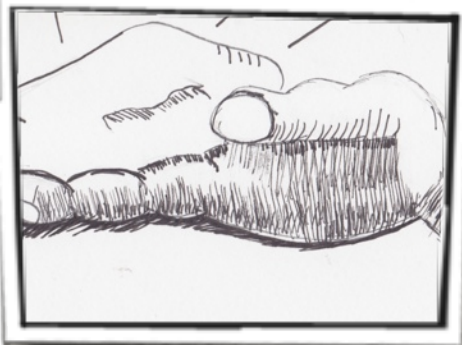


WRITING CONTEST



WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO IMAGINE FINDING A ROCK WITH POWERS OR DISCOVERING A TEACHER'S SECRET, HERE'S A CHANCE TO GET PAID TO WRITE!

It's Time to Get Spooky and win, win, win!

THE RULES:

ANY STUDENT IN GRADES 3, 4 OR 5 CAN ENTER. Choose any of the three prompts, write a story that is no less than 250 words (1 page) and no more than 750 words (3 pages).

Stories will be judged based on originality, spookiness and fun.

NO VIOLENCE ALLOWED. After doing numerous school visits, I know kids can get carried away with gore. Settle down, Pumpkins. I want stories that give me shivers, not nightmares.

DEADLINE

The contest begins Sept. 2 and ends Oct. 17. Winners will be announced online on Oct. 27. Prizes will be delivered on Oct.

THE WINNER ...

The best story writer wins a \$50 gift card from Barnes & Noble, a surprise Gift Bag and an autographed copy of my book, *President of the Whole Fifth Grade*.

FIRST PLACE PRIZE



WITCHY WITH

Second-place winner receives an autographed copy of *President of the Whole Fifth Grade* and a small gift bag.

Third place wins an autographed book.

BE A WINNER

Visit voteforcupcake.com on Mondays

I will provide writing tips each Monday, instructing young authors on getting started, ideas on how to create characters, scene setting, choosing the right genre, style and using quotes in a story.

Prompt No 1.

Haunted House – Taneisha Best is the most popular girl at Black Forest Elementary. When Taneisha’s family decides she can have a Halloween party in her grandparent’s old barn, Taneisha is thrilled. However, on the night of the party, strange things begin to happen.

Popular Taneisha Best begins to have the worst

All Entries should be scanned and emailed to sheriberries@gmail.com. Please put “SPOOKY” in the subject field. If you’d prefer to send them via the postal service, email me directly for details.

Prompt No. 2. $+*÷/$

Magical Object – Timothy Minus always hated math. Until now. Since finding the oddly speckled rock down by the junk yard, something amazing has begun to happen. When Timothy Minus carries the rock to school, he does better in math. At first, being great at math feels awesome. But gradually, his best friend notices something different about Timothy Minus. . . .

Prompt No 3.

Secret — Miss Belinda Beeswax, the librarian at Crescent Moon Manor Library, has a secret. She has magical powers. She must keep her powers secret from all children, otherwise, she could suffer grave consequences. Her best friend, fellow librarian, Miss Myrtle Turtle, knows about her powers, but no one else. Until, fourth-grade Phoebe Fibber, spying through the window, sees Miss Belinda Beeswax shelving books without touching them. When Phoebe Fibber tells the librarian what she saw, a crack of thunder shakes the windows . . .