

STORY PROMPT: SCARY STORIES AND 'THE OTHER'



Some stories have strangers in them. Writers call these strangers 'others'. They can be nice, or... not so nice.

Good 'others' can be brilliant. The Christmasaurus and the Iron Giant are 'others'. They're both different in a good way.

Some 'others' can be scary. Fear is a strong feeling. Strong feelings make good stories.

SETTING THE SCENE

You're going to write a scary story. You'll need to show how strange your 'other' is. Here's a fantastic example:

Before we meet him, we learn a lot about him.

We meet a mouse. He's a talking mouse, but we're used to that in stories.

We meet a fox, an owl, then a snake. The mouse tells them about another creature. It's very different from these animals.

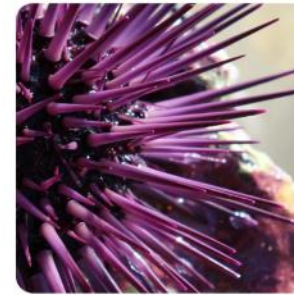
He couldn't be real though? He sounds too strange:

His eyes are orange. His tongue is black. He has purple prickles all over his back...

The mouse gets a fright. The creature he imagined is there. It's in front of him. It wants to eat him.



MEETING THE 'OTHER'



Oh, help... Oh no... It's the Gruffalo!

Think about the pictures in the book. Axel Scheffler is an 'illustrator'. He draws pictures for books. He drew the Gruffalo. He tried to make it less scary.

Imagine how scary the Gruffalo could look!

Axel Scheffler's Gruffalo pictures won't give you nightmares. Julia Donalson wrote the Gruffalo.

Her descriptions are scary. The Gruffalo is dangerous. He is fearsome.

The 'poisonous wart'. Those 'terrible teeth'. The 'purple prickles'. His 'black tongue'. What would a scarier Gruffalo look like?

Other human beings aren't very strange. Even when we're very different, we're still all people.

People aren't normally 'otherly' enough for scary stories. But, we can imagine stranger things. Things that can give people a real scare.

YOUR WRITING CHALLENGE

The nights are darker now. Perfect for a scary story.

Why don't you imagine an 'other'? Imagine how strange it could be. Tell a story about it. You can write this story, or draw a picture.

Remember that being 'special' is a bit like being 'otherly'. Is your 'other' special instead? Will your story start scary but end happily?

Maybe you want your story to be scary. How scary can you make it?

I hope you enjoy this challenge. I can't wait to see your creations. All the best, John

