

Ghost Academy

Teacher Notes

Suggested age range: 5–9 years

Suggested school levels: Early Years / Lower Primary

Overview

Ghost Academy: Haunting School for Young Ghosts is a spooky-but-friendly picture book full of ghostly fun, mischief, courage, and adventure. Set in a haunting school for young ghosts, the story mixes playful scares with humour and excitement as the characters face bullies, outwit troublemakers, and discover that bravery, friendship, and a little imagination can turn fear into fun.

These teacher notes are designed to help teachers enjoy the story with their class through discussion, creative activities, and a little bit of spooky silliness.

Key Themes

- Spooky fun
- Courage
- Friendship
- Teamwork
- Imagination
- Overcoming bullies
- Confidence
- Problem-solving

Learning Opportunities

This book supports learning in the following areas:

- speaking and listening
- creative thinking
- personal and social development
- storytelling and drama
- classroom fun and participation

Before Reading

Before sharing the story, invite children to think about spooky stories and playful scares.

You might ask:

- What makes something spooky but not too scary?
- Why do children enjoy ghost stories?
- What is the difference between fun mischief and real meanness?
- What does it mean to be brave?
- Can spooky stories also be funny?

During Reading

As you read, encourage children to notice:

- the playful ghostly details
- the spooky-but-fun atmosphere
- moments of courage

- how the characters work together
- the difference between bullying and harmless fun

You may like to pause and ask:

- Is this part spooky, funny, or both?
- Who is being brave here?
- How are the characters helping one another?
- What would you do in this situation?
- Which part would make the best ghostly sound effect?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- What happened in the story?
- Which part was the funniest?
- Which part was the spookiest?
- Who showed courage?
- How did the characters deal with the bullies or troublemakers?
- What helped them succeed?
- Why is teamwork important?
- What makes this story fun rather than frightening?
- If you went to Ghost Academy, what would you enjoy most?
- Which character did you like best, and why?

Key Message

Being brave does not mean never feeling afraid. With friendship, teamwork, and a little clever thinking, spooky problems can be solved and scary moments can turn into fun adventures.

Classroom Activities

1. Create Your Own Friendly Ghost

Invite children to draw their own ghost character and give it a name, a special ghostly skill, and a funny personality.

2. Spooky Sound Effects

As a class, make sound effects for different moments in the story. Children can invent ghostly whooshes, creaks, footsteps, moans, and silly haunting sounds.

3. Ghost Academy Role-Play

Invite children to act out a favourite scene from the story, or create their own “Ghost Academy” scene with friendly ghosts, silly scares, and brave moments.

4. Bully or Just Bossy?

Talk together about the difference between playful teasing, bossy behaviour, and bullying. Discuss what children can do if someone is being unkind.

5. Scare the Prisoners Plan

Ask children to imagine they are young ghosts at Ghost Academy. How would they scare away escaped prisoners using spooky tricks, teamwork, and imagination?

Cross-Curricular Links

English

- retelling the story
- discussing characters and events
- describing spooky settings and funny moments

Personal and Social Learning

- courage
- friendship
- teamwork
- dealing with unkind behaviour

Art / Drama

- ghost character drawings
- role-play
- spooky scene design
- sound and performance activities

Extension Ideas

- Create a class book of ghost characters from Ghost Academy.
- Make a poster titled “How to Be Brave at Ghost Academy”.
- Write a short class story about a new ghost arriving at the school.
- Design a ghost classroom with funny rules and spooky decorations.

Home Connection

Encourage children to talk at home about the difference between things that are spooky and things that are truly scary, and to share their favourite fun part of the story.