

HAUNTED BY THE PAST!

By Tom Palmer

My new book – *Defenders: Killing Ground* – is set on the street where I now live. It's about a fictional boy and a girl who live on that street and how – one day – they see ghosts of people who used to live there a long time before: Anglo Saxons being attacked by Viking invaders! The children realise that echoes of the Viking attack are resonating and causing problems in their town today, so they set out to try to understand the past to help them solve the hauntings of the present.

Would you like to write a history ghost story set on your street? Read on, and follow my ten point plan on how to write one.

1 Find out about a real historical event that happened near where you live. Perhaps something from a period of history you have studied in school. For instance, a battle - like in World War 2 - or famous or gruesome event. You can investigate by looking in a local museum or library, asking an adult, or searching on the internet.



2 Can't find anything exciting? Then exaggerate a real event to make it even more dramatic if you need to!

3 Think of two children to be your main characters - one could even be you. Add a family pet for a bit of fun!



4 Find a way to make your real historic event echo today. For example, if there was a fire or plague in the past, perhaps fires or a plague could be starting in your area now? Or a haunting, by victims of the fire or plague, or from a murder or an accident!

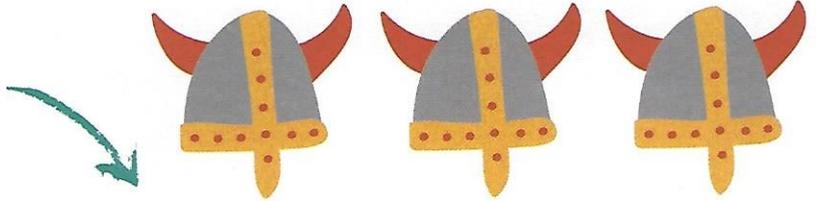


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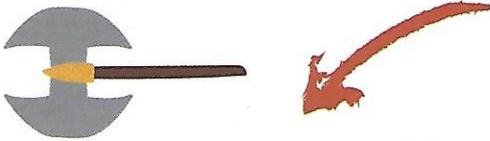
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Have the children try to find out why the haunting event is happening in their town. But... make them fail the first time, because they don't understand the link between the past and today.



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Make your characters feel dejected, puzzled. But then they realise the happenings are to do with the town's history - and that they must understand that past to solve the haunting of the present!



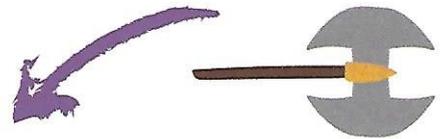
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How do they deal with the problem? Have them think of a solution which they carry out - but then it doesn't go completely to plan.



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The hauntings in their town stop, and the children now understand a bit more about the past and present of their town.

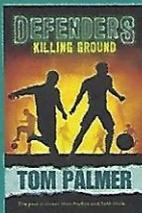


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Finally, go back over your story and add descriptions of places or things that people who live in your street or town will recognise, such as landmarks, shops, schools.



Of course, you don't have to stick to this plan - because the chances are you'll have better ideas once you get going!



About the Author

Tom Palmer will be running events in Telford on June 20th and Peterborough on June 27th with his books *Over the Line* (Barrington Stoke, £6.99) and *Wings: Flyboy* (Barrington Stoke, £5.99). His new book, *Defenders: Killing Ground* (Barrington Stoke, £6.99) is out in June.