



## The Howff Ghosts

This is very loosely based on an old tale. The Howff is a graveyard in the centre of Dundee.

*(‘Stage directions’ are in brackets, blue text and italics - these should not be read out.)*

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The house next to the Howff was haunted.

There were rattles. *(Noise)*

And clanks. *(Noise)*

And groans. *(Noise)*

Rattles *(noise)* and clanks *(noise)* and groans *(noise)*.

John Philip Charles Agnew decided to spend a night in that house.

And there were rattles *(noise)*

But that didn’t bother John.

There were clanks *(noises)*

But that didn’t bother John.

There were groans *(noises)*

But that didn’t bother John.

Then in the middle of the night there was a knock, knock, knock *(knock on drum)*.

And John looked out of the window.

Down on the doorstep was a wee teeny-weeny ghost.

‘John Philip Charles Agnew I am coming to get you!’ said the ghost. *(Wee, high voice)*

‘Just a minute’ says John ‘Just a minute, I’m putting on my trousers...’ *(Say this in a sing-song voice)*

He pulled on his trousers. *(Say this slowly and mime the actions)*

Knock, knock, knock *(knock on wood or drum)*

There was another knock. John looked out of the window.

Down on the doorstep was a wee teeny-weeny ghost and a middle-sized ghost.

'John Philip Charles Agnew we're coming to get you!' said the ghosts. *(Middle-sized voice)*

'Just a minute' says John 'Just a minute, I'm putting on my shirt...' *(Sing-song voice)*

He pulled on his shirt. *(Slowly and mime actions)*

Knock, knock, knock *(knock on wood or drum)*

There was another knock. John looked out of the window. Down on the doorstep was a wee teeny-weeny ghost, a middle-sized ghost and a great big huge enormous ghost with clanking chains.

'John Philip Charles Agnew we're coming to get you!' said the ghosts. *(Deep scary slow voice)*

'Just a minute' says John *(scared voice)* 'Just a minute, I'm putting on my shoes...'

He pulled on his shoes. *(Slowly and mime actions)*

Knock, knock, knock *(knock on wood or drum)*

There was another knock. John looked out of the window and down on the doorstep was a wee teeny-weeny ghost, a middle-sized ghost, a great big huge enormous ghost with clanking chains and behind them a whole crowd of ghosts stretching right down the street.

'John Philip Charles Agnew we're coming to get you!' said the ghosts. *(Encourage everyone to join in with ghostly voices and noises. Repeat)*

'Just a minute' says John 'Just a minute, *(change voice to a whisper)* I've put on my trousers. I've put on my shirt. I've put on my shoes. I'm going down the stairs. I'm going through the kitchen. I'm going out the back door very, very quietly and I'm never coming back to this house ever again...' *(Beat out footsteps on knees, getting faster and faster.)*

And John Philip Charles Agnew never did go back to the house by the Howff again, with its

Rattles *(noise)*

And its clanks *(noises)*

And its groans *(noises)*

And its knockings *(noises)*

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## Notes

Use any percussion instruments or noise-makers you have to hand for the scary noises. Short lengths of chain are good, as are stirring drums, thunder-makers and groan sticks. You could also record noises onto switches (communication aides) and the children could press these when prompted during the story.

If appropriate you could choose a child (or adult) to dress up in real clothes during the 'Just a minute...' parts of the story. Any clothes would be fine – just change the script to suit. (Trousers are perhaps a bit tricky!)

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I would love to hear your feedback or comments on this story – please email me if you get a chance: [info@flotsamandjetsam.co.uk](mailto:info@flotsamandjetsam.co.uk)

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