SPOOK SQUAD

ACTIVITY

Use these 6 scene setter ideas to help your students identify tension, suspense and atmosphere as well as be inspired to get writing! Share these round the class as a group activity.

THE DREAM

You wake up suddenly, heart racing. Breathe, it was just a dream. You touch beside you, you're not in bed. As your eyes adjust to the darkness you realise you've just woken up in a forest, it's silent but yellow eyes watch you from all around...

- How do you think you got here?
- Why do you feel scared?
- Who is watching you?
- What do you do next?

THE STORM

You get home from school, it's stormy outside and the lights are flickering. You hear your mom call you from upstairs. As you reach the hallway, ahand touches your shoulder as you hear your mom's car pull up outside...

- What would you do?
- Why does it feel so creepy?
- Whose hand touched your shoulder?
- Was Mom really outside or just the storm playing tricks?

THE GUARDIAN

No one goes to the old library where the ancient books are kept. Your teacher sets your class a research project to look at these books. At the library, there's a section that's locked. The librarian moves you away from it, muttering about magic that's not for children before he disappears...

- What is in the locked section?
- Who is the librarian looking after the books?
- Why did your teacher ask you to research the books here?
- Where did the librarian go?

THE CURSE

You've seen the same black dog every day for weeks. It's like it's following you. On Halloween morning as leaves swirl along the sidewalk it's suddenly next to you and says, "I need your help to break the curse, you're the only one..."

- What is the curse?
- Who caused it?
- Why are you the only one able to break it?
- Will you be able to break the curse?

THE MESSAGE

You've just moved to the countryside with your family. You've not been sleeping very well, your parents say you'll get used to the old house's noises. Today you get to decorate your room! The wallpaper peels off easily and there is writing underneath: *Help us...*

- Who owned the house before you moved in?
- What could the noises you hear at night be?
- Who wrote on the wall?
- What happened to them?

THE PUSH

You're walking through the graveyard, your candle lights your way. You reach the old gate to lock it. You pull it closed. Clunk. As you turn around to head home you're pushed, your candle blows out...

- Who are you?
- Who could have pushed you?
- Why does the sudden darkness feel scary?
- What happens next?