

Why are creepy stories so popular?

Before you start, answer the following questions:

- What kind of stories do you like? What's your favourite story? Why?
- Have you ever told a creepy story around a campfire?



Pista: Recordá que al final de la ficha encontrarás la **clave de respuestas** de las actividades para revisar tu trabajo.

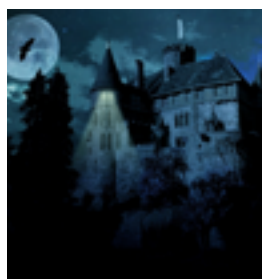
1. You're going to read a creepy story. Write these words taken from the story next to the correct definitions below: **spooky** - **scared** - **haunt** - **critter**. You can use the pictures to get the meaning of the words.



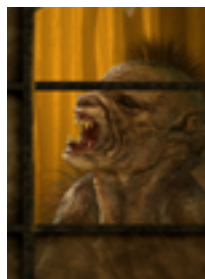
haunt



scared



spooky



critter

Definitions (Sources: Macmillan and Cambridge Dictionaries).

- a. _____: frightened or worried.
- b. _____: (of a ghost) to appear in a place repeatedly.

c. _____: a creature.

d. _____: strange and frightening.

2. Scan* the text to get a general idea of the story and complete the following sentences.

a. The story takes place in _____.

b. The names of the characters are _____, _____ and _____.

*scan: to read something very quickly, in order to get a general idea of its meaning or to find particular information. Source: Macmillan Dictionary.

Reservito Reloaded

Last night something strange happened to me. It was 8 o'clock at night and my first day at work at La Reserva had been long and tiring. There was a huge full moon in the sky and everything looked quiet and spooky. I was so exhausted that I decided to stop by the riverside before leaving. I sat on the grass very close to the water's edge and looked up at the big yellow moon. I closed my eyes... After a few minutes, I fell asleep.

When I woke up, the moon had moved behind a cloud and it was very dark and cold. I rubbed my eyes and was about to get up, when suddenly I heard a splash. I looked down at the water and saw something slimy and frightening coming out of the water and moving towards me. It was something greenish, but I could only see a long green arm stretching out from the water to grab my foot. I was so frightened that I could hardly move. I'd never been so scared in my whole life.

The green hand was moving closer and closer when suddenly there was a blue flash and I heard a strange noise from behind me. Someone jumped next to me. It was Fabricio, one of the guards who had been working at La Reserva for

many years. He looked weird, almost in trance. He shouted “Get back!” and pointed something at the critter in the water. There was a bright flash and the critter roared and disappeared.

I looked up at Fabricio. He looked disturbed, but soon regained composure. “Don’t fall asleep by the river when there’s a full moon, Matías,” he said, “or Reservito will get you.” I’d never heard about Reservito before. Fabricio told me it was a big rat-like mammal that haunted the ecological reserve. “Watch your back at night, and be careful of the full moon,” he added. I was trying to understand what he meant, when there was another blue flash and I closed my eyes. When I opened them again, Fabricio had vanished.

I couldn’t believe what had happened. What on earth was Reservito? Fabricio had told me it was an animal...but I had seen a hand! Besides, why had Fabricio disappeared so mysteriously? I was determined to find all the answers the following day. I stood up, looked at the moon, grabbed my bike and dashed home.

Adapted version from “[The Mystery Story](#)”

3. Now read the story carefully and decide if the following sentences are T (true) or F (false). Underline the information in the text to justify your answers.
 - a. Matías was an experienced senior guard at La Reserva. ☐
 - b. The moon remained the same all through the night. ☐
 - c. Matías only saw part of the critter’s body. ☐
 - d. The critter didn’t jump behind the protagonist. ☐
 - e. Fabricio advised Matías not to do something at night when there was a full moon. ☐
 - f. Matías and Fabricio left La Reserva together. ☐



Pista: En inglés, para hablar de una situación/acción que sucedió (o no) antes de otra en el pasado usamos el **pasado perfecto** (past perfect). Con este tiempo verbal podemos

secuenciar de forma más precisa la cronología de los eventos en una historia/anécdota. Usamos el **pasado simple** (past simple) para la acción/evento más reciente y el **pasado perfecto** (past perfect) para referirnos a la situación más lejana en el tiempo. El pasado perfecto se forma con **had / hadn’t + el verbo principal en participio pasado** (past participle). Lee la siguiente oración extraída de la historia “Reservito Reloaded”: 1) When I **woke up**, the moon **had moved** behind a cloud and it was very dark and cold.

4. Read the writer’s notes before writing the story and rewrite them as in the example below.
 - a. First, the full moon disappeared. Later, Fabricio opened his eyes.
When Fabricio **opened** his eyes, the full moon **had disappeared**.
 - b. Matías worked for 8 hours. Then, he sat by the riverside.
_____.
 - c. Matías woke up. Some minutes later, Reservito appeared.
_____.
 - d. Reservito tried to attack Matías. Then, Fabricio saw Matías.
_____.
 - e. Matías decided to solve the mystery. Later, he grabbed his bike.
_____.
5. Here is another paragraph taken from the story. Complete the gaps with these verbs: **was - couldn’t - had opened - left - had left - scared - had scared - opened - had gone**. There are 3 extra verbs.

When I got home I realised I _____(a) my mobile phone on the grass by the riverside. How stupid of me! I _____(b) believe it! My mum wasn’t in. She _____(c) to the gym, so I _____(d) alone. I didn’t know what to do. Should I go back to La Reserva? I was afraid of meeting Reservito again. That critter

_____ (e) the hell out of me earlier on. I couldn't stop thinking about that creepy hand. I was sweating all over when suddenly the door _____ (f) Thank God! My mum was back!

6. You're going to watch a video about ghost stories. Before you watch the video, answer these questions: Do you like ghost stories? Why? Why not? Do you believe in ghosts? Are they real? Then watch the video to get a general idea of the topic.

Ghosts and smugglers - The Story of the Ghost Story - BBC
BBC Studios

<https://bit.ly/2WNzRGo>

Escaneá este código para acceder al contenido.



7. Watch the video from **0:00** to **1:45** and answer this question: Who expresses the following ideas? Write the correct name next to each idea: **Muriel Gray**, **John Mullan** or **GP Taylor**.
- Ghost stories are passed down from generation to generation.
 - In the past, many ghost stories were related to real fears and dangers.
 - Ghost stories are projections of our imagination.
8. Now watch the video **1:47** to **3:35** and decide if the sentences below are T (true) or F (false).
- Ghost stories in Scotland started out as folk songs. ☐
 - The setting of most Scottish ghost stories was a crime area. ☐
 - A popular ghost story features a white horseman that scares people away. ☐
 - Science has now evidence that ghosts are real. ☐
 - Ghost accounts are very different depending on where they come from. ☐



Pista: Para organizar el **proceso de escritura** de la siguiente actividad, te sugerimos que dividas tu trabajo por etapas hasta llegar a la producción final. Por ejemplo, podés comenzar tomando nota de algunas ideas sobre la historia que vas a escribir, y luego empezar a redactar los borradores hasta llegar a la producción final.

Before you finish

Write a short story about ghosts or creepy creatures. Use the following questions to organise your story: Where and when did the story take place? What/Who were the characters of the story? What happened to the characters? What's the outcome of the story?



Further practice

Read this article "Are Ghosts Real? Here's What Science Has To Say About It" and answer this question: Is there a scientific way to confirm the existence of ghosts? Source: Tech Times.

Are Ghosts Real? Here's What Science Has To Say About It
Tech Times

<https://bit.ly/3OjLOd8>

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Keys for correction: **1)** a. scared; b. haunt; c. critter; d. spooky. **2)** a. La Reserva; b. Fabricio, Matías and Reservito. **3)** a.F; b.F; c.T; d.T; e.T; f.F. **4)** b. When Matías sat by the riverside, he had worked for 8 hours; c. When Reservito appeared (some minutes later), Matías had woken up; d. When Fabricio saw Matías, Reservito had tried to attack Matías; e. When Matías grabbed his bike, he had decided to solve the mystery. **5)** a. had left; b. couldn't; c. had gone; d. was; e. had scared; f. opened. **7)** a. G.P. Taylor; b. Muriel Gray; c. John Mullan. **8)** a.F; b.T; c.T; d.F; e.F.