

The Haunted House

- 9 There the house stands all alone upon a hill.
16 Lifeless, it gives passers-by a quick chill.
23 Even its gnarly trees stand eerily still.
31 Who knows what secrets these abandoned halls hold?
- 39 Inside, spooky ghosts flit swiftly across the room,
48 kicking up thick dust as they move and zoom.
56 Their bright glow cuts through the lurking gloom.
65 Who would dare to wag their finger and scold?
- 72 Sinister portraits stare at the empty space.
80 Cobwebs hug every wall in a strange embrace.
87 The windows have curtains of rotting lace.
97 Who lived in this house in the days of old?
- 105 Sometimes, floorboards creak for no reason at all
110 and crumbly statues mysteriously fall.
117 Strange shadows move across the damp walls.
127 Who is brave enough to search for its lost gold?



Questions



1. What happens to the statues?



2. What might **abandoned** mean? Tick one.

☐

deserted

☐

occupied

☐

new



3. How has the phrase **for no reason at all** created a feeling of spookiness?



4. If you were going to add an additional verse to this poem, what would it be about? Explain your answer.

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1. What happens to the statues?
The statues mysteriously fall.



2. What might **abandoned** mean? Tick one.



deserted



occupied



new



3. How has the phrase **for no reason at all** created a feeling of spookiness?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author has created a feeling of spookiness by suggesting that the floorboards don't creak because someone is stepping on them but because of something spooky.



4. If you were going to add an additional verse to this poem, what would it be about? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I might add something about the attic or the garden as these are features that can be described in detail in a spooky way.

