



- My name is Ben and I believe in **ghosts**. I believe that most things they say in **ghost** stories really **happened**. I think that **ghosts** are very cool. So does my grandpa.
- My big sister Becky (who thinks she's real smart) used to say that believing in **ghosts** was silly. She used to say, "Ben, **ghosts** are just a figment of your imagination."



- That's what Becky *used* to say about **ghosts**. But that's not what she says *now*. Not after what **happened** last week.
- Let me tell you all about it.



Last week we visited my grandparents.

Grandpa is like me—he **believes** in ghosts. Grandma is like Becky, and she thinks that Grandpa behaves like a big kid sometimes (which he does, and that is why I like him so much)!

Grandpa said, “What about that old house Frank Jones owns up the street, Ethel? That place is **haunted** as sure as I’m sitting here.”



I couldn’t **believe** my ears. There was a **haunted** house up the street? This was too cool to be true!

I asked Grandpa if we could see it. He said yes. He asked Becky to come too. She said she had nothing better to do.

☹ The big old house looked pretty spooky, even in broad daylight. And the howling wind made it seem even spookier.

Suddenly Grandpa's dog, Sparky, **growled** deep in his throat. Grandpa spoke in a **whisper**.

"Do you feel it, kids? Do you feel the presence of a ghost?"

☹ "Yes, I feel it," I **whispered** back to Grandpa. Sparky **growled** a little louder.

"Well, I don't feel a thing," said Becky.

Grandpa said she'd feel it if she were here at night. And that gave Grandpa a very cool idea.



☞ I **thought** Grandma's eyes were going to pop out of her head when Grandpa told her his very cool idea.

"You want to spend a whole night in that drafty old Jones house?" she cried.

Grandpa nodded. "Spoke with Frank Jones about it this afternoon. It's okay with him if it's okay with you."

Grandma sighed. "Well then, I suppose you'd better pack some **equipment**."



☞ Grandma said we would need sleeping bags. Grandpa **thought** we needed a flashlight.

I wanted to bring ghost-busting **equipment**. But Grandpa said that stuff was only in the movies. This was real life. And this was a real ghost.

