

The Ghost Town Mystery

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Characters (9): Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Ms. Jones, Max, Max's Head, Sara, Mr. Mooney, Willy, Ghost

Narrator 1	Ms. Jones' class is sitting in their seats when Ms. Jones starts getting their attention for an exciting announcement.
Ms. Jones	I have exciting news everybody! We're going on a field trip.
Max's Head	A field trip? I perk up. Field trips are the best!
Ms. Jones	We're going to Buzzard City. It's a ghost town.
Max's Head	Yikes! I hope I heard Ms. Jones wrong.
Max	Did you say <i>gold</i> town?
Max's Head	We've been learning about the Gold Rush this year. I think it would be so cool to strike gold!
Ms. Jones	No, Max. A <i>ghost</i> town.
Max's Head	Uh-oh...
Ms. Jones	Buzzard City is more than 150 years old. It's called a ghost town because no one lives there anymore.
Narrator 2	Max's friend, Sara, leans over to whisper in his ear.
Sara	No one <i>alive</i> lives there. But I'll bet lots of ghosts do!
Max's Head	Gulp.
Narrator 1	Sara loves spooky things like ghost stories and scary movies. Last Halloween, we saw a movie about a haunted house.

Narrator 2	Just remembering gives me goosebumps. But Sara thought it was awesome.
Sara	(whispering) Max, this trip is our chance to see a real ghost!
Max's Head	No way do I want to see a real ghost! But I pretend I'm excited. I don't want Sara to know I'm scared.
Narrator 1	That Friday Max and his class got on the bus for Buzzard City.
Max's Head	My stomach was twisted up in knots.
Sara	What book did you bring this time?

Narrator 2	Mr. Mooney always reads on the bus while he waits for us.
Mr. Mooney	A book of ghost stories, of course!
Narrator 1	Mr. Mooney laughs.
Max's Head	But I don't. I'm too worried about meeting a real ghost.
Narrator 1	The trip is long and dusty.
Max	Who'd want to live all the way out here?
Sara	Ghosts, that's who!
Narrator 2	Just when I think we're in the exact middle of nowhere...
Ms. Jones	We're here!
Sara	This place is so cool!
Max's Head	This place is <i>creepy</i> ...
Narrator 1	Buzzard City doesn't look like a city at all. It's just a bunch of spooky old buildings. There's not a soul in sight. Let's hope it stays that way.

Narrator 2	Communities change over time. Towns get bigger as people move there and build new buildings. Some towns even grow into cities.
Narrator 1	A tall man with a cowboy hat walks over that introduces himself as Willy, the tour guide.
Willy	I'm the only person who lives here now, but years ago this was a bustling city.
Max's Head	Willy points out a big painting of the way Buzzard City looked in the Gold Rush days. It must have been awesome!
Willy	(Pointing to a big old house) This belonged to Milo Fitzgerald, He was the first fellow to strike gold here.
Max	How did he find the gold?
Willy	(Smiles) Old Fitz was camping in these hills when he saw a buzzard circling above him. He picked up a rock to scare the buzzard off– and he was holding a lump of gold!
Willy	Soon more people moved here, all hoping to strike it rich. That's how Buzzard City grew. But Old Fitz never liked new settlers (winks) Some folks say his ghost is still here, making sure no one steals his gold.
Max's Head	So much for looking for gold. The last thing I want is the ghost of Old Fitz after me!
Narrator 2	Next, the group walks over to the old general store.
Willy	This was the first booming business in town. But before long there was Yellow Dog Cafe, the Gold Nugget Bank, and the Buzzing Buzzard Billing Parlor.
Max's Head	While he talks, I stay on the lookout for ghosts.
Max	Sara! Did you see that?
Sara	What?

Max's Head	I could have sworn I saw a face in the window. But when I look again, it's gone.
Narrator 1	Next, Willy takes the group to the old gold mines. It is really dark down there and the air gave Max the chills.
Willy	I know it doesn't look like much, but nearly thousand people worked in this mine.
Max	A thousand?! Where did everyone live?
Willy	Good question. Back then there were a lot more houses. But there was a fire in 1910. It burnt down most of the buildings.
Max	Why did they build the houses again after the fire?
Willy	By then all the gold was gone, and the mine was closed. Most people had to move away to find new jobs.
Sara	So they didn't need any new houses in Buzzard City.
Narrator 2	The group keeps walking to their next location and Max notices the curtains moving in Old Fitz's house, but there was no breeze.
Max's Head	It's just somebody inside. But wait... there isn't anybody inside. No one lives in this town but Willy!
Narrator 1	Then Max hears a loud door slam and he almost jumps out of his skin.
Max	What was that?
Sara	A ghost! Come on, let's find it
Max's Head	Is she crazy?
Max	We'd better not. We'll miss the rest of the tour.
Sara	(smiling) You aren't scared, are you?
Max	Me? Scared? No way!

Narrator 2	Max and Sara creep up to the house and try to peek through the windows, but they are so dirty they can't see a thing.
Max	Oh, well. Nothing's there. Let's go.
Narrator 1	Sara grabs Max's arm.
Sara	Look!
Narrator 2	Max and Sara see something white moving around inside and it looks like it's floating. Sara drags Max to the side of the house, and his heart is pounding.
Sara	Listen!
Narrator 1	They hear a CREAK CREAK noise and there is no doubt that there is something inside. Sara reaches for the door to open it and when she is about to turn the knob they hear a SCREECH.
Narrator 2	Suddenly, the door opens all by itself.
Sara	A ghost! AHHHHH!!
Ghost	AHHHHHH!!
Narrator 1	Both Sara and Max turn to run away, but then Max notices something.
Max's Head	Wait a second, that scream didn't sound like a ghost. It sounded like...
Max	Mr. Mooney!!
Sara	Mr. Mooney?
Mr. Mooney	Gosh, you kids scared the dickens out of me. What are you doing here?
Max	What are you doing here?
Mr. Mooney	Well I got a little thirsty, so I went looking for something to drink. I spotted a water pump in this old

	house - but when I tried the handle it was dry. See?
Narrator 2	When Mr. Mooney pulls the handle and they hear the loud SCREECH noise from before.
Max's Head	Now it all makes sense. That scary sound was nothing more than an old pump and the other noises was just Mr. Mooney.
Narrator 1	Just then, Ms. Jones, Willy, and the rest of the class burst into the house.
Ms. Jones	What's wrong? I heard a scream.
Sara	We thought we saw a ghost.
Max	But it was just Mr. Mooney.
Mr. Mooney	Boo!
Max's Head	This time when everyone laughed with Mr. Mooney, I laughed too.
Narrator 2	Soon, everyone gets back on the bus to head home. Max is proud of himself for figuring out the ghost mystery and that he was braver than Sara for once.
Max	We should go ghost hunting again. Right, Sara?
Narrator 1	Max looks around.
Max	Sara?
Sara	B00000!!!!
Max	AHHHHH!
Sara	(giggling) Gotcha!

THE END