

# Mysterious Encounters

Presenting the paranormal for young readers

KidHaven Press®' series fascinates young readers **and** develops critical-thinking skills



**FULL-COLOR** *Mysterious Encounters* chronicles the stories of real-life encounters with odd creatures, strange phenomena and folklore legends like aliens, ghosts and the Loch Ness Monster. Each book in the series will fascinate young readers and challenge them to discern opinion from fact.

- In *Ghost Ships*, a 19th century ship captain caught in a violent storm and facing almost-certain death glimpses a ghostly figure guiding his ship to safety. Was it a pirate ghost, as he later claimed, or did extreme stress cause the captain's mind to play tricks on him?
- In *Witches*, readers discover that controversies surrounding witches still exist today. A girl reports to school administrators that a fellow student and practicing witch put a hex on her. The other student claims she is a victim of ignorance about witchcraft and being falsely accused for her Wiccan beliefs.

The many eyewitness accounts found in each book communicate credibility, create suspense and keep students searching for more *Mysterious Encounters*. Narratives are paired with short sidebars prompting readers to consider alternative explanations, credibility of sources and other elements of basic reasoning. The result is a dynamic book series that entices and entralls upper elementary and lower middle school students while at the same time helping to develop essential critical-thinking skills.

## Features of each volume

- Table of contents
- Four chapters with informative and interesting sidebars
- Glossary, Endnotes, For Further Exploration (annotated bibliography of age-appropriate resources, including Web sites), and Index



Ghosts and poltergeists are not the same thing. For example, ghosts are usually connected to a certain place, while poltergeists are linked to a specific person.

If the poltergeist agent moves to a different place, poltergeist activity often follows the agent to the new area. But a ghost who is known to haunt a specific house usually stays in the same location. This is because the haunted area is most often a place the ghost knew while it was alive.

Poltergeist activity usually builds up over time and then may stop completely—and possibly start

up again. In most cases poltergeist phenomena usually do not last long. Typical poltergeist activity occurs for only a few days or months at a time, although there have been cases that have lasted much longer. On the other hand, ghost hauntings often go on for years.

### Poltergeist Theories

Many theories have been used to explain poltergeist activity. In medieval times poltergeists were thought to be devils or demons that lived inside of people. Later, some people believed that poltergeists were spirits of the dead. They believed these spirits were trying to contact the living from beyond the grave.

Most parapsychologists today believe the stress or anger that an agent feels is what causes poltergeist activity. They think the mental energy that comes from an agent's situation is enough to move objects, make

### The Skeptics Speak

In one case that was originally blamed on a poltergeist, investigators discovered that vibrations from a washing machine in an adjoining apartment were the cause of a crystal figurine's movement across a dresser.

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