

# WHAT'S UNDER MY BED?

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### Summary

*What's Under My Bed?* is the story of two children who are told a rather scary bedtime story by their grandfather before being tucked into bed.

The creepy feeling stays with the children as they lie in bed and begin worrying about the night sounds they hear. When one of the children decides to look under his bed, he accidentally steps on the pet dog lying beside the bed. With this final fright, the children scurry downstairs to their grandfather.

The grandfather tells the children a story about a very scary night he spent at his own grandparents' house when he was a boy. The story ends when the frightened boy is given a bowl of ice cream by his grandparents. When the grandfather's story is over, the children agree that ice cream is just the remedy they need, too.

### Objectives

- Children will explore their own fears
- Children will enjoy a suspenseful story
- Children will investigate sound and its sources

### Before Viewing Activities

Share the book, *What's Under My Bed?*, with children. Then ask:

- What kinds of sounds do you hear at night?
- What do you do when you hear sounds that frighten you?

Talk with children about their bedtime routines.

Ask:

- What special things do you do before going to sleep?
- If you enjoy reading or listening to stories, which books are your favorites?
- What kinds of things do you have in the room you sleep in to help you feel comfortable at night?

Encourage children to discuss scary stories they may be familiar with. Ask:

- How did reading/listening to/watching these stories make you feel?
- What made the story seem scary?

As children watch, have them make special note of the ways the music, sound effects, and shadows add to the scary effect of the story.

### After Viewing Activities

Have children close their eyes and listen carefully to the sounds they hear in the classroom. See how many different sounds children can name. Then take a walk outdoors and have children listen carefully for the outdoor sounds they hear. Later, allow children to tape record a variety of sounds and see if their classmates can identify them.

Supply a variety of objects children can experiment with to make sounds. Include rubber bands which children can stretch and pluck, combs that children can run their fingers along, glass bottles filled with varying amounts of

water which children can tap, rulers which children can hang over the edge of a table and twang. Also encourage children to search for classroom objects to use in unusual ways in order to create interesting sounds.

Talk with children about the kinds of things that frighten them. Ask: What do you do to help yourself feel better when you are frightened? What would you tell a friend who was feeling scared? If you were one of the children in the story, what would you do to make yourself feel comfortable and fall asleep?

See if children can remember some of the things that frightened the grandfather when he was a boy (grandfather clock, cats jumping on garbage can lids, moths fluttering about, etc.) Then have children create their own scary stories. Have them include in their stories some animals/objects whose sounds contribute to the frightening, suspenseful feeling of the stories.

### Other productions that are slightly scary are available from Weston Woods include:

A DARK, DARK TALE by Ruth Brown

GEORGIE by Robert Bright

KING OF THE CATS by Paul Galdone

TEENY-TINY AND THE WITCH-WOMAN by

Barbara Walker, ill. by Michael Foreman

THE THREE ROBBERS by Tomi Ungerer

THE TRIP by Ezra Jack Keats

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