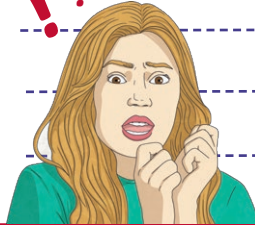


Does your chiller story include...

a beginning to introduce the main character(s)?	
a spooky, atmospheric setting?	
a build-up that gives hints about what is to come?	
a dilemma where the main character is frightened?	
a spine-chilling twist?	
dialogue to advance the action?	
short sentences to build tension?	
description that shows the character's feelings?	

How Might We Describe a Spooky Setting?

! ! ! abandoned, ancient, crumbling,
 ! ! ! decaying, derelict, deserted,
 ! ! ! dilapidated, eerie, haunting, isolated,
 ! ! ! obscured, ominous, ruined, shadowy,
 ! ! ! silent, sinister



Word Bank

attic	fog	mansion	spectre
blood-curdling	ghoul	menacing	terror
cobweb	gloom	mist	vampire
dishevelled	graveyard	monstruous	werewolf
fearsome	hair-raising	phantom	wicked

Powerful Verbs

chattered creaked crept dreaded

ear-splitting grabbed haunted loomed

petrified pounded silhouetted shivered

shuddered shrieked

wailed whispered

Empty Words

apparition, figure, it,
 nobody, no one, nothing,
 shadow, silhouette, someone,
 something, somewhere



All of a sudden,...

As her heart thundered,...

As the storm raged,...

Behind the door,...

Creeping through the graveyard,...

From out of the shadow,...

Hidden in the darkness,...

Holding his breath,...

In a heartbeat,...

In an instant,...

Looming in the distance,...

Out of the corner of her eye,...

Peeking through the cracks,...

Silently,...

Through the mist,...

Without warning,...



Key Features

a beginning to introduce the main character(s)

a spooky, atmospheric setting

a build-up that gives hints about what is to come

a dilemma where the main character is frightened

a spine-chilling twist

dialogue to advance the action

short sentences to build tension

description that shows the character's feelings

It had been a long, hot summer and Rani was bored. She had moved to Wailing Hollow a month ago; the name had turned out to be the only interesting thing about it. Rani hadn't even seen any children around the village. She was on one of her endless walks through the woods when she stumbled across something unexpected. Hidden behind a crumbling stone was a locket. Inside was a tiny, weathered photograph. A woman. The wood was **abandoned and silent** – whoever had dropped it had done so before she got there. **Frowning**, she pocketed the necklace. As she turned towards home, **the hairs on her arms stood on end**. Slowly, she turned her head. **Nothing**. **She noticed a chill in the air; a fog had begun to blanket the tree roots. Strange weather for August, she thought.** Just then, from out of the corner of her eye, she saw something move. **A figure. Her heart thundered in her chest and her breaths became short.** Without a second thought, Rani followed the shadowy silhouette.

THUMP. Rani ran straight into something. **Something hard and blackened. A gravestone.** Wildly, she searched the woods around her **but the mist had thickened.** Holding her breath, she stood. "What's going on here?" she said to herself. **No leaves hung from the branches near her and the stench of decay hung in the air.**

"Nothing lives for very long up here, my dear." Emerging from the shadows was an immaculately dressed woman. Her hair was pulled severely from her face and her skin was almost translucent. She doesn't look human, Rani thought. The apparition smiled, "I'm not, my dear Rani. Of this world, I mean." Despite coming out in a whisper, her voice rang through Rani's head as clear as a bell. **The sweat on Rani's back turned cold — could this woman hear her thoughts?** "Who are you? And how do you know my name?" **Rani's voice quivered and she bunched her hands into knuckles to stop them from shaking. She needed to get out of here.**

"Both good questions for another time. For now, I should ask you why you have come to my home and stolen my locket?"

Rani's eyes widened. This was the woman from the picture: the same pointed chin and saucer eyes.

"Yes, I know I've barely aged. You wouldn't know I'm 150 years old." **The woman's smile was terrible. Rani turned. Rani ran. Rani fell.** "Now my dear, you won't get very far. Grace here wants to show you your new home." **A blood-curdling laugh, like a wail, left her lips.**

Rani turned. Something – no, someone – was looming in the shadows. A child. This was the person who had been watching her earlier.