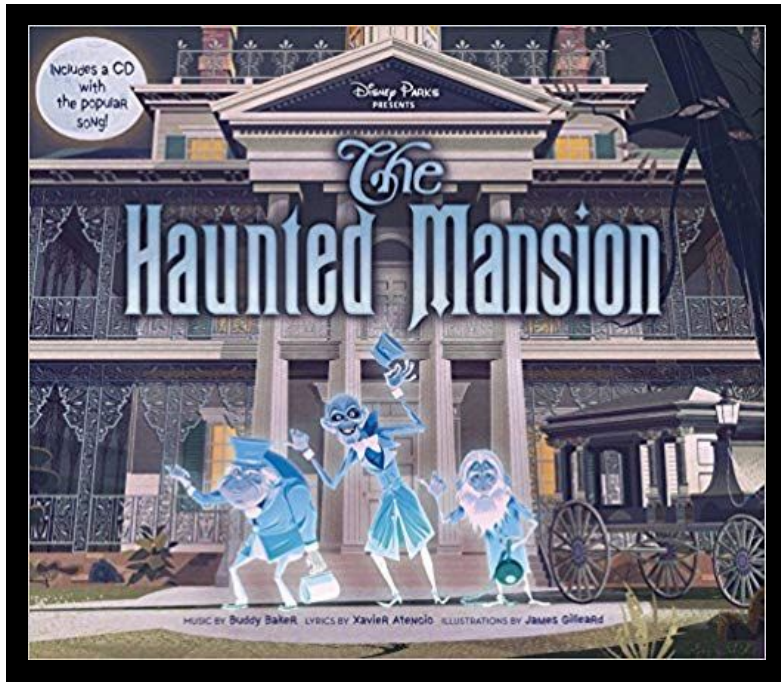


**BRING DISNEY RIGHT TO YOUR CLASSROOM THIS OCTOBER WITH THE BOOK THE HAUNTED MANSION WRITTEN BY BUDDY BAKER AND XAVIER ATENCIO. USE THIS MAGNIFICENT BOOK TO GUIDE YOUR STUDENTS IN CREATING A FULLY ELABORATED MAIN EVENT AS THEY JOIN IN ON THE RIDE!**



The song "Grim Grinning Ghosts," composed in the late 1960s, continues to reside in the dark corridors and spooky cemetery of the Haunted Mansion. Millions of guests leave the mansion with not only a hitchhiking ghost but also this jaunty tune catching a ride all the way home. In this hardcover jacketed picture book, James Gilleard's shadowy, textured illustrations accompany the lyrics of the classic song, and together they take readers on a guided tour deeper and deeper into the mansion, from the portrait

gallery and seance room to the grand hall, the creepy attic, and more. This charming picture book includes a CD featuring the song "Grim Grinning Ghosts."

## **MATERIALS:**

- **Book- Haunted Mansion**
- **Modeled Lesson: Roller Coaster Ride**
- **Chart paper**
- **Student page- Summary vs Fully Elaborated Main Event -Roller Coaster**
- **Student writing page- Make it your own**

## **Optional Resources on Disney's Haunted Mansion:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKVd-xwxgJs> - video of the ride

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/haunted-mansion-facts-secrets-and-history-3224492> - facts and information on the ride

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/grim-grinning-ghosts-lyrics-3224494> - History about the theme song

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/review-of-the-haunted-mansion-3224501> - review of the ride

\*Prior to starting, watch the modeled lesson that is included for teachers. Although this modeled lesson is on a roller coaster, it shows how the teacher moves through the process of expanding the main event. \*

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**First:** Review the characteristics of a fully elaborated main event. (Using a balance of slow-motion action, vivid description, dialogue/exclamation, the main character's thoughts, feelings, worries, perhaps a sound effect). Review the summary vs. fully elaborated main event with the comparison activity that is included in this lesson. As you read through, annotate and reflect on the fully elaborated example. Discuss what makes that sample better than the summary or the sequence of actions.

**Next,** begin the modeled sample by writing this summary statement on the board:

*I went on a ride that took me through a haunted mansion. It was exciting.*

Explain that writing an extended main event is like showing a movie one frame at a time. As the author, they “write” each frame so that the reader gets a clear view of what is happening. They will be stretching out the important moments in the story so that the reader can better experience them.

*Remember that using student input to MODEL the main event allows them to own the writing.* Begin your modeling by asking productive questions. Use student responses to craft a fully elaborated event. Do not be afraid to reframe the questions or to delve further in order to generate vivid ideas. Watch for body language and facial expressions, as students usually know more than they can verbalize. Modeling could take several days depending on your allotted time.

**Ask:** What did you hear, see, feel, smell on the ride?

**Student responses:** darkness, loud banging, the sound of doors closing, the screams of other people, my heart pounding

**Ask:** What did you do?

**Student responses:** buckled my safety harness, took a deep breath, listened to the calming voice of my dad, closed my eyes, screamed

**Ask:** How did you feel? What did you wonder or worry about?

**Student responses:** something grabbing me, the dark, nervous, excited, brave

The activity continues in a similar fashion. Additional questions you might ask include:

- How did your adventure end?
- How did you feel after it was all over?
- How do you feel about riding it again?

**Then**, once you are finished with the productive questions, use the responses to model and create the main event with the students using action, description, dialogue/exclamation, thoughts, and feelings.

**Finally**, students are able to use all of the brainstorming you did together to help them in their own fully elaborated main event. Don't want to write about a haunted mansion? Model and write about a themed coaster ride instead. This allows them to change the theme/setting of the ride they write about. Be sure to build background knowledge with experiences similar to the Haunted Mansion piece.

**Be sure to check out many more lessons just like this one! Want to go on a magic carpet ride? Or maybe take your class on an adventure through the wilderness? Find these and more in your Empowering Writers Narrative Guides!**