Furry Phantom
Written by Miriam Fitts

“Sarah?” “Here...” “Adam?” “Here!” “Julia?” “Here.” Miss Lily started roll call. There were only five kids in the class, so it didn’t take long. Even at the beginning of the day, no one could focus. It was the last day of school, and there was a rumor of a ghost in the classroom. No one could prove it, but everyone believed it! On Monday, Sarah’s reading workbook had disappeared, then the next day Adam’s pencil’s eraser was down to a nub. Wednesday, Tessa’s desk was trashed when the class came in from recess. Yesterday, Dan found wood shavings in his pencil box. Julia, the last person in Miss Lily’s class, was next. The class was restless, waiting for the mysterious bandit to strike. Since it was the last day of school, and because no one was even pretending to pay attention, Miss Lily gave everyone extra free time until lunch.

At lunch, all anyone talked about at the 2nd grade table was the ghost. Miss Lily’s class held their breath as they entered the classroom. There was an audible gasp throughout the room: Pumpkin, the class hamster, was loose on Julia’s desk! “Who let Pumpkin out of his cage?” Adam asked. Miss Lily, who was in the corner next to Pumpkin’s enclosure, replied, “I was fixing this hole in Pumpkin’s cage, and he got out! By the look of the hole, he’s been getting out every day. Class, I think we’ve found our ghost!”

Sarah found her workbook in Pumpkin’s sleeping area, under wood shavings, some of which, they suspected, had been stuffed inside Dan’s pencil box. It didn’t take long to figure out that a hamster could have easily nibbled down Adam’s pencil eraser and trashed Tessa’s desk. The case was cracked, and Miss Lily’s class had solved the most exciting mystery of the school year. Now, everyone was excited to have a long, relaxing summer break!
Monday - Sarah's reading workbook went missing!
Tuesday - Adam's pencil eraser is worn down to a nub.
Wednesday—Tessa's desk is trashed after recess!
Thursday-There are wood shavings in Dan's pencil box.
Friday the last day of school. Pumpkin is caught messing with Julia's stuff!