

It was Halloween evening. Henry and his sister Lilly were about to get ready to go trick-or-treating. Their mother walked in to the living room.

“Before you put on your costumes, I want you to go to the basement and get me the box of hats. I think there are some good hats in there that will go with your costumes,” she said.

Henry looked at his mother. He did not like to go to the basement after dark. It always seemed spooky, but on Halloween it would be really scary.

“Do we have to, Mom?” he asked.

“Yes, Henry, please. I’m finishing the pumpkin bread and can’t leave it. You can turn on all the lights if you want. The box is next to the washing machine.”

Henry and Lilly stood up and went to the basement door. Lilly shuddered as Henry opened the door.

As quick as he could, he turned on the lights for the stairs. Still, it was dark at the bottom and a long way to the switch for the basement.

Slowly the brother and sister went down the stairs. When finally they reached the bottom, Lilly dashed to the switch to turn it on. Instantly, the basement was brightly lit.

“Whew! Let’s get the box and get out of here,” said Lilly.

They walked towards the washing machine. Suddenly, they heard a loud thump. Both of them jumped straight up.

“What was that?” whispered Lilly.

“Not sure. I think it came from under the stairs.

The children inched toward the space under the stairs. They could see a box in the corner. As they got closer, the box thumped again. This time, it moved straight up and came back down.

What happens next?

Do the children run back upstairs? Do the children look inside the box? If so, what do they find? Finish the story in your own words.

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Student’s story will vary
