

The  
Virtual  
School

Mystery

Story writing

Competition!

For 5-16  
year olds

There are three  
categories :

- 1) **picture story** (max 50 words)
- 2) **Graphic story** (max 200 words)
- 3) **Short story** (max 500 words)

Each category will have  
three winners.

All participants will  
receive a certificate.

Stories must be inspired  
by The Mysteries of  
Harris Burdick  
(titles and drawings  
provided)

Please click on the video to see what the competition is all about.



Entries can be emailed to [CSVirtual.school@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:CSVirtual.school@eastsussex.gov.uk) . Please put '**Writing competition**' in the **subject box**. Or submitted by post to The Virtual School, Hailsham Resource Centre, Dunbar Drive, Hailsham BN27 3UW. Please write 'Writing Competition' on the envelope.

All entries must be received by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020**, with your **name** and the **title of the Harris Burdick picture**.

Winners will receive a **published book** of the nine winning stories plus a **gift token prize**.

# The Mysteries of Harris Burdick

*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 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.*

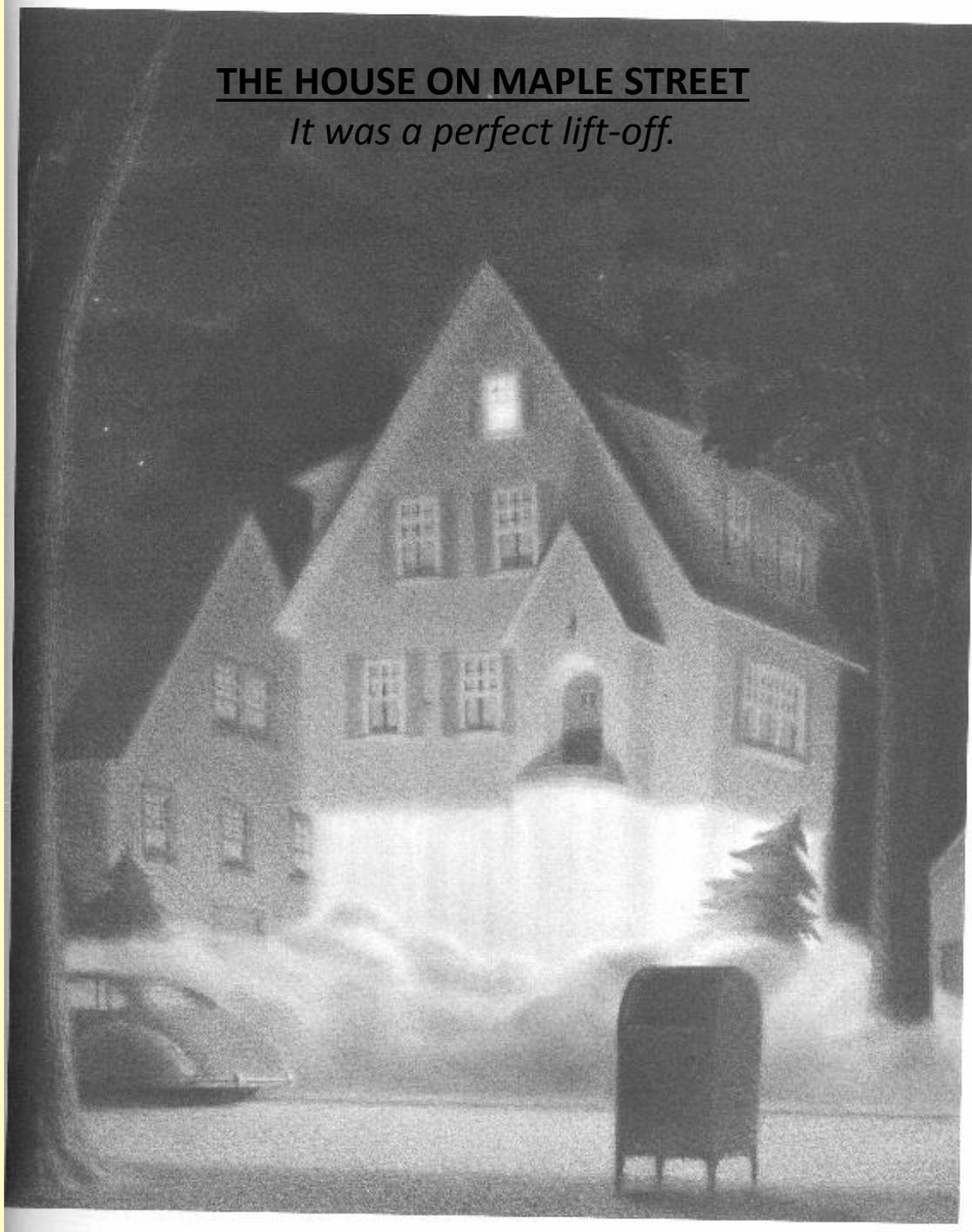
*His disappearance is not the only mystery left behind. What were the stories that went with these drawings? There are some clues. Burdick had written a title and caption for each picture. Peter Wenders left the room and returned with a dust-covered cardboard box. Inside were dozens of stories, all inspired by the Burdick drawings. They'd been written years ago by Wenders's children and their friends.*

*They were remarkable, some bizarre, some funny, some downright scary. In the hope that other children will be inspired by them, three of the Burdick drawings are reproduced here for our competition.*

THE HOUSE ON MAPLE STREET

*It was a perfect lift-off.*

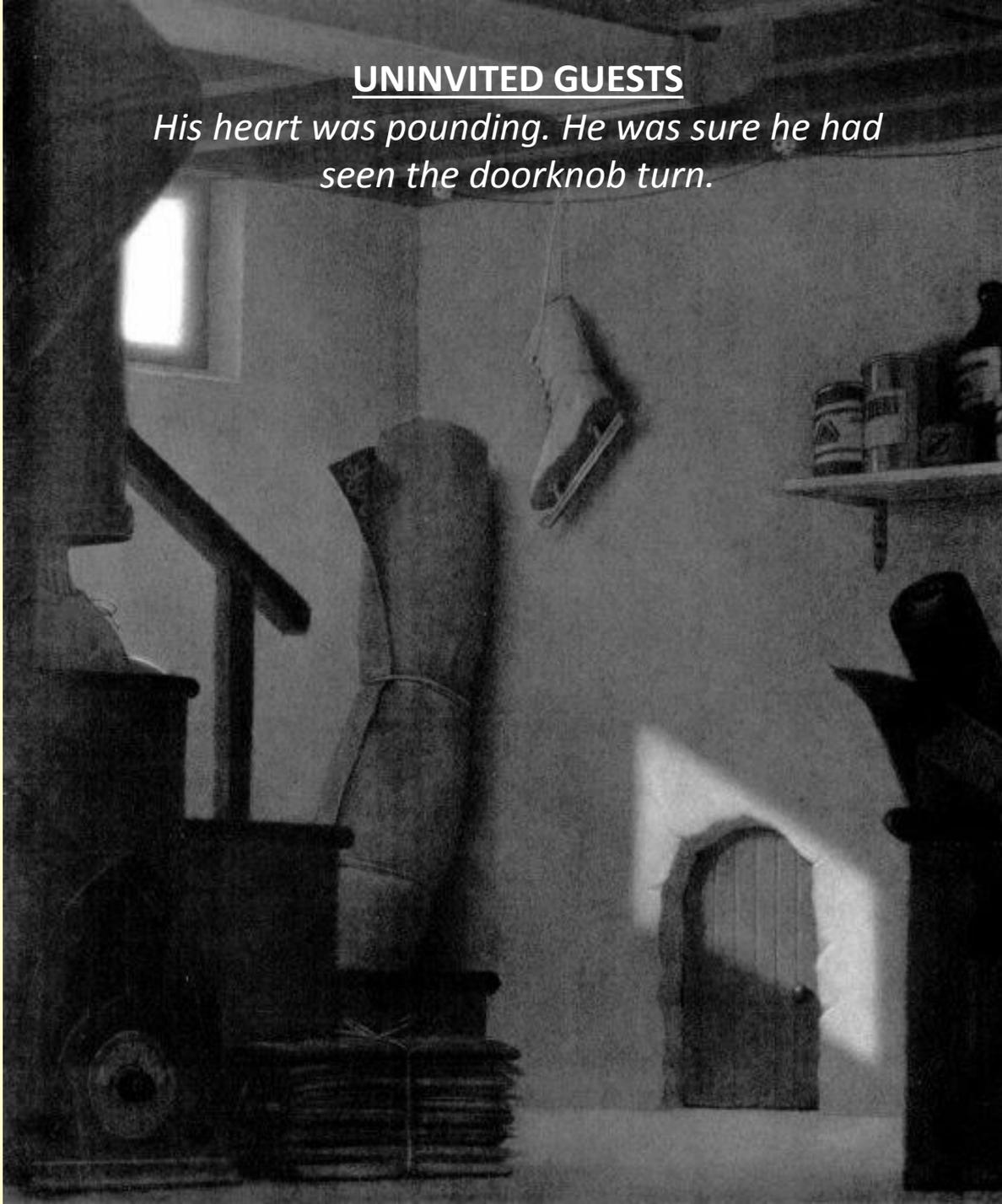
**Option 1**



**Option 2**

UNINVITED GUESTS

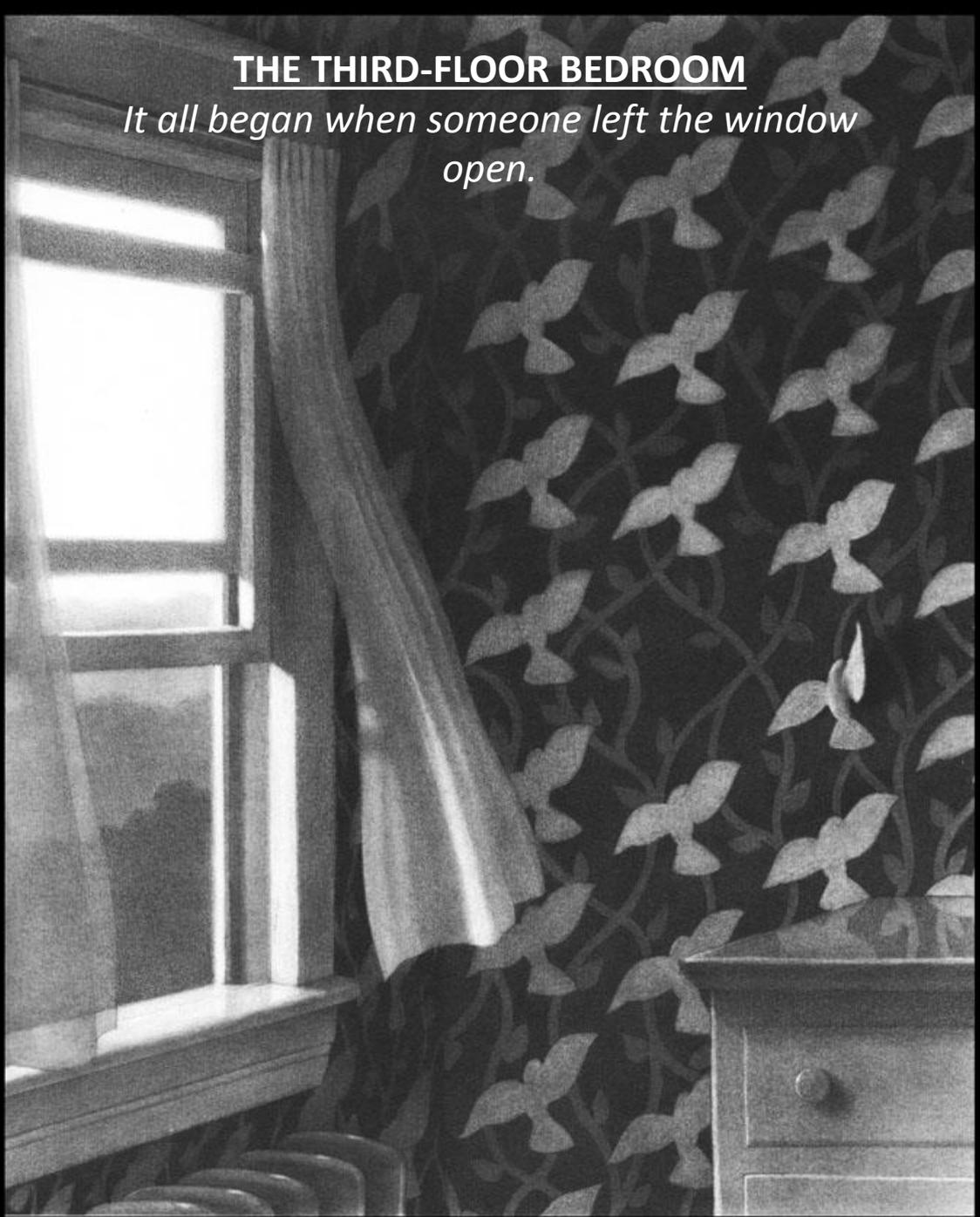
*His heart was pounding. He was sure he had seen the doorknob turn.*



**Option 3**

**THE THIRD-FLOOR BEDROOM**

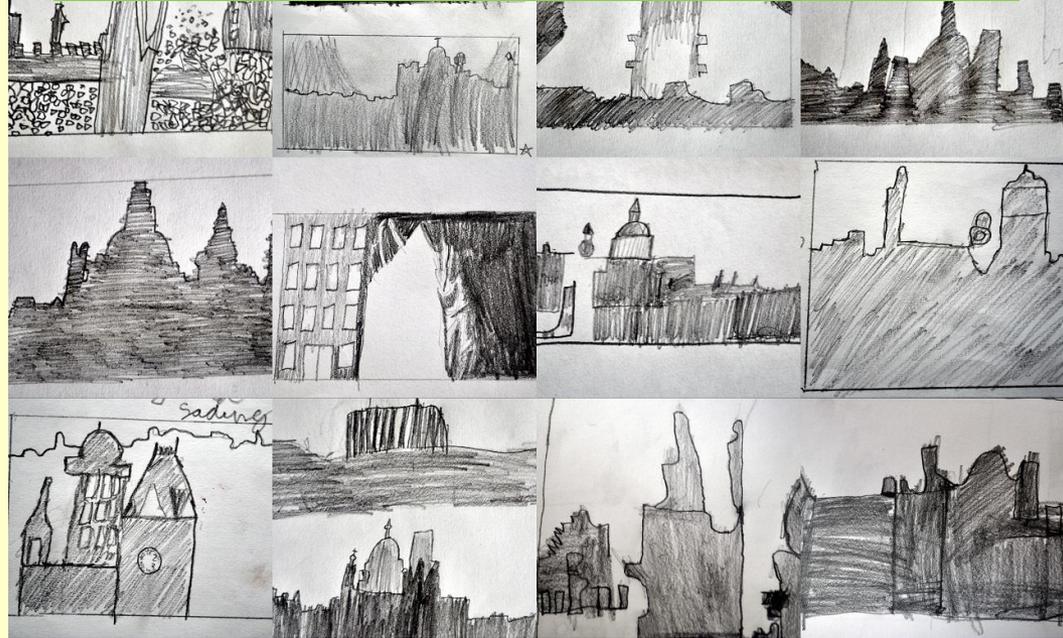
*It all began when someone left the window open.*



There are three categories:

Choose the one that is best for you.

## 1) picture story (max 50 words)



## 2) Graphic story (max 200 words)



## 3) Short story (max 500 words)

The morning after the party...

Father had a long drive home from the party, but he was not tired. He was thinking about the night, about the people he had met, about the things he had seen. He was thinking about the night, about the people he had met, about the things he had seen. He was thinking about the night, about the people he had met, about the things he had seen.

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