



Title: Dying to Meet You

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Author Ignatius B. Grumpy, rents an old Victorian mansion in Ghastly, Illinois, for the summer. He soon discovers that it is already inhabited by eleven-year-old Seymour Hope and his ghost friend, writer Olive C. Spence. The story is told in letters, newspaper articles, Grumpy's work-in-progress "Ghost Tamer" manuscript.

Let's Talk

Have you ever read a book of correspondence? How is it different?

Why are the names so funny? (Ignatius B Grumpy, Anita Sale, Seymour Hope, Les and Diane Hope, E. Gadds, Paige Turner, Frank and Beans, and Olive C. Spence)

What is the story about?

Do any of the characters ever speak, or do you know about them from what they wrote? What do people know about you from what you write? Online?

What is writer's block? Have you ever had it?

Seymour gets blamed for Olive's actions. Has that ever happened to you?

What do you think of Seymour's parents and their letter at the end of the story?

On page 72 Olive says that a good story needs a set up, complications, and conflict. What does that mean?

Try This

Rewrite the ending. Does Olive stay or go? Is the house sold? To whom? Each pair can write a different style: one funny ending, one sad, etc.

Draw names and take on a character. Write letters to another character in the room. What might they say next?

Transform a room into a haunted house with ghosts.

Explore More in the Library

Dear Mrs. La Rue: Letters From Obedience School by Mark Teague (J P Teague)

The Barefoot Book of Giants, Ghosts and Goblins : Traditional Tales from Around the World Retold by John Matthews (J 398.2)

A Good Night for Ghosts by Mary Pope Osborne (J Fiction/P Osborn)

The Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide by Holly Black (J Fiction Diterlizzi) also on audio books and DVD

Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary (J Fiction Cleary) also on CD (J CD Fiction Cleary)

Dear Levi; Letters from the Overland Trail by Elvira Woodruff (J Fiction P Woodruff)

P.S. Longer Letter Later by Paula Danziger & Ann M. Martin (J Fiction/P Danziger)

Greg Heffley's Journal: Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney (J Fiction Kinney)