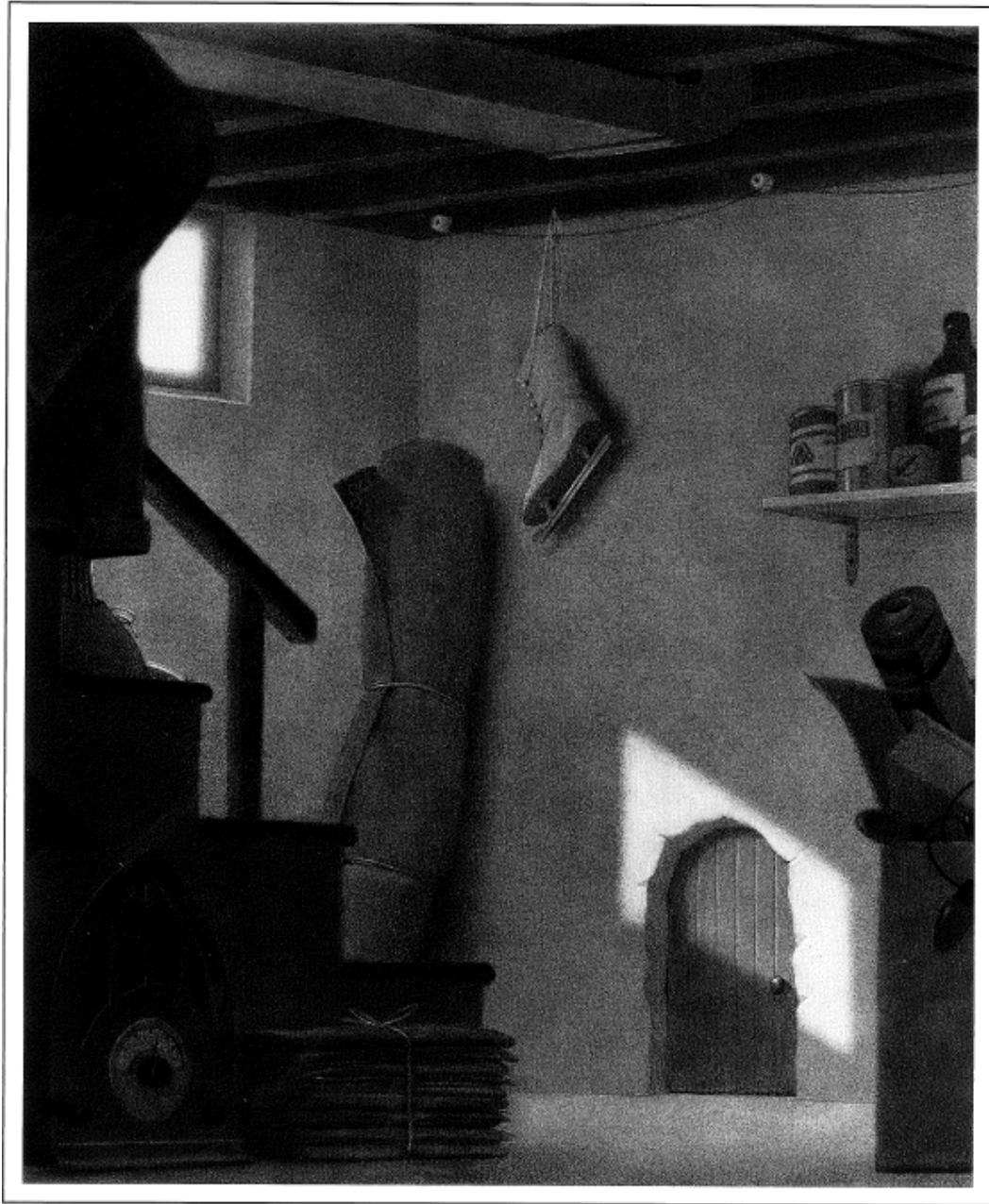


Writing Activity



UNINVITED GUESTS

His heart was pounding.

He was sure he had seen the doorknob turn.

This half terms novel is 'The Mysteries of Harris Burdick'. A man who went missing after delivering 14 pictures for 14 stories to a publisher. He was never seen again and his stories were never known. His pictures were published in a book. Each one with only a title. This week's task is to write a story for the picture above titled 'Uninvited Guests'. Remember that a story is made up of an opener, build up, problem, resolution and ending. You may want to plan your story first. You could use a story mountain template to help you. You may want to write a paragraph a day and spread the story out over the week. Your story needs to include a range of punctuation (. , ? ! " "), a range of openers (I SAW A WABUB, fronted adverbials) and exciting vocabulary (adjectives, similes, alliteration). Once you have finished your story, could you edit your work? This includes checking it makes sense, using a dictionary for spellings and checking that your punctuation is correct.

Writing Activity

Introduction

The Mysteries of HARRIS BURDICK

CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG

I first saw the drawings in this book a year ago, in the home of a man named Peter Wenders. Though Mr. Wenders is retired now, he once worked for a children's book publisher, choosing the stories and pictures that would be turned into books.

Thirty years ago a man called at Peter Wenders's office, introducing himself as Harris Burdick. Mr. Burdick explained that he had written fourteen stories and had drawn many pictures for each one. He'd brought with him just one drawing from each story, to see if Wenders liked his work.

Peter Wenders was fascinated by the drawings. He told Burdick he would like to read the stories that went with them as soon as possible. The artist agreed to bring the stories the next morning. He left the fourteen drawings with Wenders. But he did not return the next day. Or the day after that. Harris Burdick was never heard from again. Over the years, Wenders tried to find out who Burdick was and what had happened to him, but he discovered nothing. To this day Harris Burdick remains a complete mystery.

His disappearance is not the only mystery left behind. What were the stories that went with these drawings? There are some clues. Burdick had written a title and caption for each picture. When I told Peter Wenders how difficult it was to look at the drawings and their captions without imagining a story, he smiled and left the room. He returned with a dust-covered cardboard box. Inside were dozens of stories, all inspired by the Burdick drawings. They'd been written years ago by Wenders's children and their friends.

I spent the rest of my visit reading these stories. They were remarkable, some bizarre, some funny, some downright scary. In the hope that other children will be inspired by them, the Burdick drawings are reproduced here for the first time.

