

Cliffhangers

"I leave a little cliffhanger..."



Discover the secret to suspenseful stories with British writer Chris d'Lacey, author of *The Last Dragon Chronicles*.

1 Watch part 1.

- A teacher asked Chris d'Lacey a question. Can you spot it?
- Do you understand Chris d'Lacey's answer?

2 Watch part 2.

- Listen to Chris d'Lacey's anecdote about children. Has this ever happened to you?
- Use this anecdote to explain the meaning of the word "cliffhanger".

3 Time to write! Write your definition of the word *Cliffhanger*.

A Night in Terror Tower

- Look at the text on p. 43. Read the title, the introduction and the first paragraph to understand the situation. What do you imagine about:

the characters the type of text the place the story ?

- Read the whole text. Were you right? → WB p. 39

- Draw the last picture Sue takes of Eddie. → WB p. 40
 - Imagine what is going to happen next. Tell your classmates about it.

- Listen to Annie and David talking about what happens next... Only one of them is right!

- In pairs. Decide which one is right.

- Now listen to find out!

- Time to write! Complete your definition of the word *Cliffhanger* with an example from this text.

At home

Terror Tower is based on The Tower of London. Go to the **Historic Royal Palaces website** and discover its famous prisoners...



"I have a bad feeling...!"

Sue, the narrator, and her brother Eddie are spending their holidays in London. Today, they are visiting *Terror Tower*.

- "I'm scared," Eddie said. I shivered and zipped my coat up to my chin. "Eddie, this was your idea," I told my brother. "I didn't beg and plead¹ to see the Terror Tower. You did." He raised his brown eyes to the Tower. A strong gust of wind fluttered his dark brown hair. "I have a strange feeling about it, Sue. A bad feeling." [...]
- "This was London's first debtor's prison," Mr Starkes explained as he led the way. "If you were too poor to pay your bills, you were sent to prison. Which meant that you could never pay your bills! So you stayed in prison forever." [...]

At the entrance, I raised my eyes to the top of the dark tower. It was solid stone. No windows except for a tiny square at the very top.
- People were actually imprisoned here, I thought. Real people. Hundreds of years ago. I suddenly wondered if the castle was haunted.* I tried to read the serious expression on my brother's face. I wondered if Eddie was having the same chilling thoughts.

We stepped up to the dark entranceway. "Turn around, Eddie," I said. I took a step back and pulled my camera from my coat pocket. "Let's go in," Eddie pleaded. "The others are getting ahead of us." "I just wanted to take your picture at the castle entrance," I said. I raised the camera to my eye. Eddie made a dumb² face. I pressed the shutter release and snapped the picture.

- I had no way of knowing that it was the last picture I would ever take of Eddie.

R. L. Stine, *Goosebumps: A Night in Terror Tower*, 1995

- supplier
- silly, stupid



Mini Project

"Hello, 911. What's your emergency?"

Work in pairs.

Pupil 1: You are all alone somewhere and you hear... THIS. Call 911 for help!

Pupil 2: you are the 911 operator. Take the call!

Why not end on a cliffhanger?

GRAMMAIRE

• Be going to → WB p. 42 • May, might, must → WB p. 44

