

The Haunted Hamburger

By David LaRochelle * Illustrated by Paul Meisel * Dutton Books for Children

Readers

Father Ghost
Franny
Frankie
Lulu
Nell
Owl
Echo 1
Echo 2
Narrator

Approximate reading time: 4 minutes

SCRIPT:

Echo 2: *The Haunted Hamburger and Other Ghostly Stories* by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Paul Meisel

PAUSE

Narrator: When two little ghosts won't go to bed, what do you do?

Echo 1: Tell them stories.

Echo 2: Tell them spooky stories.

Echo 1: Tell them stories so fiendishly scary, they would even frighten...

Narrator: A ghost.

Father Ghost: Time for bed,

Narrator: said Father Ghost.

Franny/Frankie: But we are not tired,

Narrator: said Franny and Frankie.

Franny: Tell us a story.

Frankie: Tell us a **scary** story.

Father Ghost: If I tell you a story, do you **promise** to go to bed?

Narrator: Franny and Frankie crossed their fingers.

Franny/Frankie: We promise.

Father Ghost: Very well,

Narrator: said Father Ghost.

Father Ghost: But I must warn you. This is a **very scary** story...

Franny/Frankie: Ooooooooooooo...

Father Ghost: Your cousin Nell was a boastful ghost.

Nell: I am the **fastest** ghost in the world! I am the **smartest** ghost in the world! I am the **scariest** ghost in the world!

Lulu: Big deal,

Narrator: said her friend Lulu.

Lulu: I know someone who is faster, smarter, and scarier than you. His name is the Haunted Hamburger.

Echo1 & 2: *(like a whisper)* Haunted Hamburger, Haunted Haunted Hamburger.

Lulu: He lives in the Dark Forest.

Echo1 & 2: Dark Forest, Dark Dark Forest.

Lulu: Why don't you go see him for yourself...

Echo1 & 2: Unless... you are too afraid.

Nell: I am **not** afraid of anything. I am the bravest ghost in the world.

Narrator: So Nell flew off to the Dark Forest to find the Haunted Hamburger.

Nell: Haunted Hamburger, where are you?

Narrator: There was no answer.

Nell: I bet that hamburger is too afraid to come out. He knows that I am faster, smarter, and scarier than he is.

Narrator: Nell was about to fly home when she passed a stump.

Echo 1 & 2: A stump?

Narrator: A stump. And sitting on the stump was a hamburger.

Echo1 & 2: A hamburger?

Narrator: A hamburger.

- Nell: Are you the Haunted Hamburger?
- Narrator: The hamburger did not answer.
- Nell: That hamburger is so stuck up, he will not even talk to me. I will teach him a lesson.
- Let's race to the hollow log at the edge of the forest. Whoever returns to this stump first will be the winner.
- Echo 1: On your mark,
- Echo 2: get set,
- Echo 1 & 2: go!
- Narrator. Nell flew under the trees and over the rocks. When she reached the hollow log, she smiled.
- Nell: I **know** I am faster than a hamburger.
- Narrator: But when she returned to the stump, the hamburger was already there.
- Nell: (*panting*) How.... how... how did you get to the log and back so soon?
- Narrator: The hamburger was not even out of breath.
- Nell: Okay, Hamburger, maybe you **are** faster. But I **know** that I am smarter.
- Owl! Wake up! Ask each of us a math question. We will see who is smart and who is not.
- Owl (*stretching and yawning*): What is 7 plus 6?
- Narrator: Nell scribbled some numbers in the dirt.
- Echo 2: She scratched her head.
- Narrator: She counted on her fingers.
- Nell: That is easy. Seven plus 6 is 452.
- Owl. Wrong. Seven plus 6 is 13. Okay hamburger. Now it is your turn. How much is 12 minus 12?
- Narrator: The hamburger just sat there.
- Owl: Correct!
- Nell: How can that be correct? The hamburger said nothing.

Owl: Twelve minus 12 **is** nothing. The hamburger wins!

Nell: (*angry*) Okay, Hamburger. Maybe you **are** faster than I am! Maybe you **are** smarter than I am! But you are **not** scarier than I am! Look at this!

Narrator: Nell crossed her eyes.

Echo 1: She pulled her ears.

Echo 2: She stuck out her tongue.

Narrator: She wiggled her nose.

Nell See if you can make a scarier face than *that*, Mr. Haunted Hamburger!

Narrator/Echo 1 & 2: The hamburger did not move.

Nell: Are you too scared to even **try**?

Narrator: Nell lifted off the top of the bun to make sure that the Haunted Hamburger was listening.

Nell: (*gasp*)

Narrator: Nell had never seen anything so terrifying in her life. The hamburger had...

Echo 1: ... two round eyes as green as pickles....

Echo 2: ... a wide, squiggly mouth as yellow as mustard...

Echo 1 & 2: ... and wet bloody cheeks as red as ketchup.

Nell: Mommmmmmmmy!

Narrator: Nell flew back home and hid beneath the table.

Echo 1& 2: She did not come out for two weeks.

Narrator: And Nell was never a boastful ghost again.