

Finish That Story

Read the beginning of R.L. Stine’s *Ghost Car*, below. Underline words or phrases that show this is a ghost story. What hints does R.L. Stine give us in the setting, characters, plot, and word choices?

“Ghost Car” by R.L. Stine

Adapted from the [R.L. Stine Writing Program](#)

I poked my head into the old car. The dashboard was covered with dust, and the back of the passenger seat was ripped and stained. “Why does Grandpa Ed keep this old wreck behind the garage?” I asked my sister Ashley.

“Ben, you know why,” she replied. “Grandpa thinks the car is haunted. He won’t go near it.”

“Haunted? Cool,” I said. I climbed behind the steering wheel.

“I’m outta here,” Ashley said. “I don’t like smelly, old cars—especially if they’re haunted.” She disappeared around the side of the garage.

As soon as she was gone, I heard a soft whisper. “Ben . . . let’s go. Take me for a drive.”

“Huh?” I gasped in surprise. I checked to make sure Ashley wasn’t playing a joke on me. But my sister had left.

“Take me for a drive, Ben. I’m so lonely behind the garage.” The voice seemed to be coming from the radio. But the radio was turned off.

I let out a startled cry as the engine started up. The car rattled and clanked, and then the engine hummed smoothly. “Step on the gas, Ben,” the voice whispered. “Don’t be afraid. Let’s GO!”

My heart started to pound. I grabbed the door handle. Should I jump out of the car? I asked myself. Should I tell Ashley what’s happening?

Or should I take the wheel? Step on the gas? Take a chance?

