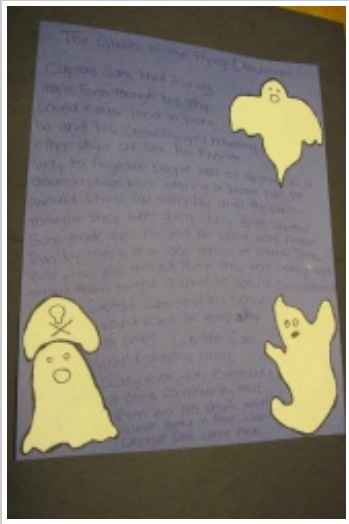
Famous Ghosts



Does your fifth grader love a spooky ghost story or two? Recreate the eerie campfire magic with a research activity that focuses on the most famous specters ever to haunt homes just like yours.

What You Need:

- Pencil
- Paper
- White correction fluid
- Permanent marker

What You Do:

1. Does your child know of any famous ghosts? Trade ghost stories with her and see who has the spookiest tale.
2. Challenge her to figure out what makes ghosts and the stories about them so scary. Is it the ghosts themselves or their actions? Would she be scared of a friendly ghost?
3. Have her write down some of her ghostly observations on paper.
4. Research famous ghosts online or at your local library with your child. Need some good examples? Try looking up the Flying Dutchman, the White Lady, and Abraham Lincoln (yes, *that* Abraham Lincoln).
5. Does she find any of these stories scary? What makes them scary -- or not scary?
6. Encourage her to write down her findings.
7. Time to write up her "research report." Have her focus in on two of the famous ghosts she read about, preferably her favorites.
8. Let her rewrite the stories of these two ghosts in her own words. Remind her that this is *her* story -- she can take out parts she doesn't like and add in what she thinks will make the story better or scarier.
9. When she's done, have her use white correction fluid to paint miniature ghosts around her writing.
10. Let her use a permanent marker to outline these ghosts and add some spooky eyes. Her "haunted" stories are ready to be displayed!

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