

# JAMES PRELLER'S SCARY TALES

## SCARY-STORY HOUR GUIDE

Complete with spooky activities,  
craft ideas, and more scary-story fun!

Basement

Bats

Cobwebs

Coffin

Creaky Stairs

Flashlight

Ghosts

Haunted House

Mirror

Screams

Secrets

Skeleton

Spirits

Spooky

Tombstone

### WORD SEARCH

H	B	G	I	Y	A	S	T	S	O	H	G	Y	Q	N	Q
P	A	J	P	T	N	E	M	E	S	A	B	D	K	C	W
O	T	W	C	A	F	C	O	B	W	E	B	S	O	M	U
E	S	U	O	H	D	E	T	N	U	A	H	F	X	R	E
Q	K	S	C	R	E	A	M	S	E	A	F	P	G	D	S
B	M	Y	Q	C	Q	Z	G	P	T	I	C	M	O	O	E
P	S	S	O	J	X	U	F	N	N	V	H	T	T	Y	C
H	Q	L	E	E	N	O	T	S	B	M	O	T	V	P	R
X	K	Y	K	O	O	P	S	C	N	Y	K	C	B	B	E
A	P	M	C	S	D	J	S	T	I	R	I	P	S	X	T
M	G	M	Q	C	R	E	A	K	Y	S	T	A	I	R	S
B	T	I	E	L	I	O	N	A	K	J	L	O	P	A	G
Y	U	R	A	C	K	Y	Q	F	W	F	X	K	P	C	M
V	O	R	K	O	Q	L	N	N	U	Q	K	S	B	A	U
U	A	O	I	Z	N	O	T	E	L	E	K	S	K	P	R
B	M	R	K	E	R	F	L	A	S	H	L	I	G	H	T



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# FILL-IN-THE-BLANK SCARY STORY

Fill in the blanks with the type of word listed in parentheses to create your own version of this excerpt from *Home Sweet Horror*, book one in the Scary Tales series.

Read it out loud to see how different your story is from the one in the book!

He sensed a \_\_\_\_\_ drifting through the basement.  
NOUN

soundless and \_\_\_\_\_, moving toward him. He turned  
ADJECTIVE

and \_\_\_\_\_ up the stairs, taking them two at a  
VERB

time, landing heavily with each step. Crash, a board cracked, and Liam  
VERB

\_\_\_\_\_, slamming his shin hard against the wood. He  
VERB

grabbed the top step, catching himself before he fell. He wheezed, felt  
VERB

dizzy, woozy. Liam's \_\_\_\_\_ leg dangled in the air, kicking  
ADJECTIVE

at nothingness. He felt a thin, \_\_\_\_\_ grip around his  
ADVERB

ankle. Like a claw pulling, dragging him down. Liam yanked his leg free.  
ADVERB

lifted himself up, gasping for air, and \_\_\_\_\_ to the top  
VERB

of the stairs. He crawled into the \_\_\_\_\_, into the light.  
NOUN

He slammed the door shut behind him, twisted the lock, heart thundering.

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## CREEPY CRAFTS

### LOLLIPOP GHOSTS

Make simple lollipop ghosts by draping tissues over the tops of lollipops. Secure with a rubber band under the ghost's "head," and fluff out the bottom.

As a bonus, these delicious treats can double as fun decorations by hanging from the ceiling or walls!

Visit [scarytalesbooks.com](http://scarytalesbooks.com) for more spooky craft activities, snack ideas, and decorating tips!

### SHADOW SHAPES

**What you'll need:**

- A flashlight
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Scotch tape

**Instructions:**

- Cut the construction paper into shapes—like a spider, a bat, or a ghost—slightly larger than the face of the flashlight
- Tape the paper shape flat against the top of the flashlight
- Turn off the lights, and flip the flashlight on
- Shine the flashlight at a wall or other flat surface to see your spooky shape!

# SPOOKY BINGO

This spooky bingo game can be played over and over again!

Instructions:

- Distribute a blank board to each child (photocopy or enlarge the below for more boards). The child can draw a ghost on one space of his or her choosing to act as a "free space."
- Read the words from the Word Bank aloud, and have each child write one word with a pencil in each square of the board.
- Then, cut out the words from the Word Bank below and lay them facedown.
- Select one word at a time. Each time a word is called, any child that has that word on his or her board may cross it off.
- The first child to successfully cross out an entire line of words (horizontally, diagonally, or vertically) and shout "BOO!" is declared the winner.
- Erase the board and start again!

**WORD BANK:** bats RIP full moon spooky basement coffin spirits creaky stairs haunted house creepy ghost eerie curse spider scream skeleton spells mirror blood cobwebs mask flashlight tombstone secrets






# JAMES PRELLER'S SCARY TALES

## HOW TO DECORATE FOR YOUR SCARY-STORY HOUR



**Spooky surroundings are essential for a truly eerie scary-story hour, so here are some simple tips and decorations you can use to set the stage for telling scary tales.**

- Use coffee filters to create paper spiderwebs to hang around the room. Simply fold the filter 3-4 times to form a rounded triangle, and make a series of v-shaped or rectangular cuts down the folded edge. Unfold for a creepy web!
- Use a black permanent marker to draw spiders on a plain tablecloth, or cut spiders out of black construction paper to hang from your coffee filter spiderwebs.

## A SPOOKY RECIPE: JELLY WORMS

**What's more spine-tingling than a slimy, crawling worm? Eating one! Follow these instructions for a creepy-crawly treat you can make at home!**

### INGREDIENTS:

- 6 oz grape (or any dark red or purple-colored) powdered gelatin mix
- 3 oz unflavored powdered gelatin mix
- 3 cups boiling water
- 3/4 cups thickened cream
- About 100 straws with bendy tops
- 10-12 drops of green food dye
- A tall, narrow container

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Group straws with a rubber band and place (bendy part down) into the tall, narrow container
- Combine gelatin mixes, add boiling water, and dissolve
- Add green food dye until the red and green make an ugly, wormy brown
- Let stand until lukewarm, add cream, and stir
- Pour the mixture into straws (this part is messy—don't worry!)
- Refrigerate until set (8 hours or overnight)
- When the mixture has set, take out the straws and run hot water over them until the worms slide out!



ORIGAMI BATS

### What you'll need:

- Square sheet of black paper
- Fishing wire or other thin string (optional)



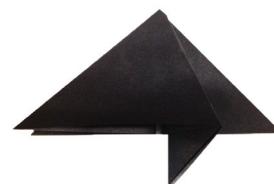
1. Fold the paper diagonally in half



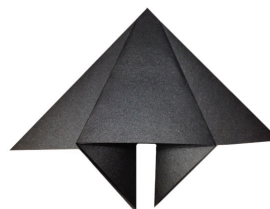
2. Unfold, and fold across the opposite diagonal



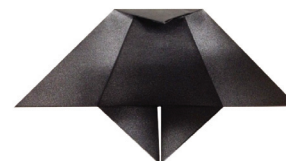
3. Fold the middle of each side of the paper into the center to form a triangle



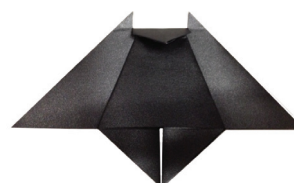
4. Lift the upper flap on the left, and fold it backward, creating a point at the bottom of the triangle



5. On the opposite side, repeat step four



6. Fold the top inch or so of the triangle down to create a head



7. Cut or tear each corner to create two ears

8. Add eyes, or decorate as you wish! Hang the bats from the ceiling with fishing wire or other thin string for a spooky decoration.



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