



GHOST HOUSE – READERS’ THEATRE

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Tyler - the older brother, afraid of ghosts

Zach - the younger brother, pretends to have no fear

Hammy - a friend, skateboarder

Sound effects: thunder, clock bells, footsteps, smashing, grunting, wind

Narrator 1: Chapter 8 of Paul Kropp’s novel *Ghost House* ... The Bells

Narrator 2: The three boys stood in the dark room staring at the plywood on the window. Hammy was shaking his head. Tyler was feeling a little creepy. And Zach was mad.

Zach: If Alex nailed that plywood back on, I’m going to kill him.

Hammy: Not a good idea. Look what happened to the guy in the newspaper.

Zach: Yeah, right. So I’ll just cause him terrible pain and suffering. Maybe I’ll tell Tasha that Alex has got the hots for her.

Narrator 1: The two of them laughed. (laughter in background) Zach and Hammy still seemed pretty cool, despite what had happened.

Narrator 2: But Tyler was scared. He tried hard to hide it from the others, but inside he was shaking. Too much of this was just too weird. Now the three boys were stuck in the Blackwood house for a whole night.

Zach: I’ve got an idea. It sounds like a lot of branches are blowing up against the house. (sound effect) Maybe we can get out one of the upstairs windows and then climb down a tree.

Narrator 1: The others agreed and made their way upstairs. (sound effect: steps) Every so often there was a flash of lightning so the boys could see their way (sound effect: thunder)

Narrator 2: Zach got to the top first, followed by the others. Nobody said much. All they could think about was getting out of the house.

Narrator 1: Upstairs, there was a little more light. The storm was back in full force. Thunder rattled the doors and windows. (sound effect)

Narrator 2: Lightning flashed across the night sky. The wind outside was like a hurricane. (sound effect)

Tyler: It sure is dark out there.

Zach: With a storm like this, I bet the lights are out all over town.

Hammy: Let's see if we can open that window at the end of the hall.

Zach: Good plan. All we need is to get the window up and slide down that tree.
Then we're out of here.

Hammy: Push on your side...

Narrator 1: Zach pushed up on the right side, Hammy on the left. (sound effect:
grunting) But the window didn't budge.

Hammy: The thing must be painted shut.

Zach: Or maybe the house has shifted. I bet nobody has tried to open a window
here for thirty years.

Narrator 2: Tyler said nothing. Some part of him knew that the window
wouldn't open. Some part of him knew that none of the windows would
open...that they were trapped!

Zach: This is stupid! These windows are stuck solid.

Hammy: We could smash the glass. (Sound effect: thunder)

Narrator 1: The thunder came like an answer.

Zach: Somebody might hear and call the cops. If they came, at least they'd get
us out of here. Still, I wish there were some other way.

Narrator 2: He had just finished talking when a strange sound rang through the
house.

BONG!

Hammy: What the?

Tyler: It's a bell. It sounds like the chime of a big old clock.

BONG!

Zach: How could there be a clock in this old place? And how come we didn't
hear it before?

BONG!

Hammy: I don't know about you guys, but I say we smash a window and get out of here.

BONG!

Narrator 1: Quickly, Zach picked up a hunk of wood from the floor and smashed it against the window. (sound effect)

BONG!

Tyler: Hey, the glass didn't break.

Hammy: Here, let me try it.

Narrator 2: Hammy took the piece of wood and smashed it into the window. (sound effect)

BONG!

Narrator 1: The glass might as well have been steel.

Hammy: Here, Tyler, you try it!

Tyler: Well, I don't know ...

BONG!

Narrator 2: Tyler was the oldest and the strongest, but he knew it was useless. He knew they were trapped. Still, he swung the wood against the glass once (sound effects), twice, three times.

BONG!

Narrator 1: The glass didn't even shake. Zach grabbed the wood from his brother and threw it at the window with all his strength. (sound effect)

BONG!

Zach: This is so stupid!

Tyler: This is hopeless!

BONG!

Narrator 2: Suddenly it was quiet. The storm died down and the bell stopped ringing. The only sound the boys could hear was their own breathing. (sound effect)

Tyler: Eleven o'clock. It's that time – the time of the murder.

Hammy: And we're trapped. We can't get out.

Zach (high, frightened voice) I don't like this ... I don't like this at all.

(Sound effect: thunder, closing eerie music.)