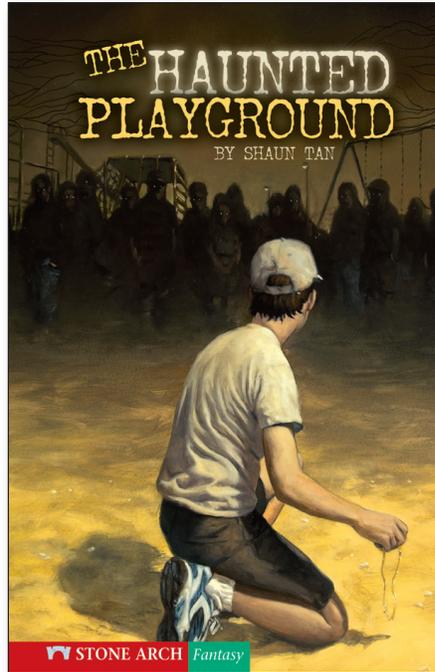




## READER'S THEATER (Teacher's Version)



### The Haunted Playground by Shaun Tan

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-59889-916-0  
HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-59889-860-6

**Characters:**

- Gavin – reads below grade level**
- Andrea – reads slightly below grade level**
- Mom – reads at grade level**
- The Friends – struggling reader**
- Narrator – reads slightly above grade level**

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Ages:** 10-14

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# The Haunted Playground page 1

**Narrator:** Gavin liked to search for treasure with his metal detector. Playgrounds, with their soft sand, were the best places to find missing objects. One night Gavin found the perfect playground, but he stayed out too late.

**Mom:**

Where have you been?

**Gavin:**

I was at the playground.

**Mom:**

You shouldn't stay out so late. You might catch a cold.

**Gavin:**

I'm fine, Mom. But I did lose my watch tonight. It sank into the sand and I couldn't find it.

**Mom:**

That watch was very expensive. You are going back to that playground tomorrow to look for it!

**Narrator:**

At the playground the next night, Gavin hunted for the watch. In the cold light, he spotted a strange girl. She was holding his watch.

**Gavin:**

Hey! Give me that watch!

**Andrea:**

My name is Andrea. You can have it back, but you have to catch me first!

**Narrator:**

The girl ran away and Gavin chased after her. There were other kids there, too. Kids who seemed to come out of nowhere. Their skin looked ghostly white.

**Gavin:**

Give me my watch!

**Friends:**

Ha ha! Try to catch it! Jump for it!

**Narrator:**

The kids tossed the watch back and forth, keeping it away from Gavin.

**Gavin:**

Come on, give it back, will you?

**Andrea:**

You're no fun!

**Narrator:**

Andrea tossed the watch back to Gavin.

## The Haunted Playground page 2

- Gavin:** So where do you all come from?
- Andrea:** We play when the light comes on.
- Friends:** Do you want to join us?
- Gavin:** Sure!
- Narrator:** Gavin played tag with Andrea and the other kids. He had a lot of fun. The time flew by. It was very late when he got home.
- Mom:** You're late again! Did you find your watch?
- Gavin:** Yes, Mom. I also found some kids to play with.
- Mom:** If you play with them again, be home at a reasonable hour!
- Narrator:** Alone, in his bedroom, Gavin thought about the night.
- Gavin:** Those kids seemed sort of creepy. They only play at night. I wonder why.
- Narrator:** The next night, Gavin returned to the playground. It looked empty. Quietly, Andrea snuck up behind Gavin.
- Gavin:** Hey!
- Andrea:** Sorry, I shouldn't sneak up on you like that.
- Gavin:** Are you a ghost?
- Andrea:** Don't say that word!
- Narrator:** Gavin felt silly for thinking that Andrea was a ghost. He decided to stay and play. Then it got late.
- Gavin:** I have to go home.
- Andrea:** You can't go yet.
- Gavin:** Why not?

## The Haunted Playground page 3

**Friends:**

Just stay until the lights go out.

**Gavin:**

Don't you have to get home? Don't your parents worry about you?

**Friends:**

We do what we like. You're not tired, are you?

**Gavin:**

No, I just have to go.

**Andrea:**

You'd better come back tomorrow night. We're having a treasure hunt. Bring your metal detector.

**Gavin:**

This treasure hunt better be good.

**Andrea:**

Trust me. You won't be disappointed.

**Narrator:**

Gavin was eager to search for treasure, but something bothered him. Why did Andrea and her friends only come out at night? And why did they seem to disappear when the lights were turned off? Was there something special about this playground? Would Gavin find lost treasure in the sand, or would he become lost? To find out, read through the creepy adventure *The Haunted Playground* by Shaun Tan. Anything can happen at night!

**THE END**