

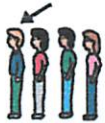
WHO KNEW THERE'D BE GHOSTS?

There's more
to this old house
than meets the eye...



BILL BRITTAIN

Fancy Shoes and Black Boots



At

first



nobody

believed



in



ghosts. But



by



the end of



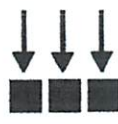
last



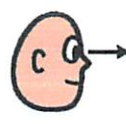
summer,



almost









everyone had



seen Horace & Essie.



Harry, Books and  I  liked  playing at  Parnell House. **3** Three acres

 in  the middle  of town  with  no **1** one to bother  us.



When



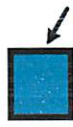
we



went



inside



it



felt



like



we

were



being watched.



One



time



we

found a



stain



on

the



floor



in

a perfect



circle.

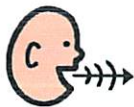


I

overheard



dad



talking



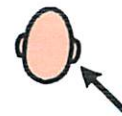
on

the

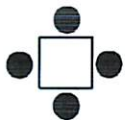


phone

- someone was



thinking



about



buying



Parnell House.



I



ran



out

to



tell

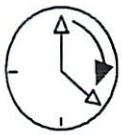


bad



news.

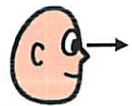
Books & Harry the



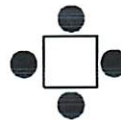
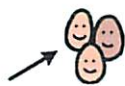
2



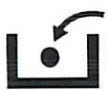
While they were playing at Parnell House two men showed



up. The kids hid under a tree and could only see



the men's shoes. They were talking about finding something



in the house.



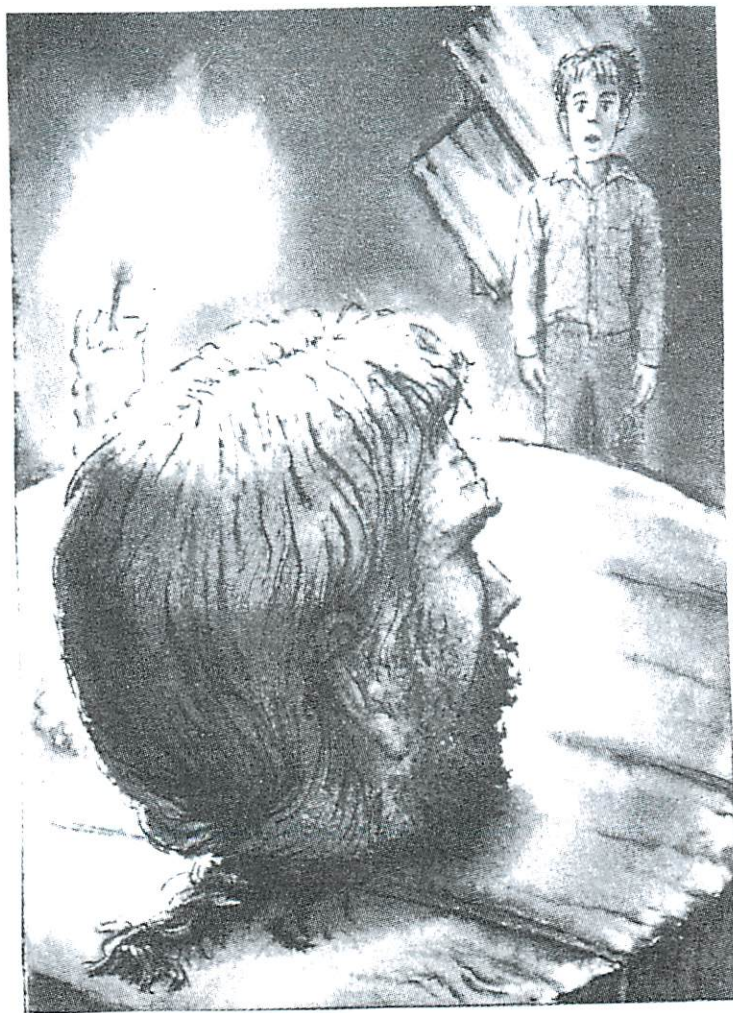
The kids decided to take turns watching the house to see if

the men came back. Tommy had the first night's watch.

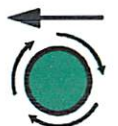
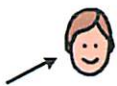
He snuck out of his house, and with a candle went into



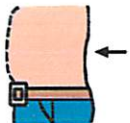
the Parnell House .



The candle made spooky shadows, and Tommy heard strange noises.



He looked out the window at the town. When he turned



back around, there was a head on the table. It said,



"Get out of my house".

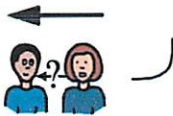
Horace and Essie



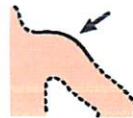
Thomas apologized and started to leave, but the head asked Thomas
 who he was. Thomas told it his name and why
 he was there. The head said it had heard the two
 men talking also.



The head told Thomas he was brave, and not to fear



him. Thomas asked if there was more of him. The heads



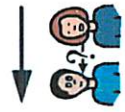
body appeared and placed it on its shoulders.



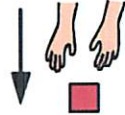
The ghost, Horace Parnell, told Thomas the story of how



he came to be there. He was beheaded by a British Redcoat.



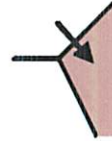
Thomas asked Horace if he got lonely. He heard a



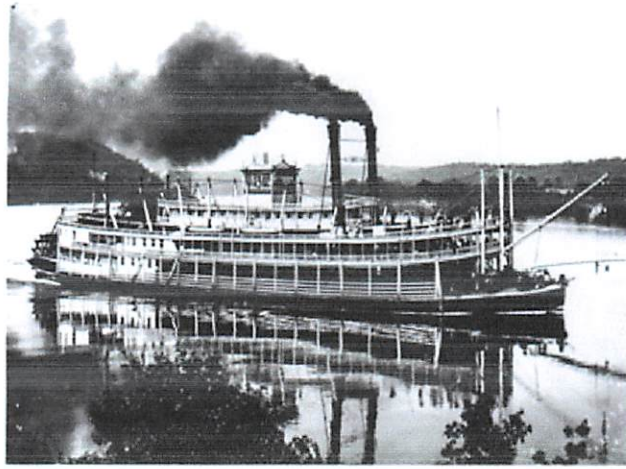
girl giggle and say "Not at all". Water began dripping



in a circle on the floor and then a girl appeared.



Horace introduced him to Esmeralda Parnell.



Essie

told

Thomas how



she



had



fallen overboard,



off

a



steamboat.

2

The

two

Parnells were



not



buried



in

the



family



cemetery, so

so



their



ghosts

were stuck



in

the



house



forever.



Horace suggested Thomas and his friends join he and Essie



2



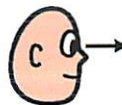
to stop the two men from tearing down the house.



At sunrise, the ghosts disappeared and Thomas went home. In the



morning, Thomas' dad had a client in his office. When

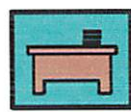
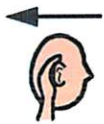


Thomas walked by, he could see the man's shoes.



Fancy ones.

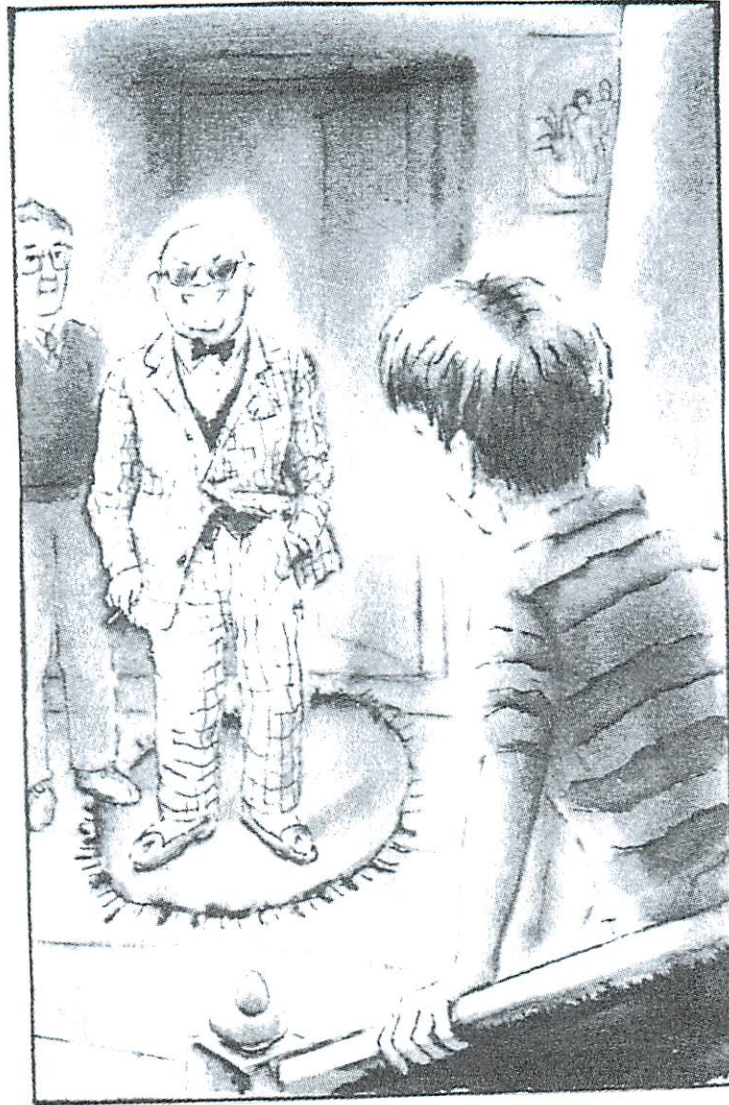
Return to Parnell House



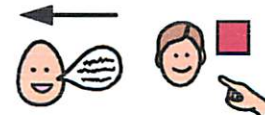
Thomas listened outside the office door. Fancy shoes offered to



pay \$40,000 for Parnell House .



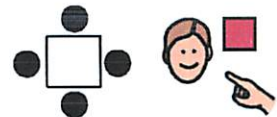
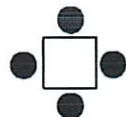
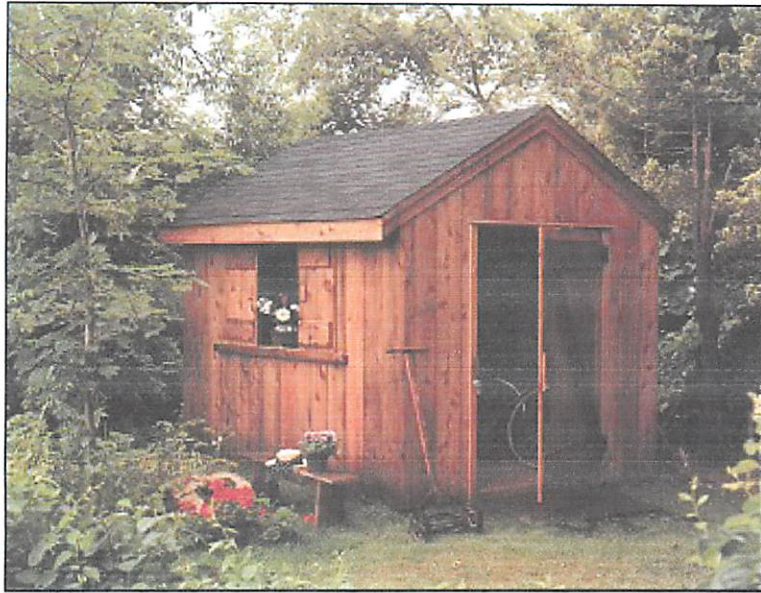
When the men came out of the office, his dad



introduced Tommy to Mr. Avery Katkus. Mr. Katkus said his friend



Shandy was waiting outside for him.



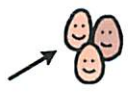
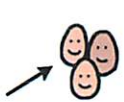
Tommy told Books and Harry about Mr. Katkus, and about his



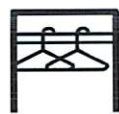
night at Parnell House . They laughed and said ghosts aren't real.



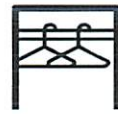
The kids met at Parnell House . that night. Once upstairs,



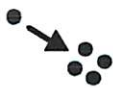
they heard a noise. It was black boots - Shandy. They



hid in a closet.

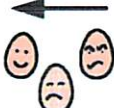
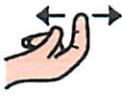


While the kids were in the closet, Shandy started prying apart



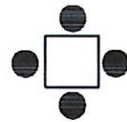
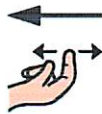
the floorboards with a crowbar.



Tommy  felt a sneeze coming. He  held it as long as



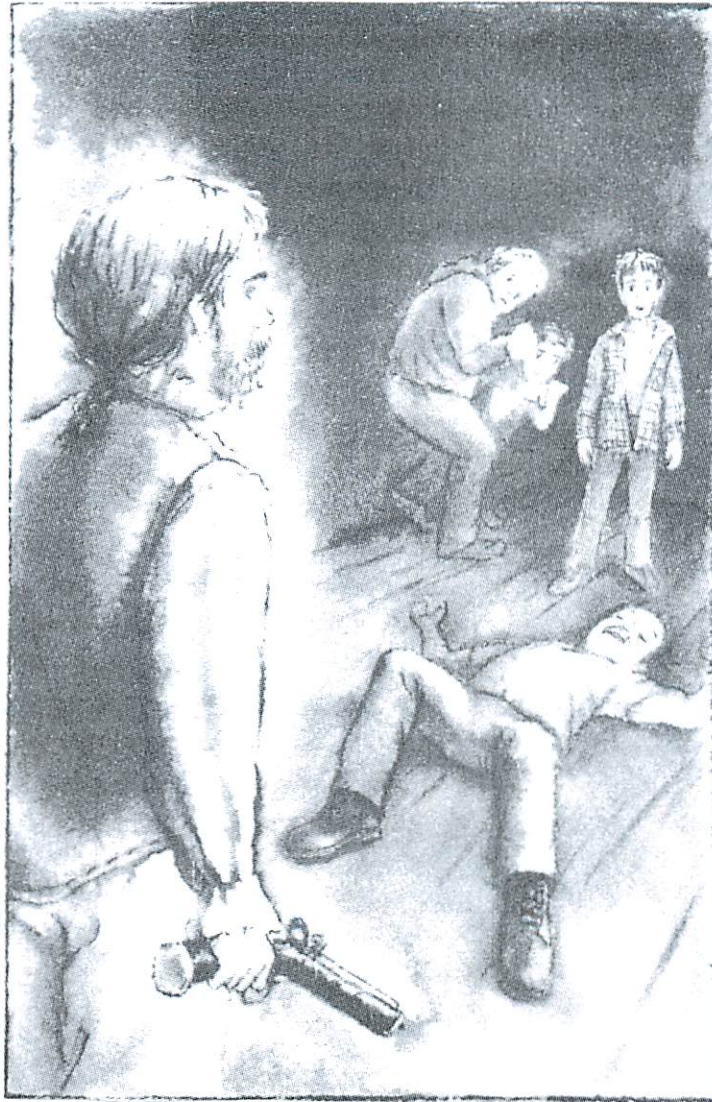
he could, and then aaahh....chooo!



"Scaring young ones is easy" came Horaces' voice, "how about



standing up to me?"



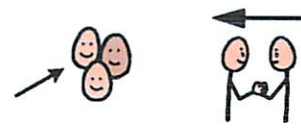
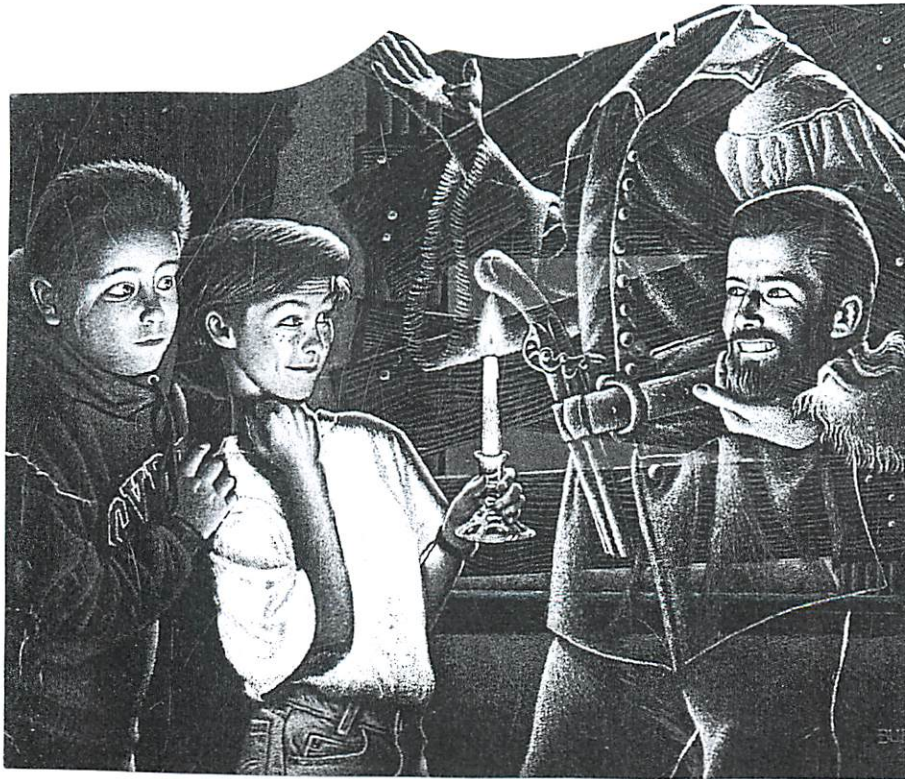
Shandy swung the crowbar at Horace, but it went right thru



him. Horace raised his pistol and shot at Shandy. He



passed out from fright.



Tommy introduced Books and Harry to Horace. They apologized for



not

believing



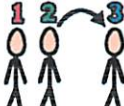






him


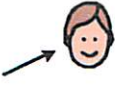
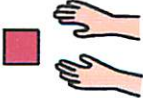






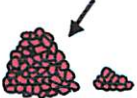
earlier.



Tommy called the police from a pay phone. He said
he was a concerned citizen. They came and took Shandy
away.

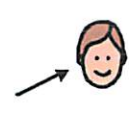
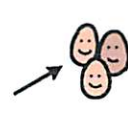
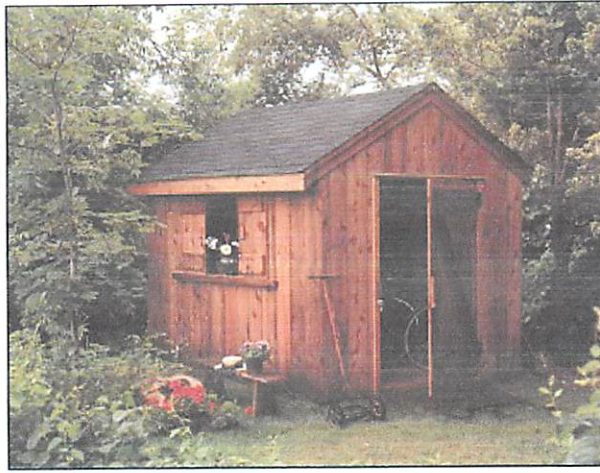


Tommy  slept  late  the  next  day.  His  mom  was  worried

 that  he  was  getting  sick.  He  promised  to  get  more



rest.



Tommy met Books and Harry at the shed. They told him



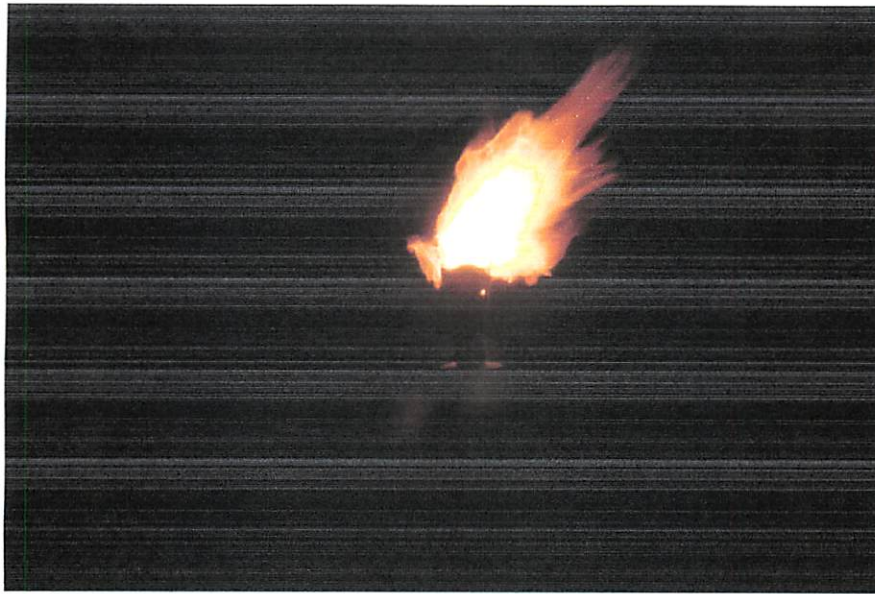
Shandy was out of jail.



The kids went to see Lester Dade. He wanted to make

Parnell House . into a museum. Maybe he would know what

was valuable in the house.

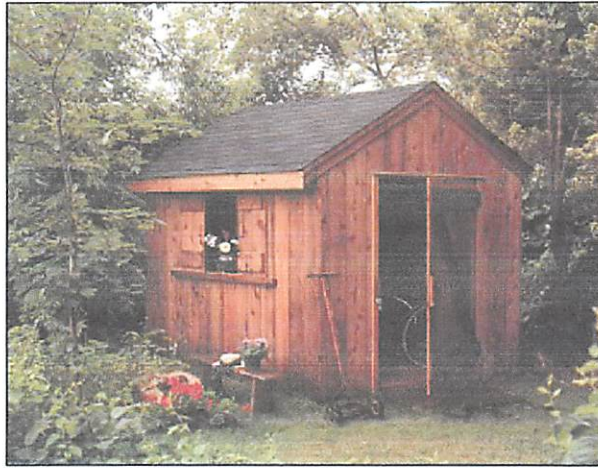


Mr. Dade told them how Esmeralda's father burned

torches twice a year for her. July and October. July was

when she disappeared, He didn't know why in October.

Katkus Strikes Again



Tommy, Books and Harry were

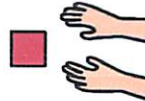
in

the

shed

trying to

think

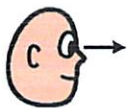
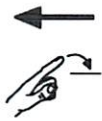


of a way to

keep Katkus

from

getting Parnell House .



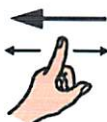
The kids went to see the mayor and ask how the village



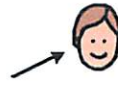
council would vote on Parnell House .



Books asked the mayor questions, and made him so mad, he



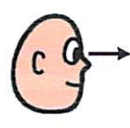
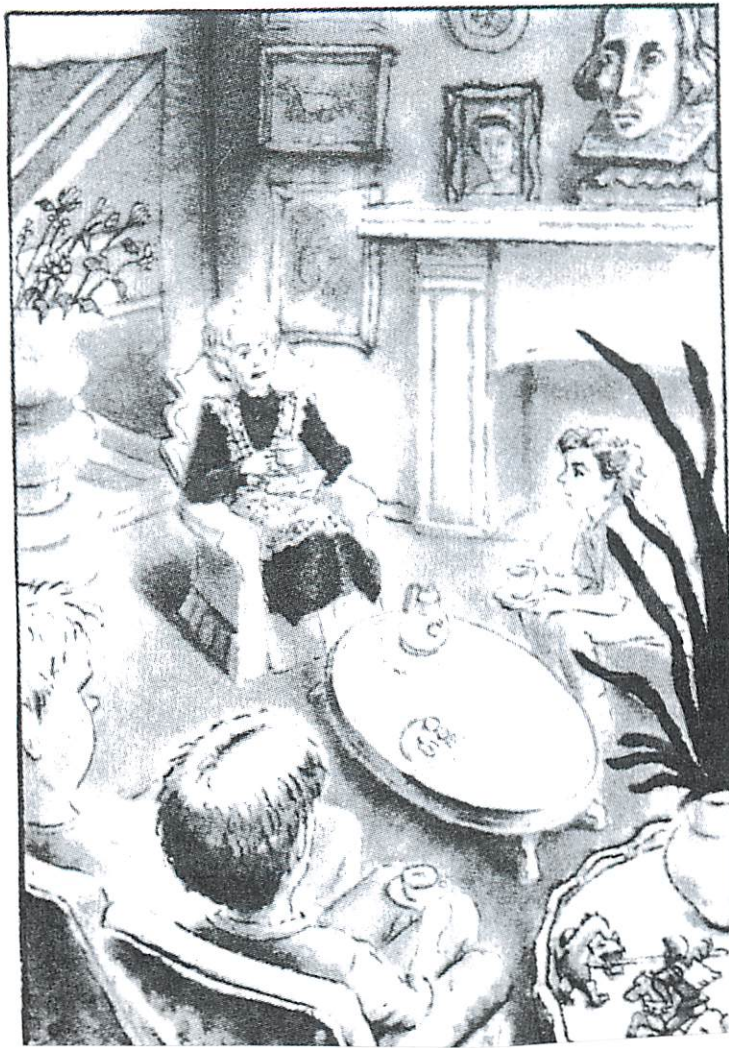
blurted out things he didn't mean to say.



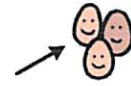
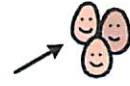
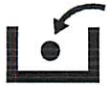
Mr. Dade called Tommy to tell him that Horace's



journals were sold at auction recently. The buyer was Avery Katkus.



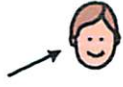
The kids went to see Mr. Beecham. Mrs. Beecham let them



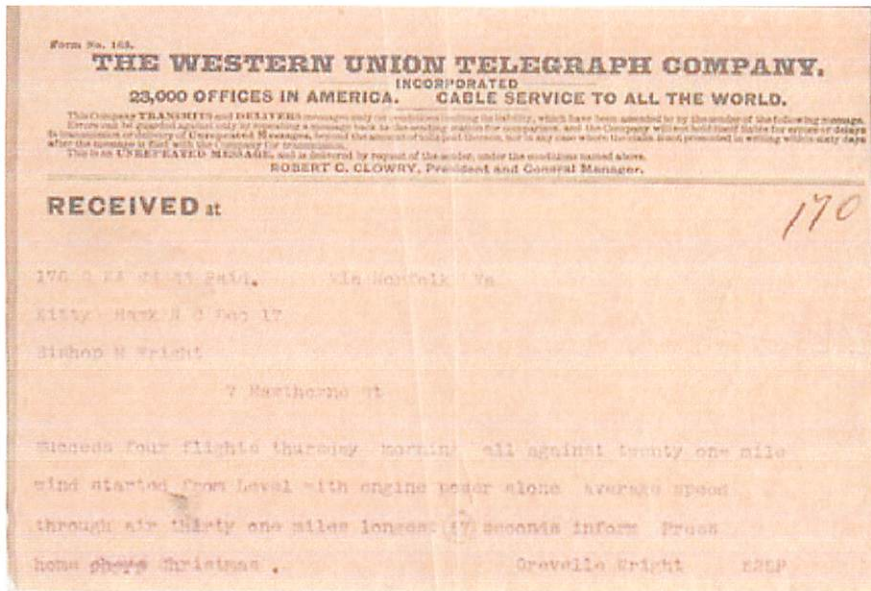
in and offered them tea. She told them that



her husband would have voted against selling Parnell House . but



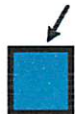
that he wouldn't be at the vote.



Mr. Beecham received a telegram saying his mother was ill



and to go home immediately. Tommy recognized the type on the



note - it wasn't from the telegraph company, it was from

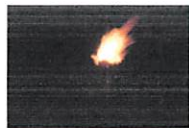
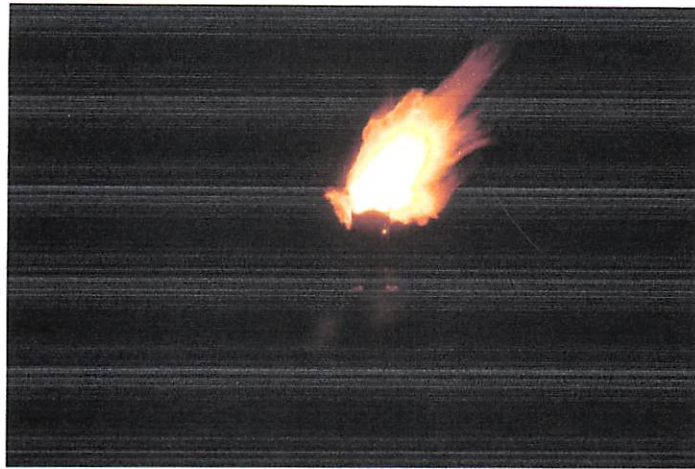
Katkus.

The Hiding Place



The kids went back to Parnell House . to warn Horace about

Katkus buying the place.



Tommy figured out that the torches were burned in

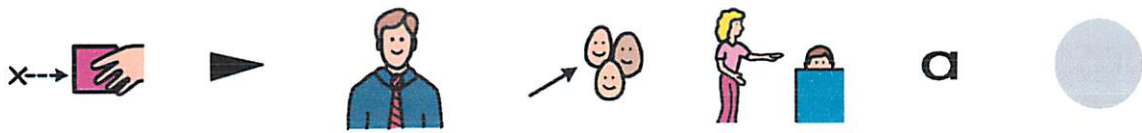
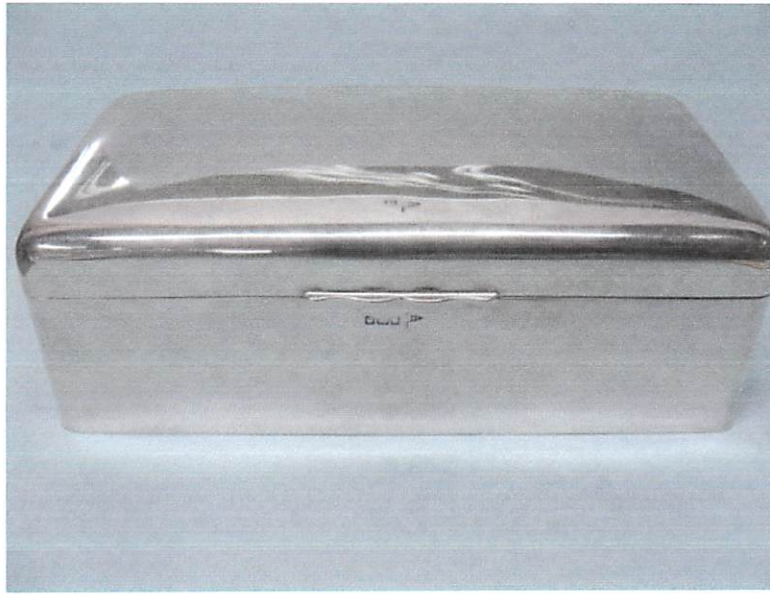


October to remember Hoarce.

Tommy guessed that something belonging to both Essie and

Horace was hidden in the house. This was what Katkus

wanted.



Harry moves the mantel. They find a silver



box



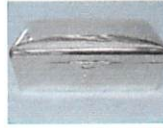
inside.



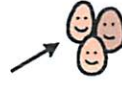
inside



the



box



they

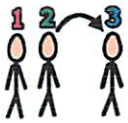
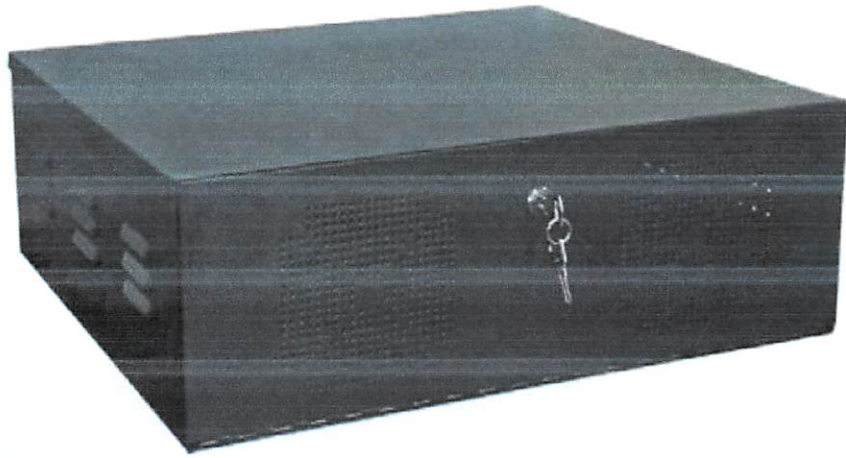


find

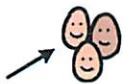
Essie's emerald



ring.



Next



they

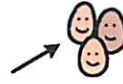


found

Horace's lock box,



but



they



did not



have



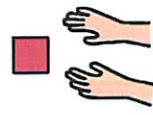
enough



time



to



get



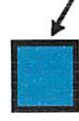
it



out



because



it



was



almost



morning.

A Most Irregular Meeting



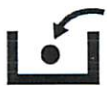
a



Tommy has a plan to save Parnell House. Books, Harry



and Tommy are going to trick Mr. Katkus in to going



into Parnell House.



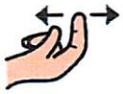
Once he is in the house Essie and Horace will
scare him. The children trap Mr. Katkus upstairs by knocking
down the stairs.



&



Tommy, Books and Harry go to the Council meeting. The vote



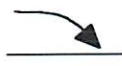
comes



out

2

two



to

2

two.

Tommy



stands



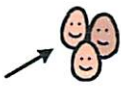
up

&

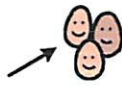
and



tells



them



they



must



save



the Parnell



House



for



the



ghosts

&

and



everyone

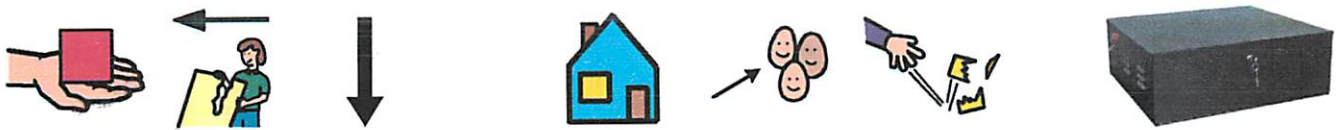


laughs.

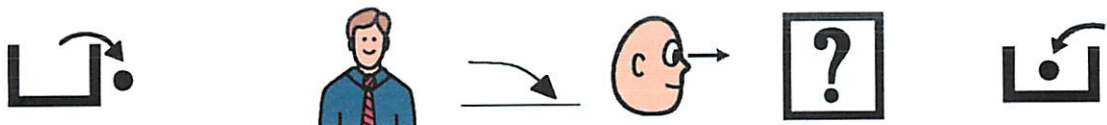
The Secret of Parnell House



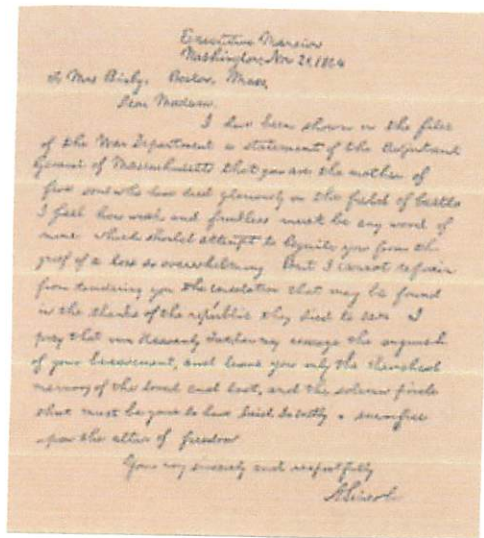
Katkus confesses he wanted only Horace's box and would



have torn down the house. They break the box



out of the mantel to see what is inside.



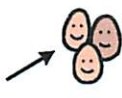
Inside



the



box,



they



find



a



thank you



letter



written

to



and



signed



by

John Hancock, Thomas Jefferson, Ben



Horace



Franklin



and



all

the others



who



signed

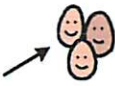

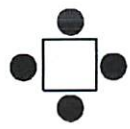





the Declaration



of

Independence.



 They  talked  about  selling the  letter  and  using the  money

 to fix the  house. Horace  and Esse will  have a  home.



Parnell House got restored. Avery Katkus disappeared. Tommy, Books,



and

Harry

were

Hero's!

We read about



They live in a



Their names were



and



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