if new people had moved into the street and that the boy belonged to them.

"There's no new family in the street," said Mum. "He must be a visitor."

That boy stayed a long time in Railway Cutting Road. I saw him often. He was always at the same place. He always disappeared in among the long grass and ferns at the bottom of the cutting. He always wore the same clothes, very old fashioned clothes.

"There is no boy staying down the road," said Mum when I said that he was still playing in the cutting. She asked how old he looked.

"About three years old," I replied.

"And you see him most days?"

"I see him often." I thought for a moment. "Actually I see him at the same hour each time. It is always about three o'clock."

"Strange," said Mum.

A month later she asked me if he was still playing in the cutting.

"No. I haven't seen him for at least two weeks."

She looked at the calendar. "That would be 15<sup>th</sup> August." Her face suddenly went white and her hands started shaking.

I said that she looked as if she had seen a ghost.

"No," she replied. "You have. On that date eighty years ago a small boy in this street wandered into the cutting and was killed by the London to York express. He lived at house number forty, exactly where you have been seeing that boy. At exactly five past three every afternoon the train used to pass through the cutting. That little boy has been dead eighty years."

### A. Comprehension

Read the text and answer the following questions with complete sentences.

1. What is the cutting good for?
2. What happened after the railway lines were removed?
3. How did the family react to the news of the boy?
4. Why did the writer's mother react so strongly when she looked at the calendar?
5. What was the name of the train?
6. Where in the street had the little boy lived?

## B. Language

Write down the words in the text for ...

1. a wide ditch cut through the side of a hill.
2. to go up a hill.
3. the typical warm meal of the day in the U.K.
4. something that is difficult to understand.

Find the words in the text which mean the opposite of ...

- |          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| 5. top   | 6. modern    |
| 7. alive | 8. different |

Use the words in brackets to make new words to fit the following sentences.

9. (*disappear*) The ... of the boy was puzzling.
10. (*different*) There is a big ... between a tunnel and a cutting.
11. (*the choice*) The writer was careful which sort of cigarettes he ... to smoke.
12. (*visit*) The boy seemed to be a ... to the street.

Fill in the correct forms of the verbs given in brackets.

13. When the writer saw the boy disappear he (*to stand*) ... at the end of the garden.
14. Our family (*to eat*) ... dinner every evening at 6 o'clock.
15. After the boy had gone the writer (*not / to see*) ... him again.
16. In the story the little boy (*to wear*) ... the same clothes every day

Using a dictionary. Read the sentences, then use the dictionary page to translate the words and expressions underlined.

17. In Scotland the winter nights are long so it is little wonder that people start seeing ghosts.
18. For heroin users the withdrawal symptoms must be very unpleasant.
19. I wonder if the boy's mum will be able to see the ghost, too.
20. The woodwind section of the orchestra played badly.
21. The headmaster wanted to have a word with Billy.

## C. Translation

Translate the following into German.

Do you believe in ghosts? Most of the time I don't. Because they are usually seen at night I believe the bad light fools people. They see what isn't really there. But this ghost story troubles me because my friend Jack told it to me. The story about the boy is true. Jack showed me an old newspaper report about the death of the boy. He was called Billy Jenkins. Jack then told me something he hadn't told anybody else. After finding the newspaper report he saw the boy a couple more times. Once he called out "stop", but the boy took no notice. The next time he shouted, "Hey Billy". The little boy turned, smiled at Jack and waved his arm before disappearing into the cutting. If I was Jack I wouldn't go into the garden again.

**wishy-washy** ['wiʃɪ,wɒʃɪ] *umg.* 1. *Farben usw.:* fad 2. *Person:* lasch  
**wisp** [wɪsp] Büschel (*Gras, Haar*)  
**wistful** ['wɪstfʊl] wehmütig  
**wit** [wɪt] 1. Geist, Witz 2. geistreicher Mensch 3. *auch wits Pl.* Verstand  
**witch** [wɪtʃ] Hexe  
**witchcraft** ['wɪtʃkra:ft] Hexerei  
**with** [wɪð] 1. *allg.:* mit; **are you still with me?** kannst du mir folgen? 2. bei; **she's staying with a friend** sie wohnt bei einer Freundin 3. vor; **tremble with fear** vor Angst zittern 4. von; **part with** sich trennen von 5. für; **are you with me or against me?** bist du für oder gegen mich? 6. **go with** *Gegenstand:* gehören zu, passen zu  
**withdraw** [wɪð'drɔ:z], **withdrew** [wɪð'dru:z], **withdrawn** [wɪð'drɔ:n] 1. abheben (*Geld*) (*from* von) 2. zurückziehen (*Angebot usw.*), zurücknehmen 3. sich zurückziehen 4. zurücktreten (*from* von)  
**withdrawal** [wɪð'drɔ:əl] 1. **make a withdrawal** Geld abheben (*from* von) 2. Rücknahme 3. *militärisch:* Abzug 4. Rücktritt (*from* von) 5. Entzug (*von Drogen*)  
**wither** ['wɪðə] eingehen, verdorren  
**within** [wɪð'ɪn] innerhalb (+ *Genitiv*)  
**without** [wɪð'əʊt] ohne  
**withstand** [wɪð'stænd] **withstood** [wɪð'stʊd], **withstood** [wɪð'stʊd] standhalten (+ *Dativ*), widerstehen (+ *Dativ*)  
**witness** ['wɪtnəs] *allg.:* Zeuge, Zeugin  
**witness<sup>2</sup>** ['wɪtnəs] 1. **did anybody witness the accident?** hat jemand den Unfall gesehen? 2. beglaubigen (*Unterschrift usw.*)  
**witty** ['wɪtɪ] geistreich, witzig  
**wives** [waɪvz] *Pl. von* → **wife**  
**wizard** ['wɪzəd] *in Märchen:* Zauberer  
**wobble** ['wɒbl] wackeln  
**woe** [wəʊ] Kummer, Leid  
**woke** [wəʊk] 2. *Form von* → **wake**  
**woken** ['wəʊkən] 3. *Form von* → **wake**  
**wolf** [∆ wɒlf] *Pl.:* **wolves** [wɒlvz] Wolf  
**wolves** [wɒlvz] *Pl. von* → **wolf**  
**woman** ['wʊmən] *Pl.:* **women** [∆ 'wɪmɪn] Frau  
**woman<sup>2</sup>** ['wʊmən] **woman priest** Priesterin  
**womb** [∆ wʊ:m] *Körper:* Gebärmutter, Mutterleib  
**women** [∆ 'wɪmɪn] *Pl. von* → **woman**<sup>1</sup>;  
**women's team** *Sport:* Damenmannschaft  
**won** [wʌn] 2. und 3. *Form von* → **win**  
**wonder** ['wʌndə] 1. neugierig oder gespannt sein (*if, whether* ob; *what* was); **well, I wonder** na, ich weiß nicht (recht) 2. sich fragen, überlegen; **I wonder if you could help me** vielleicht können Sie mir helfen 3. sich wundern (*about, at* über)  
**wonder<sup>2</sup>** ['wʌndə] 1. Staunen, Verwunde-

rung 2. Wunder; **it's a wonder (that)** es ist ein Wunder, dass; (*it's*) **no** (*oder small, little*) **wonder (that)** kein Wunder, dass; **do** (*oder work*) **wonders** wahre Wunder vollbringen (*for* bei)  
**wonderful** ['wʌndəfl] wunderbar  
**wonderland** ['wʌndələnd] 1. Wunderland 2. Paradies  
**wonky** ['wɒŋki] *BE, umg.* wacklig, schwach  
**won't** [wəʊnt] *Kurzform von will not*  
**woo** [wu:] umwerben (*Person*)  
**wood** [wʊd] 1. Holz 2. *auch woods Pl.* Wald 3. **be out of the wood** (*oder woods*) übertragen über den Berg sein  
**wooded** ['wʊdɪd] bewaldet  
**wooden** ['wʊdn] hölzern (*auch übertragen*), Holz...  
**woodland** ['wʊdlənd] Waldland, Waldung  
**woodpecker** ['wʊd,pɛkə] *Vogel:* Specht  
**woodwind** ['wʊdwɪnd] **the woodwind** *Musik:* die Holzblasinstrumente, die Holzbläser; **woodwind instrument** *Musik:* Holzblasinstrument  
**woodwork** ['wʊdwɜ:k] Holzarbeiten  
**wool** [∆ wʊl] Wolle  
**woollen** *bes. BE, woolen AE* [∆ 'wʊlən] aus Wolle, wollen, Woll...  
**woollens** *bes. BE, woolens AE* [∆ 'wʊlənz] *Pl.* Wollsachen, Wollkleidung  
**woolly**, *AE auch wooly* [∆ 'wʊli] 1. aus Wolle, wollen, Woll... 2. wollig 3. übertragen; *Idee usw.:* wirr  
**word** [wɜ:d] 1. *allg.:* Wort; **by word of mouth** mündlich; **word for word** Wort für Wort, wortwörtlich; **in a word** in einem Wort; **in other words** mit anderen Worten; **in one's own words** in eigenen Worten; **angry isn't the word** (*for* ...) ärgerlich ist gar kein Ausdruck (für ...); **he always has to have the last word** er muss immer das letzte Wort haben; **can I have a word** (*oder a few words*) **with you?** kann ich Sie mal kurz sprechen?; **have words** eine Auseinandersetzung haben (*with* mit); **put into words** ausdrücken, in Worte fassen 2. (*≈ Versprechen*) **take someone at his word** jemanden beim Wort nehmen; **be as good as one's word** halten, was man verspricht; **take my word for it** *umg.* verlass dich drauf! 3. **words Pl.** Text (*eines Lieds*) 4. Nachricht; **send word that** Nachricht geben, dass  
**wording** ['wɜ:dɪŋ] Wortlaut  
**word order** ['wɜ:d,ɔ:ɔ:də] Wortstellung  
**word processor** ['wɜ:d,prəʊsesə] *Computer:* Textverarbeitungssystem  
**wordy** ['wɜ:di] wortreich, langatmig  
**wore** [wɔ:] 2. *Form von* → **wear**  
**work** [wɜ:k] 1. *allg.:* Arbeit; **at work** am

## D. Guided writing

### 1. Making news

The local newspaper has heard about the ghost. They send a reporter to Railway Cutting Road. From the answers you have here write down the questions she must have asked.

- I have been living here all my life.
- No, none of the neighbours have seen him.
- No, not really. I just thought that his parents must be too poor to buy him new, more fashionable clothes. Nothing more than that.
- I have seen him at least five times.
- Yes, I am certain that he is a ghost.
- Of course I'm going to keep living here. Suddenly it is a very interesting road to live in.

2. Opinion

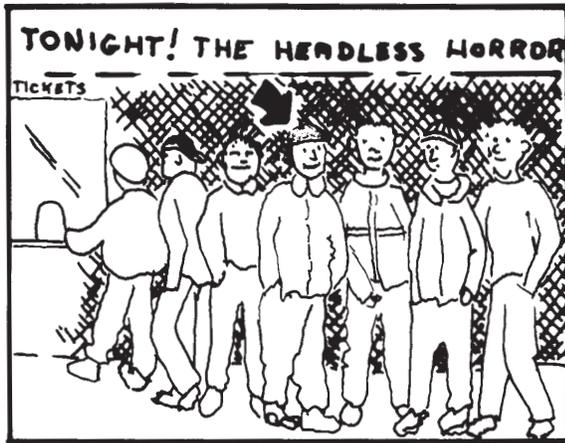
A lot of people believe that there are ghosts. Do you think so, too?

Choose one of the following statements. Write down what you think and give at least three reasons why you think they are right or wrong. Write about 40 words each.

- a) There are a lot of ghosts in old British castles.
- b) Ghosts are very dangerous. A lot of people have been killed by ghosts.
- c) I would like to meet a real ghost one day.

3. A ghost story

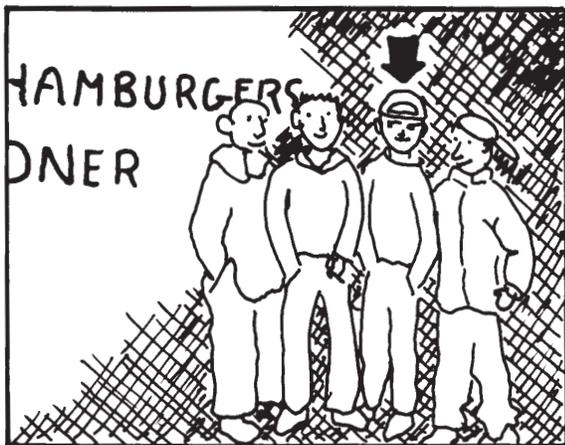
Here is your chance to tell a ghost story. From the pictures below write a story of about 120 words.



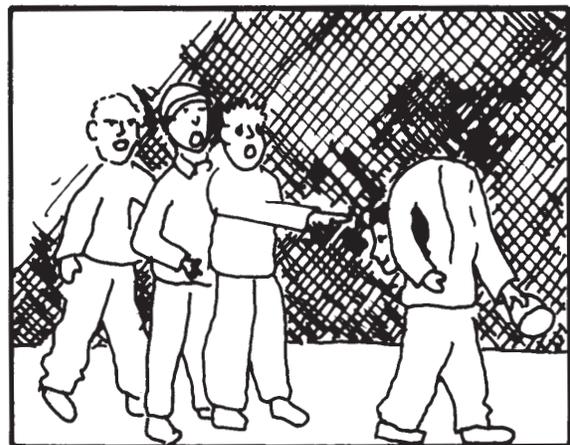
new friend, cinema:  
THE HEADLESS HORROR,  
queuing up for tickets



go inside, sit in second row,  
good movie, thrilling, shocking,  
audience frightened



time to go home,  
talking about film in front of fast  
food stand, new friend with baseball  
cap standing in group



way home, new friend walk  
away, suddenly, head under  
right arm, baseball cap in left  
hand, terrified, shocked,  
horror, new friend ghost???

## 2. Some people have all the luck

Can you believe that a person can fall eight kilometres to the ground and live?

My friend Paul fell down some stairs in London while on holiday this summer and broke his arm. When I told him some people have survived falls of great distances he pointed to his arm in plaster and said “impossible“. He thought a fall of six metres would kill most people: The ground is hard and bones break easily. He reminded me of the fact that even hitting water can hurt a lot. He is right. Sometimes when I jump off the ten metre diving board at our local pool I hit the water really hard and it always hurts.

Nevertheless a few people have survived falls of great distance. I’ve read about them in books.

One was an air hostess. She was working on an airliner which exploded in flight over the Czech Republic in 1972. She was at the very back of the airliner when the bomb, put there by terrorists from Croatia, blew it into pieces. Somehow she remained in the back piece as it fell eight kilometres into a pond. She survived the explosion, she survived the crash minutes later, and, because the wreckage hit shallow water, she survived drowning.

Another true story is about an airman in the British Royal Air Force. One winter’s night in 1944 his aeroplane was destroyed high over Germany. The fire on the aeroplane stopped him getting to his parachute. Rather than being burned alive he jumped from the burning aeroplane without one. He had decided he would rather die quickly. Being night time he would not even see the ground.

However, much to his surprise he soon found himself lying in deep snow in a forest. He had hit a snow covered tree. Its branches slowed his fall so much that, when he reached the ground after falling eight kilometres it was as if he had only fallen a few metres. Even then he was in luck. The snow beneath the tree gave him a soft landing.

Paul said stories such as these had all to do with luck.

“But they are true,” I replied. “People have fallen from the sky and lived.”

Paul laughed. “And other people just have to trip and fall down some stairs and they hurt themselves.” The next time I’m in London on holiday I must arrange to have a pond at the bottom of any stairs I’m using - or a large pile of snow.”

### A. Comprehension

Read the text and answer the following questions with complete sentences.

1. Why did Paul say “impossible” when he heard his friend’s stories?
2. What experience did the writer recall about himself jumping from a high place?
3. What happened to the airliner after the bomb had exploded?
4. What did the British airman decide to do?
5. What saved the British airman’s life?
6. What plans did Paul say in a joking way he would make when he was in London the next time?

### B. Language

Write down the words in the text for ...

1. the feeling you have when you are injured.
2. the thing that lets you fall safely from the sky.
3. staying behind when everybody else has gone elsewhere.
4. something unexpected.

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