



2015

The Nightmare Club #1: A Dog's Breakfast

Whitney Troxel

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Book Review

Title: The Nightmare Club #1: A Dog's Breakfast

Author: Annie Graves

Illustrator: Glenn McElhinney

Reviewer: Whitney Troxel

Publisher: Darby Creek

Publication Year: 2015

ISBN: 9781467760423

Number of Pages: 48

Interest Level: Primary

Rating: Dependable



Review

Every year Annie Graves hosts a Halloween sleepover with all her friends where they take turns telling scary stories. The first story is about a boy named Glen who was mean, always complained, and lied to everyone. When his class goes on a field trip to hike through the woods, Glen gets lost. He runs into a small person, about the size of the fairy. The small person places a spell on Glen. The next time Glen makes someone feel bad he'll start to turn into something more useful, but if he can go a full day without making anyone feel bad he'll turn back. The next day, Glen doesn't recognize himself in the mirror. His skin is pinker and pudgier than normal and he smells distinctly of ham. Glen goes to school and tries to be nice to everyone, but when he's walking home from school he runs into a dog. When he goes to kick the dog, he turns into a pig. Nobody ever saw Glen again, but the dog looked fatter.

The Nightmare Club is a series of books supposedly written by Annie Graves. Each story is told by an attendee of her sleepover part, and as the host she gets to write them down. *A Dog's Breakfast* is the first story in the series. While not actually scary, this book will get readers in the Halloween spirit. It's a quick read, with no more than one or two paragraphs per page. There is a small, black and white illustration about every other page to help readers visualize the story. It's a perfect book to help readers transition from picture books to novels. The story is also a good reminder to children to be nice to others.