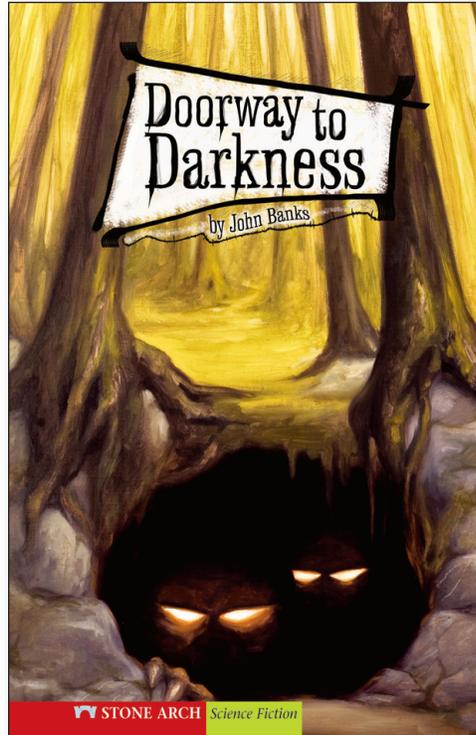




READER'S THEATER



Doorway to Darkness by John Banks

Characters: **LISA**
 LUKE
 JIM
 HAROLD
 MONSTER
 NARRATOR

Genre: **Science Fiction**

Ages: **10-14**

Doorway to Darkness page 1

- Narrator:** Luke, Lisa, and Jim are members of a group of protestors. They are protesting against the hole being dug in the hill near their homes. The highway company needs the hole dug for a new road. But the local people think the new road will bring too much traffic. Also, there are strange rumors that monsters live in the hill. Harold knows all about monsters.
- Harold:** All the strange things that have been happening lately are caused by something in that hill. This isn't the first time something like this has happened. The last time was in 1868 when someone tried to dig a hole in the hill.
- Lisa:** Why don't you tell people?
- Harold:** I have told people. They think I'm crazy.
- Lisa:** Then what can we do?
- Harold:** Close up that hole!
- Jim:** If there is something dangerous prowling around, we'll be safer in the trees.
- Harold:** You can hide in the trees if you want, but there is no escape from them.
- Luke:** This is just too hard to believe.
- Narrator:** They decided the only thing to do was to fill the hole with dirt so the monsters could not get out.
- Luke:** I can operate one of those diggers.
- Lisa:** I thought you didn't believe in monsters.
- Luke:** I don't. I just like driving diggers!
- Narrator:** Just then, they all heard a noise coming from the woods.
- Monster:** Grrrrrrrr. Krrrrrrrch!

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- Luke:** Quiet down, people. There's something out there!
- Narrator:** They heard something scratching, sniffing, and hissing in the woods. And it was coming right for them!
- Luke:** Into the trees!
- Narrator:** Everyone scrambled into the trees. Something scratched at the trees, but it could not climb them.
- Monster:** Rrrrrrrrgh!
- Narrator:** Finally, the creature left.
- Harold:** Quick, while it's gone, we can take care of the hole. Let's get moving!
- Narrator:** The group climbed down from the trees and looked around.
- Jim:** Look at those claw marks on the ground. They are huge.
- Luke:** What's that smell?
- Narrator:** The group figured it must be the smell of the horrible creature.
- Lisa:** We can't fill the hole now. The creature is still loose. We need to wait until it goes back into the hole.
- Harold:** No, fill it in! Trap the creature here!
- Luke:** I've got a bad feeling about this whole business.
- Jim:** We need to get this hole filled before that thing gets back.
- Narrator:** Everyone heard a sound coming from inside the hole.
- Harold:** It's probably just some loose rocks falling into the hole. But look, can you see anything down there?
- Narrator:** Lisa and Harold peeked over the edge of the hole. Then suddenly, they slipped.

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Lisa:

Help!

Harold:

I'm falling!

Lisa:

Help us, Luke! Help us before that creature comes back!

Narrator:

Where is the monster? Is it hiding nearby, watching them? Is it waiting at the bottom of the hole? Will Luke and Jim be able to rescue their friends in time? And where did the monster come from?

Harold:

There's a strange tunnel down here at the bottom of the hole.

Lisa:

It looks like a doorway.

Harold:

A doorway to darkness!

THE END