

SCARY PLACES

# Spooky Schools



by Natalie Lunis

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# Spooky Schools

Most of the time schools aren't so scary. Usually they are just buildings filled with students studying in classrooms, reading in the library, playing in the gym, and eating in the lunchroom. Imagine how truly scary the school day would be, though, if there were ghosts in attendance.





Within the 11 spooky schools in this book, you'll meet many different ghosts. Among them are a girl who preferred wandering in a beautiful garden to life in the big city, a high school student who drowned in a pool and now reaches out to swimmers there, and a famous playwright who continues to inspire college students—not only through his work but also by sharing a building with them. All of these **spirits** are so eager to be in school that they have decided to stay around forever.





# The Ghost in the Garden

## Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

Students at Bard College are lucky to go to school on a gardenlike **campus** overlooking the Hudson River. The spot is so beautiful that one girl, it seems, decided to return to it after death—and hasn't left since.

In 1899, Captain Andrew C. Zabriskie bought a large piece of property overlooking the Hudson River. There, he built a grand white **mansion** to use as a summer home for his family. He also put in beautiful gardens and walkways, many with breathtaking views of the river. Because the property had been formerly known as Blithewood, everyone called the new house Blithewood Mansion.




Blithewood  
Mansion



Just over fifty years later, in 1951, the captain's son gave Blithewood Mansion to nearby Bard College. Since then, students and teachers have seen a strange girl wandering both outside and inside the house, which is now used by **professors** who teach **economics**.

The girl, who seems to be somewhere between eight and twelve years old, is believed to be Captain Zabriskie's daughter. People say that one winter night she fell—or perhaps jumped—to her death from a window of her family's New York City apartment. Because she disliked the big city, she is now reported to spend all her time as a ghost at her family's beautiful home on the river.

A view of the gardens



Captain Zabriskie had four statues of his daughter made for the gardens at Blithewood. Three of the statues remain, while there is only an empty spot where the fourth statue once stood. Some say that the young girl haunts the garden by wandering the grounds in the form of this statue.



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# About the Author

Natalie Lunis has written many nonfiction books for children. She lives in New York's lower Hudson River Valley—the home of the Headless Horseman.



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