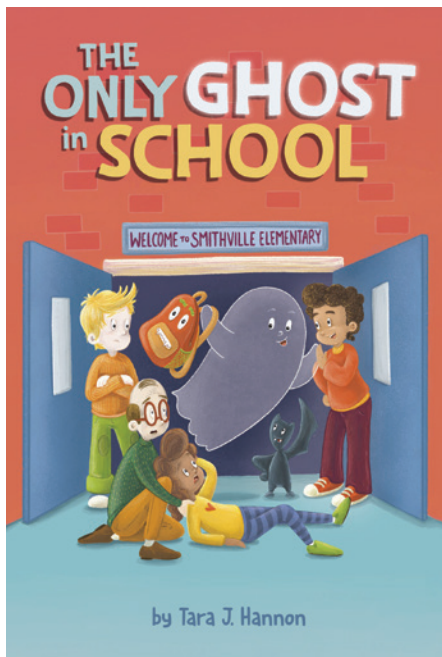


THE ONLY GHOST ACTIVITY GUIDE



A highly illustrated chapter book series about finding friendship and being the new kid at school—perfect for early, emerging, and reluctant readers.

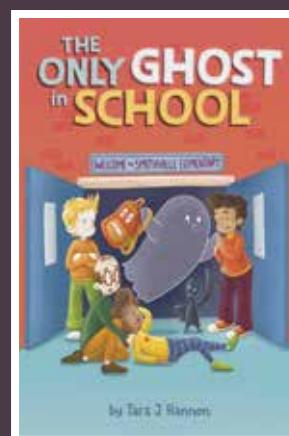


Penguin
Random
House

written and illustrated by Tara J. Hannon

The ONLY GHOST Series

The Haunted Library meets Casper the Friendly Ghost in this hilarious highly illustrated chapter book series about finding friendship and being the new kid at school—perfect for early, emerging, and reluctant readers.



With charming full-color art throughout, this chapter book series highlights how you can discover connections in differences and how you don't have to fit in to find belonging.

Why We Love It

Resonant Themes: Ghostie and Tate's friendship shows readers that the way to finding true belonging is accepting ourselves for who we are and celebrating the differences that we see in each other. **Themes:** Friendship, self love, and acceptance.

Great Promo Opportunities: This story's ghostly cast makes it perfect for **Halloween**, and its exploration of what it's like to be the new kid is great for **back-to-school** promotions.

Full-Color Interior: This highly illustrated chapter book features a lot of 4-color interior art that's **ideal for early and reluctant readers**.

Simultaneous Pub: The **paperback and hardcover** of books one and two are launching together for maximized shelf space and flexibility in the market.



“Monstrous fun, spun around some serious messages”

~Kirkus

Review for The Only Ghost in School



Tara J. Hannon is an author-illustrator from Maryland. Her illustrated projects include Planes USA! (2020) and God Is There Wherever You Go (2021), both with Penguin Workshop.

Her debut early graphic novel series, Birtle, is published with AMP Kids.



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The Only Ghost in School

ISBN 9780593753156

The Only Ghost at Summer Camp

ISBN 9780593753187

Hardcover \$16.99 | Paperback \$6.99

Published by Penguin Workshop

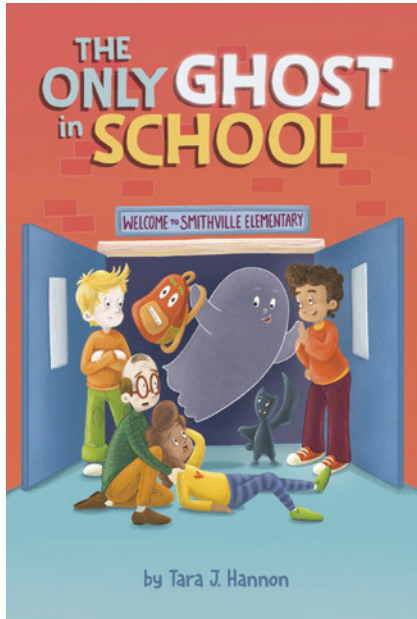
Aug 12, 2025

Middle Grade (8-12) | 96 Pages



Penguin
Random
House

Move over Casper, theres a new friendly ghost in town!



THE ONLY GHOST IN SCHOOL

For Ghostie, life in Scareville is perfect. But everything changes when his parents announce that they're moving to Smithville.

Now Ghostie is the **ONLY** ghost at Smithville Elementary, and he is scaring his classmates just by existing. While his parents embrace their new human world, Ghostie feels more alone than ever. Will he be able to make friends and fit in?

With charming full-color art throughout, this first book in the Only Ghost chapter book series highlights how you can discover connections in differences and how you don't have to fit in to find belonging.

ISBN 9780593753156 | Middle Grade (8-12) Published with Penguin Workshop



THE ONLY GHOST AT SUMMER CAMP

It's summertime in Smithville, and camping in the great outdoors with his BFF Tate is Ghostie's idea of a dream come true. But when their summer camp counselor gathers everyone around the campfire for scary ghost stories, he makes everybody—including Tate—afraid of GHOSTS! To make matters worse, Ghostie's parents get called on to run the camp after the counselor catches the flu.

Ghostie's dream come true has suddenly become a nightmare. Is his friendship with Tate over? And how will two ghosts run a camp full of kids who are terrified of them?

With charming full-color art throughout, this second book in the Only Ghost chapter book series highlights that the only way to find true belonging is to accept ourselves and celebrate the differences that we see in each other.

ISBN9780593753187 | Middle Grade (8-12) Published with Penguin Workshop

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were one of Ghostie's Scareville friends, what advice would you give him before his first day at a human school?
2. How was Ghostie feeling on his first day at Smithville Elementary? Have you ever felt similarly?
3. Have you ever had a new classmate join your class? What did you do to make them feel welcome?
4. If you had to move to Scareville, how would **you** feel? What would you do if you were the only human in a **monster** school?
5. If you were giving Ghostie a tour of your school or town, what parts would you be excited to show him? What parts do you think he would like the most? The least?





6. What does it mean to fit in? What does it mean to be yourself?
If you are fitting in, are you truly being yourself?
7. Think about your friends and classmates; do they all have the opportunity to be themselves in our classroom? How can we make sure everyone feels comfortable being themselves here?
8. Why do you think Kevin treated Ghostie the way he did? What could he have done differently?
9. What should you do if you see someone being bullied?
10. Everyone is unique in their own way. What does it mean to be unique?
What makes **you** unique?
11. Ghostie wanted to hide the traits that made him feel different. Why?
Have you ever felt that way?
12. Making new friends can be **hard**. What are some ways that you've made new friends?
13. What makes a good friend?



READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Book 1 - The Only Ghost in School



1. Why did Ghostie's family move to Smithville?
2. What was Ghostie's first reaction when he learned he was moving to a human town?
3. How did Ghostie's feelings about moving to a human town differ from his parents'?
4. Ghostie gives four reasons for not liking Smithville. Can you list them?
5. What is the name of Ghostie's pet bat?
6. What went wrong on Ghostie's first day at Smithville Elementary?
7. How did Ghostie's classmates react when they saw him? How did his teacher react?
8. Who treated Ghostie unfairly at school? Can you give an example of this treatment?
9. What did Tate bring to show and tell? What went wrong?
10. Ghostie was going to share something at show and tell, but changed his mind. What was it? Why did he change his mind? What did he end up sharing instead?
11. What Scareville creature did Tate swear he looked like as a baby?
12. How did Ghostie get the nickname 'Grossie Ghostie'?

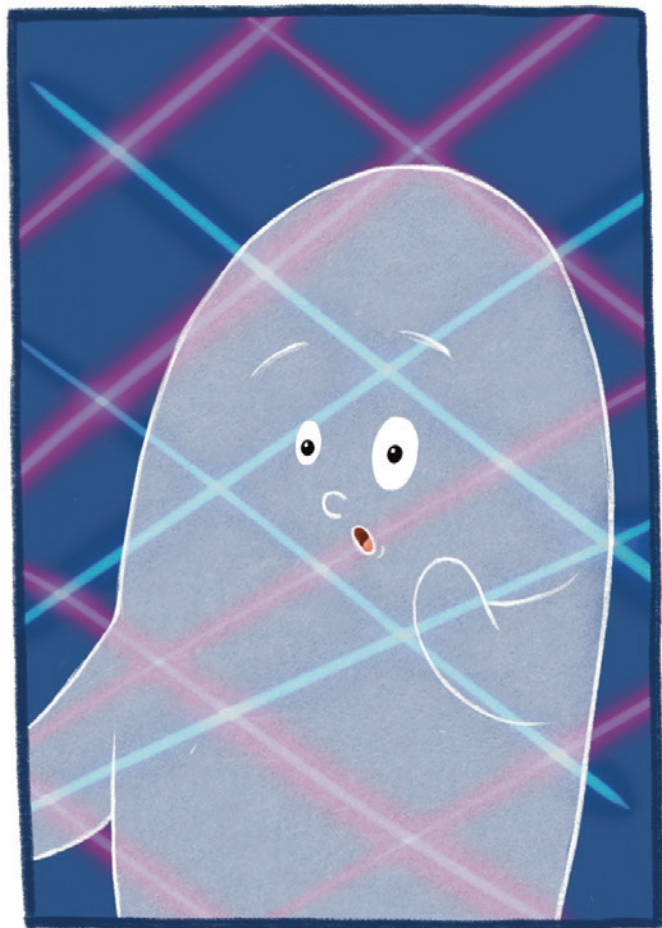


13. Ghostie was embarrassed to be the only ghost in school. But something changed his mind. What was it?
14. How did Ghostie and Tate stand up to Kevin? What is Kevin afraid of?
15. How did Ghostie feel about Smithville by the end of the book?



GHOSTIE AND TATE - BFFs!

For Ghostie, being the only ghost at Smithville Elementary isn't easy but his human best friend, Tate, sure does make it fun! Together, the unlikely pair navigate the challenges of being different in a world that pressures us to fit in. As their friendship holds strong through adversity, **Ghostie and Tate show us over and over that the way to find true belonging is to accept ourselves for who we are and celebrate the differences that we see in each other.**



GHOSTIE GHOST

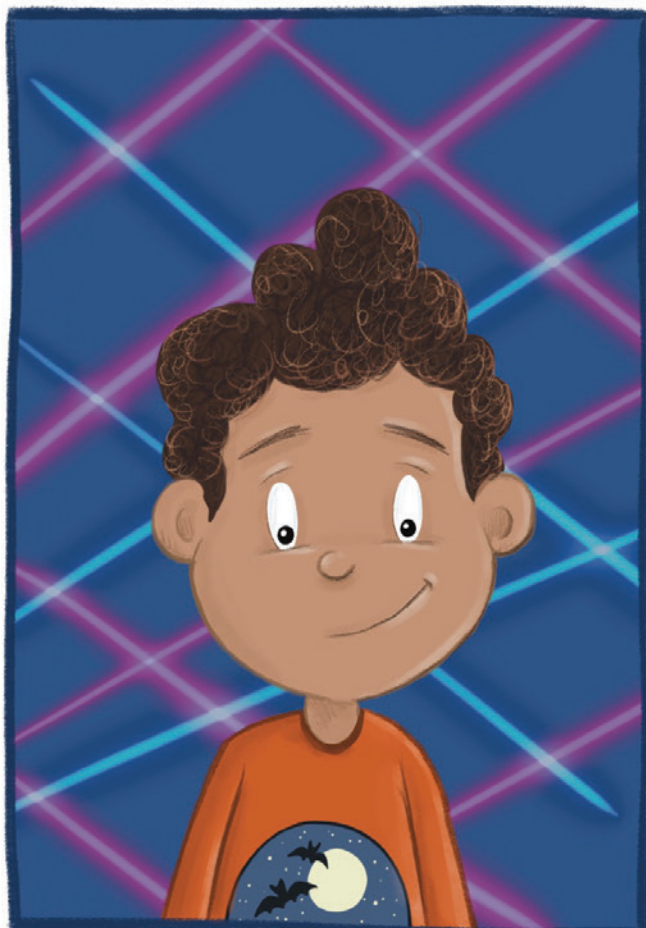
LIKES

Stench Fries
Spiders
His bat, Cookie

DISLIKES

Smithville Elementary
Human toilets

Most likely to accidentally run through a wall.



TATE MILLER

LIKES

Pizza
Spiders
Werewolves

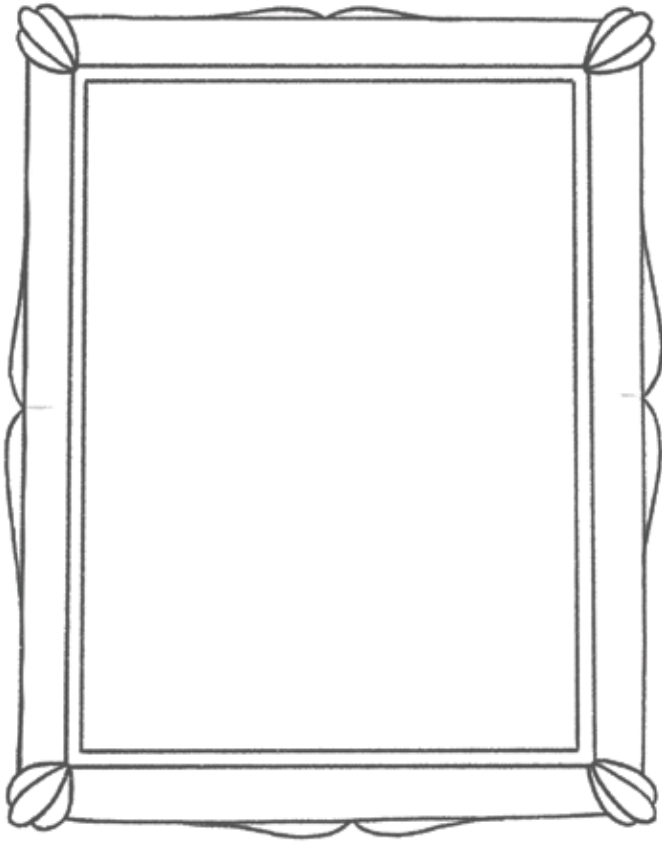
DISLIKES

Kevin

Most likely to laugh so hard milk comes out of his nose.

GETTING TO KNOW ME

THIS IS ME!



Name _____

Today is the first day of _____ grade.

I am excited about _____

I am nervous about _____

I would like to learn about _____

I like to talk about _____

What makes me unique _____

I am proud of my ability to _____

Movie: _____

Book: _____

Food: _____

Activity: _____

Subject: _____


Animal: _____

Hobby: _____



Send a 'GHOST'CARD

Pretend you are one of Ghostie's friends from Scareville. Write a postcard to Ghostie. What advice would you give him? What would you like him to know about what's been happening in Scareville? What questions would you have for Ghostie about Smithville? What image would you pick to be on the front of the postcard?

A-BOO-C

Help a new Scareville restaurant organize their menu by putting their dishes in alphabetical order. Then write three sentences that describe one of the menu items in detail.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Frog Nuggets	_____
Stench Fries	_____
Spellghetti	_____
Eye Scream	_____
Runny Mustard	_____
French Ghost	_____
Strawscaries	_____
Sneezecake	_____
Hot Smog	_____
Iced Bee	_____
Deviled Eggs	_____
Booberry Pie	_____
Deadsticks	_____
Buttered Trolls	_____
Finger Food	_____
Neck-tarine	_____
Sandwitch	_____
Terra-fries	_____



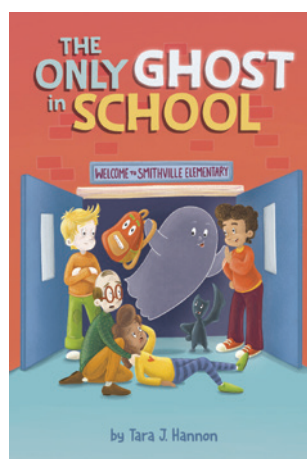
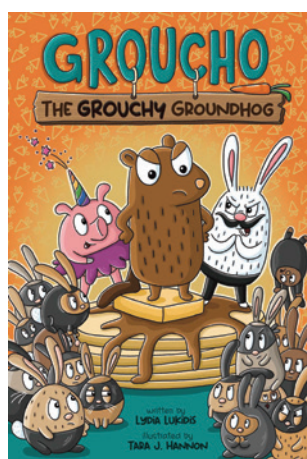
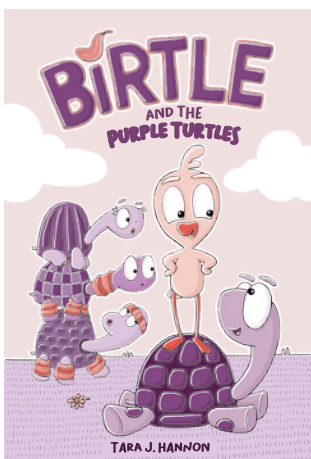
Tara J. Hannon lives with her husband and two daughters in a house that is probably not haunted, but if it were, she would happily offer a ghost some hot coffee and a good book. She is also the author-illustrator of the early graphic novel series Birtle. And the illustrator of the early graphic novel series, Groucho the Grouchy Groundhog, written by Lydia Lukidis.

You can visit Tara online at www.tarajhannon.com

Fun Facts About Tara:

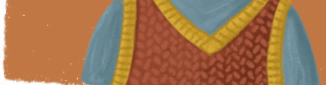
- Tara has two dogs, seven chickens, and a bearded dragon at home.
- Her daughters are in 4H so she also takes care of various farm animals, like sheep and turkeys.
- Tara likes to rearrange the furniture of her house often.
- Tara has two favorite foods: pizza and peaches.
- Tara has ADHD which, for her, means that her mind thinks in a lot of different directions.
- Tara runs nearly every day because it helps her mind focus.
- Tara lives by the Chesapeake Bay.

More Books By Tara:

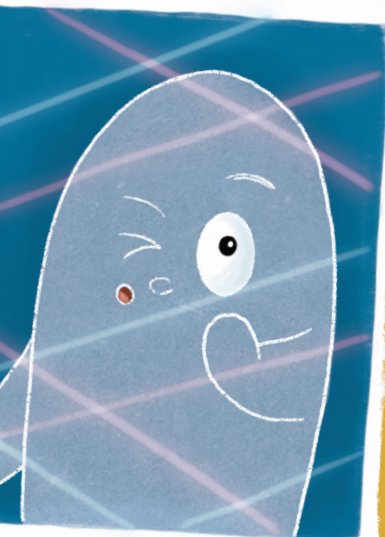




PETER



SHIVA



GHOSTIE



TATE



NEIL



BECKY



PARKER



ADRIAN



Did you know:

**That Tara does school visits?
She would love to visit your school.**

**If you're interested, reach out via
the contacts page on her website.**

**Do you or your students have questions for Tara?
She would love to hear from you!**

Reach out or find her on any of these platforms:



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