



Took: A Ghost Story
By Mary Downing Hahn

*Grade Levels:*4-7
Reading Level: 3.9

Synopsis:

Daniel and Erica's father has lost his job in Connecticut so the family moves to a small town in West Virginia. They move into the old Estes' house, a run-down house abandoned 50 years ago. The Estes left because their daughter, Selena, disappeared. As Daniel's family moves into the house, they are watched from the woods by Auntie and her beast, Bloody Bones.

Daniel and Erica are not welcomed at school and are bullied by the townies. Erica retreats to talking with her doll, little Erica. She hears someone talking back. Daniel watches as his parents become more and more depressed and angry. They ignore their children.

Then one day, Erica disappears after she leaves her doll in the woods. Selena walks out of the woods. Now Daniel is desperate to find his sister and get his family back together.

Author Website:

<http://www.hmhbooks.com/features/mdh/>

Curricular Connections:

- English Language Arts

Common Core:

- CCSS. ELA –Literacy RL.5.2-Determine the theme of a story, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges; summarize the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy RL.5.3-Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g. how characters interact).
- CCSS. ELA-Literacy RL. 5.6-Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

Lesson Ideas:

- Do you think there will be a sequel about the doll getting loose again? Make a list of the kinds of trouble she would/could cause in the future.

- Visit www.hmhbooks.com/features/mdh/ and check out and read the contents of the menu tabs there and write 3 questions you would like to ask the author if you met her, about her, or her books, or about writing. Read the interview about Hahn at www.ala.org/offices/resources/hahn which discusses her reasons for writing ghost stories and mysteries.
- Make a list of things that scared you in the story. Be specific and give page numbers.

Suggested Companion Titles:

- *Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story* by Mary Downing Hall
- *The Ghost Prison* by Joseph Delaney
- *The Night Gardner* by Jonathan Auxier
- *The Dead Boys* by Royce Buckingham

Reviews:

- *Horn Book*, 9/1/15
- *Library Media Connection* starred, 12/1/15
- *School Library Journal*, 7/1/15