

# I am not scared. Or am I? : Storytelling tips and Learning tools

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## Before narration:

- Ask the children if they know what the fear of darkness is called?  
[Answer: nyctophobia]
- Ask if anyone is afraid of ghosts (called phasmophobia)?  
If yes, why? Do the children think ghosts are real?
- Introduce the story as one in which a boy who's afraid of the dark eventually overcomes his fear

## Storytelling:

- Try character voices: Halting, base voice for the dialogues that express Vaelan's fear and for the point where he sees shadows
- Build suspense by asking the children in a low voice, "Guess what he saw?"  
"Shadows."  
And then continue with the story
- Express Vaelan's fear using appropriate facial expressions

## After narration:

This story can be used to discuss fears and phobias. What are the children afraid of? Why? How do they plan to overcome that fear?

## Extended activities:

"...Beads of sweat trickling down his neck, Vaelen thought of what had happened. Don't they say that ghosts choose the meekest? Didn't the ghost say it would get him the following night?"  
Continue writing the story from this point forward and create your own ending to the story.

## Reading Comprehension:

Ask the children these questions:

- 1) What is a specter?
- 2) " Right when he was about to cross the large window in the living room, he heard voices - husky and empty. It sounded as if they came from beings from another world." What other world is the author referring to?
- 3) Can you think of another word for "muster"?
- 4) "Cops swarmed the neighborhood like ants..." What is this usage called?

## Answer Key

- 1) Ghost
- 2) Left up to the students' imagination
- 3) Gather
- 4) Simile