

THE GHOST OF SOUTH EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL

Over fifty years ago, Robert Granke, a student in a theater class at South Eugene High School, fell from a catwalk near the ceiling in the school's large, **cavernous (1)** auditorium. Granke crashed into the seats far below and died from the impact of his fall.

Since that time, the story goes, those who sit in the seat in which Granke died will feel a **hostile (2)**, frightening, or chilling "presence," as though they were sharing the seat with someone or something not quite **perceptible (3)**. A brick once fell into the same seat just before a person was about to sit down. Clearly, as the following story (first published in the Eugene Register Guard on October 27, 1974) attests, there is something strange about the South Eugene High School Auditorium.

IS SOMEBODY UP THERE?

By Mike O'Brien

Above the ceiling of the South Eugene High School auditorium, between the ceiling and roof, is a huge space full of scarred and ancient exposed beams, treacherous little catwalks that creak, narrow little corridors and low passages. Through this space -- along those beams, **catwalks (4)**, corridors, and passages -- moves somebody or something. A spirit, a presence, an indefinable thing -- all right, let's say it flatly: a ghost.

Whatever it is, it doesn't confine itself to the area above the ceiling. It's been seen, felt, and experienced elsewhere in the huge auditorium by enough people that few would consider spending a night alone in the empty, echoing building.

Whoever or whatever it is apparently has made the auditorium its home since some time in the early 1970s. Some of the most chilling tales about it come from David Nale, South's drama director. Nale is a **rational (5)** sort; in other words, he looks for logical, scientific explanations for the strange things he's seen or heard. Nale claims to have no opinion about what the thing may or may not be. "Many people aren't aware of the huge space between the ceiling of the auditorium and the roof. What I worry about is unauthorized people getting into that area, so whenever there's a noise up there, I have to go up and look. If I had a dollar for every time I've gone up there after a noise I've heard, I'd be able to retire by now," says Nale.

Eriest of all are the little openings from which a person -- or anything -- may peer out undetected and watch everything that goes on in the auditorium below, but Nale has never found anyone up there. This despite doors and trap doors with special locks, despite sending several people up different ladders, despite staking other people out at the bottoms of ladders, and despite conducting thorough searches. He has taken a number of **precautions (6)**, including installing more trap doors, putting heavy iron bars on **conventional (7)** doors, and buying special locks. None of these have worked. "You can still hear something moving around up there," he says.

The assistant director has also had some **bizarre (8)**, unexplainable experiences. She tells of stage props disappearing during rehearsals and of people seeing something in the back of the auditorium. "You walk onto the stage and turn on the lights, then you see somebody sitting up in the balcony or standing behind the back row on the first floor. That's happened a lot.

The thing is, there's no way anybody could get in without a key, and there's no way anybody could get out, but nobody has ever been found."

There are many other stories about what is or isn't in South's auditorium -- stories about complex lighting systems being **tampered (9)** with or mysteriously damaged and stories about people's names being called by an eerie voice. One story about a brick falling from the ceiling is especially disturbing because the auditorium is a wooden structure. To really get the feel of how shattering an experience with this phenomenon can be, imagine yourself in this situation:

A theater **technician (10)** who recently graduated from South Eugene High School is working late one evening on the lighting system. As frequently happens when you get involved in a show, you stay particularly late one night, long after everybody else in the crew has left. All alone in that huge building, you keep fiddling with one particular lighting effect on the set until, finally in the cold, still hours of the very early morning, you get it the way you want it.

Pleased with your success, smiling, you leave the stage, your footsteps echoing as you walk out into the auditorium. You sink into one of the soft, red seats about midway back in the building. You settle back to admire your work -- totally alone. Then the lights go out.

Name: _____

Using Context Clues

Instructions: Now that you have read the entire article, go back and examine each of the **unfamiliar words** carefully. **Highlight the unfamiliar word and its context clue.**

Unfamiliar Word	What type of clue is it (definition, comparison, example)? List any signal words.	Explain why you think it is a definition, example, or comparison.	Based on the text, what do you think the word means? Write a definition in your own words.
1.	Type:		
2.	Type:		
3.	Type:		
4.	Type:		
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6.	Type:		
7.	Type:		
8.	Type:		
9.	Type:		
10.	Type:		

Criteria for Success:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> I have read the entire article closely.<input type="checkbox"/> I have highlighted all the bold, unfamiliar words and context clues that go with them.<input type="checkbox"/> I have identified which type (definition, example, comparison) each context clue is.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Based on what I have read and my knowledge of context clues, I have written a definition for each unfamiliar word using my own words.
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