The Tween Ghost Story: Articulating the Tween Experience

Erica Rostedt

Date of Award
Spring 5-17-2013

Degree Type
Thesis

Degree Name
M.A.

Degree Program
English

Department
English

Major Professor
Dr. Dan Doll

Second Advisor
Dr Anne Boyd Rioux

Third Advisor
Dr. Patricia Austin

Abstract
In the early 1980s, a particular kind of “tween” (children aged 10-14) ghost story emerged. Through examining multiple examples of tween ghost stories (such as Wait Till Helen Comes by Mary Downing Hahn, Stonewords by Pam Conrad, and Time Windows by Kathryn Reiss), this paper illustrates the ways in which these stories are remarkably consistent in nature, and then investigates this sub-genre’s specific and consistent articulation of the struggle of moving away from childhood and into the teenage years. By using a ghost to create a situation so off balance (a ghost who is stuck, a protagonist who is in flux), the tween ghost story is uniquely and cleverly designed to help the protagonist navigate through the scary situation of growing up.

Rights
The University of New Orleans and its agents retain the non-exclusive license to archive and make accessible this dissertation or thesis in whole or in part in all forms of media, now or hereafter known. The author retains all other ownership rights to the copyright of the thesis or dissertation.

Recommended Citation

https://scholarworks.uno.edu/td/1665
When I started writing The Kat Sinclair Files, my new series about a girl whose father hosts a ghost hunters TV show, I contacted Jessica Freeburg at Ghost Stories Inc. to learn more about how paranormal investigation works. Jessica invited me to join her crew of paranormal investigators on one of their ghost hunts … and that's how I ended up in the Morris-Jumel Mansion last summer, sitting outside of George Washington's bedroom at midnight, trying to communic