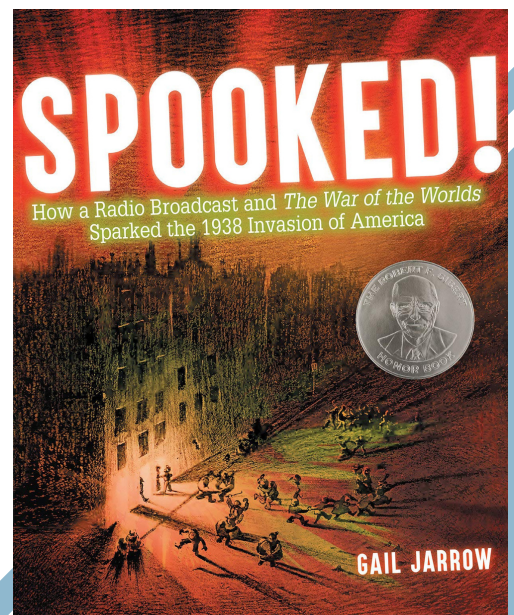
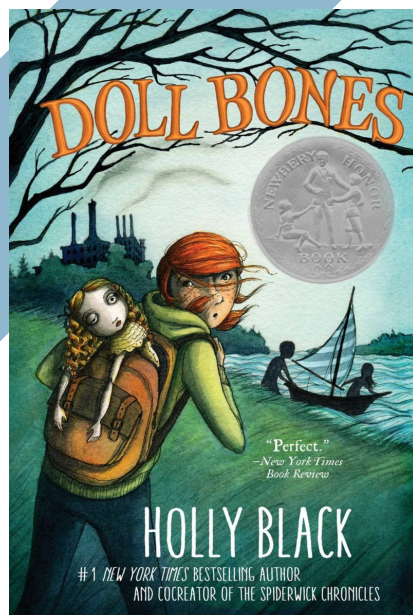
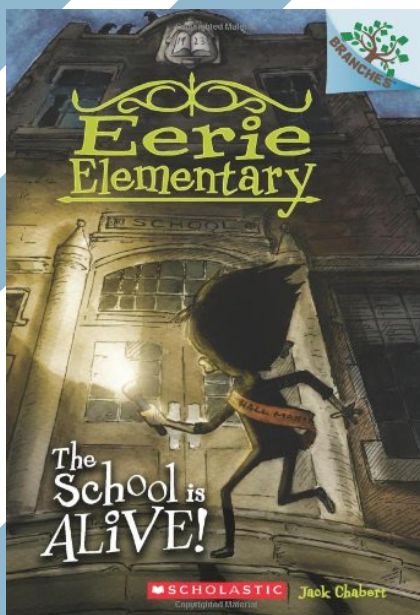
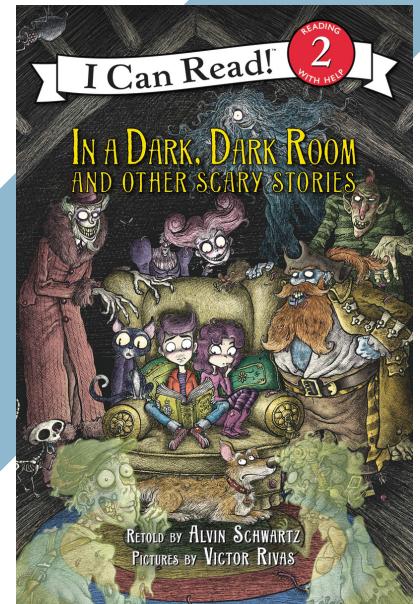
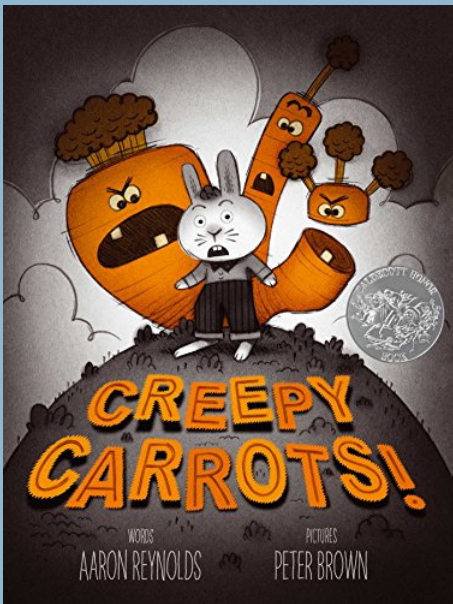


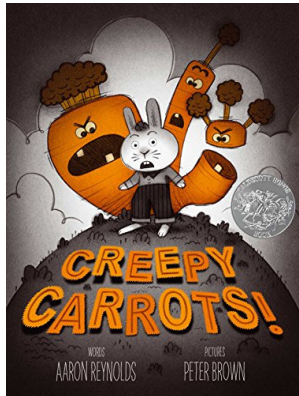
# Family Book Club

# Spooky Titles



# Book List

Disclosure: Some of the links below are affiliate links, meaning at no additional cost to you, I will earn a commission if you click through and make a purchase.



## **Creepy Carrots**

**BY AARON REYNOLDS, ILLUSTRATED BY PETER BROWN (PICTURE BOOK)**

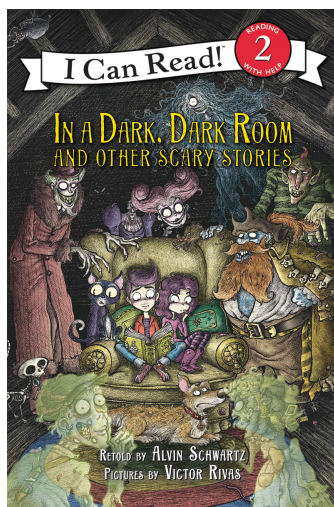
Jasper Rabbit loves carrots—especially Crackenhopper Field carrots. He eats them on the way to school. He eats them while going to Little League. He eats them while walking home. Until the day the carrots start following him...or are they?



## **Hardly Haunted**

**BY JESSIE SIMA (PICTURE BOOK)**

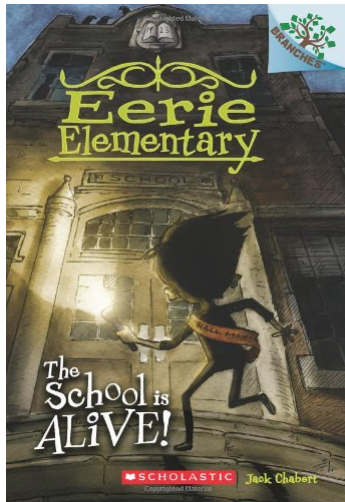
House has a problem. She's a little spooky. She's a little cobwebby. Oh, no! What if she's haunted? She's not sure, but...her hinges creak. Her pipes bang. And on windy days, the branches scritch-scratch at her windows. She tries to hold her breath and be as still as possible. If she's on her best behavior, maybe a family will move in. How will House ever find a family that doesn't mind being haunted?



## **In a Dark, Dark Room and Other Scary Stories**

**BY ALVIN SCHWARTZ, ILLUSTRATED BY VICTOR RIVAS (EASY READER)**

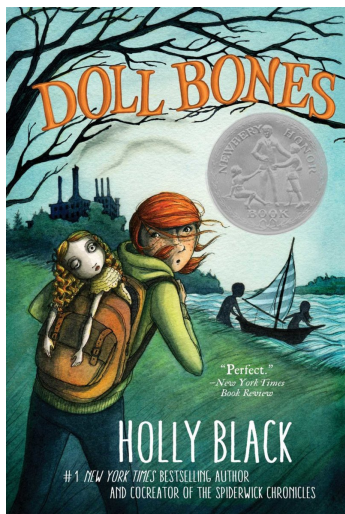
Newly reillustrated, this classic I Can Read full of spooky stories is perfect for beginning readers who love a bit of a scare. Victor Rivas's silly and spooky art will introduce a new generation to stories inspired by traditional folktales like "The Teeth," "In the Graveyard," "The Green Ribbon," "In A Dark, Dark Room," "The Night It Rained," "The Pirate," and "The Ghost of John."



## The School Is Alive

BY JACK CHABERT (CHAPTER BOOK)

Sam Graves discovers that his elementary school is ALIVE! Sam finds this out on his first day as the school hall monitor. Sam must defend himself and his fellow students against the evil school! Is Sam up to the challenge? He'll find out soon enough: the class play is just around the corner. Sam teams up with friends Lucy and Antonio to stop this scary school before it's too late!

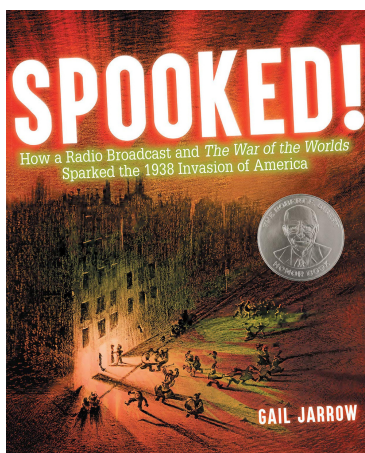


## Doll Bones

BY HOLLY BLACK (MIDDLE GRADE FICTION)

Zach, Poppy, and Alice have been friends forever. And for almost as long, they've been playing one continuous, ever-changing game of pirates and thieves, mermaids and warriors. Ruling over all is the Great Queen, a bone-china doll cursing those who displease her.

But they are in middle school now. Zach and Alice and Poppy set off on one last adventure to lay the Queen's ghost to rest. But nothing goes according to plan, and as their adventure turns into an epic journey, creepy things begin to happen. Is the doll just a doll or something more sinister? And if there really is a ghost, will it let them go now that it has them in its clutches?



## Spooked!

BY GAIL JARROW (NONFICTION)

On the night of October 30, 1938, thousands of Americans panicked when they believed that Martians had invaded Earth. What appeared to be breaking news about an alien invasion was in fact a radio drama based on H. G. Wells's *War of the Worlds*, performed by Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre players. Some listeners became angry once they realized they had been tricked, and the reaction to the broadcast sparked a national discussion about fake news, propaganda, and the role of radio. In this compelling nonfiction chapter book, Gail Jarrow explores the production of the broadcast, the aftermath, and the concept of "fake news" in the media.

# Book Discussion Questions

Many of these questions can be used for any book you read or make up your own to extend beyond the pages of the book! The goal is not to use *EVERY* question listed below, but rather to choose the ones that best open up a discussion with your family.

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate this book?
- What did you like best about this book?
- Which characters in the book did you like best?
- What other books did this remind you of?
- Would you read another book by this author? Why or why not?
- What three words would you use to describe the main character?
- If you got the chance to ask the author of this book one question, what would it be?
- What do you think happens to the characters next?
- What do you think of the book's cover? How well does it convey what the book is about? If the book has been published with different covers, which one do you like best?
- Think about one of the minor characters in the story. Why did the author include him/her?
- If you could hear this same story from another person's point of view, who would you choose?

# More Questions

- What are some of the major themes of this book?
- What was unique about the setting of the book? Did it enhance or take away from the story? Could this same story take place in a different location or time period?
- Did the book's pace seem too fast/too slow/just right?
- What surprised you most about the book? Why?
- How did the book make you feel?
- What did you already know about this book's subject before you read this book?
- What questions do you still have?
- What was your favorite story? Why?
- Would you recommend the book to a friend? How would you summarize the story if you were to recommend it?



# Dinners & Snacks



The best way to anyone's heart is through food! A few Halloween-inspired dinner and snack ideas might just get the conversation rolling.

- **Crescent Mummy Dogs** - Combine a favorite quick dinner idea (pigs in a blanket) with a little Halloween inspiration and you've got dinner all wrapped up!
- **Spaghetti and Eye Balls** - Another fairly simple dinner to pull together for the family - I've got my eye on you!
- **Ghost Pizza Bagels** - Use a seasonal cookie cutter to create this disappearing dinner idea, the family is sure to love!



- **Witch Cupcakes** - cupcakes liners and just a little time make these cupcakes perfect for Halloween or a super scary family book club!
- **Spider Lollipops** - Grab some pipe cleaners and don't forget the googly eyes for these creepy crawly snacks.
- **Tangerine Pumpkins + Banana Ghosts** - The sweets are definitely flowing during this creepy season, balance it a little with these fun (and healthy!) snacks!
- **Candy Corn Marshmallows** - Whether candy corn is a must-have or a can't-stand, these candy corn inspired marshmallows are an easy snack kids can help create!

# Fall Bucket List

Looking for some additional activities to do this fall with the family? Check out the list below for some inspiration! Some of these activities might be more suitable for different ages, but don't forget that memories are made no matter what you're doing!

- **Visit a pumpkin patch** - Find a local pumpkin farm where you can go out into the field and pick your own pumpkin. If you don't have anything like that near you, head to the local grocery store and deep dive into the pumpkin bin to find the best carving pumpkins for the whole family!
- **Navigate a corn maze** - Corn mazes were insanely popular where I grew up and my friends and I would often go together on the weekend! Often, corn mazes can be scary, so do some research before heading out!
- **Take a fall drive** - Depending on the cost of gas in your area, taking a drive through a rural area with the leaves changing is a beautiful way to spend a little time in the afternoon. Again, this might not be available to you, instead take a walk through the neighborhood and enjoy the weather changing!
- **Make s'mores around a campfire** - The fall is a perfect time for a campfire, the weather is getting cooler at night which is a perfect time to snuggle up near a warm fire and make a tasty treat.
- **Make chili for dinner together** - There are some absolutely amazing chili recipes out there! Pick a recipe that looks the most delicious to you and spend time in the kitchen together as a family.
- **Make some natural bird feeders** - The weather is getting cooler and birds (and most likely squirrels) need a little extra help finding some food. Search for DIY bird feeders that are safest for the animals you're feeding.

