

Sophia Y.

Old Man McNickel

10/27/2008

Hello, my name is Jessica Lily Garza. I live at Creekdale Drive in the small city of Navasota. My hometown is a happy little place with a surprise around each corner, but there in my neighborhood is the biggest surprise of all. A horrifying legend of Old Man McNickel. Turns out the legend is real because he's my across the street neighbor. My brother and I keep hearing sounds coming from his house. I have the best brother in the world. His name is Jessie and as you may have guessed we're twins. We do everything for each other with each other. So, as you may have guessed our favorite thing to do is spy on Mr. McNickel. I know we sound like stalkers but its true. Mr. McNickel and his house is evil and I can prove it! First of all I can hear creepy sounds coming from his house, next I've never seen him on the other side of his fence. Finally there are so many dead things around his house its like a cemetary. If you don't believe me ask my team I prepared for one week ago from today. I call the group Team McNickel. It's a group of all my friends from school that lives on creekdale and dislikes Mr. McNickel. "Ding Dong" that must be the doorbell I thought. I went to the door and found my friends talking to my brother. "He guys," I said. "Hi Jessie" said Sophia and Andrew. They're my best friends and tomorrow as a team we'll unlock the secrets of Mr. McNickel. (A.K.A. Old Man McNickel)

10/29/2008

Today is the big day. Were all meeting up at the gate, the rusty old gate of old man McNickel. We sneaked in like ants in a picnic. It was so scary, but yet a little lonely. One chair and one

bottle of Ketchup to eat? What was the most mysterious is that there was a picture of him and a woman. "Ahhhh," said Sophia. "There's a rat under the rug," said Jessie. Then the supposedly scary Old Man McNickel did the exact opposite of what we thought he was going to do. He came as quick as a cheetah and smashed that rodent with all his steaming hot anger and might. He looked all scratched up, tears on his clothes, dirt all over him, and blood on his clothes and pants. I counted ten dead rats under the rug and it smelled as bad as a stinky, slimy cheese! The house after the rat fiasco was unusually foggy which made it hard to see Mr. McNickel. "Um hello, Mr. McNickel." I said after crumbling up all of courage. "You shouldn't have come here, It's dangerous." said unknown. Then Mr. McNickel came out of the shadows and said, "Because this place is cursed." Actually I kind of always thought this place was haunted with the creepy sounds and just now the fog, all the creatures and a hole big enough to eat a human. "Why in the world are you children here," he almost yelled. "We're here to sp..." said Sophia before Jessie gave her "the look". We were magically forced to come here," I lied. "Well, leave now before..." "Thud!" Ummm was that the door I thought. Sophie started to cry. I wanted to but held my head high and hoped for the best. Things didn't go so well after that. We got swallowed by the house! Sophia was still crying, Andrew was bleeding, but my brother was all scraped up and bloody. "Jessie" I yelled as I started crying. "I'm Ok Jessica," said Jessie. "Don't ever scare me like that," I said. "I won't." Jessie said laughing, sometimes though he can be annoying like at this bad situation. "Now kids everything is going to be ok." He said, "This is kind of a normal day for me ever since...my house was cursed." As he said those last four words his eyes filled with sadness and flames of anger, you can tell a lot by the eyes. "Um, Mr. how did your house get cursed," asked Andrew. "Well" Mr. McNickel said, "You people already looked

at my pictures and my refrigerator so why not.” “My house and I has been cursed for ten years now and that picture that you saw was my wife and I eleven years ago.” “She died a little less than 10 years ago from poison in her food.” “I was all the Evil Witch’s falt (back then my so called friend) because I promised to lend her an organ in a life or death situation.” “Instead I choose (my wife made me go to go shopping with my greedy yet beautiful wife.” “The Evil Witch died, came to our house as a ghost, poisoned my wife’s food, and cursed my house and I.” “The Witch said the only way to lift the spell is to destroy everything in the house with fire (including the house) and make it to the other side of the fence alive.”

After hearing that long story I felt bad for the old man. We called him names, start rumors about him, spy, and now go to his house without permission. So, after whispering in the corner of what seemed to be the boiler room (I guessed it because there were cobwebs and it was really hot) the crew and I made a plan to help this old man. When we walked out the boiler room our first step was to set fire to every mouse hole, every beehive, and every other place every other animal came from. To do that we’ll use Mr. McNickel as bait. He’ll run all the way to the boiler room and lock himself in there and while the animals surround the door we’ll set fire to their home. They’ll leave because there would be nowhere else in the house to live. We gave the horrible plan a shot and it worked out perfectly all the animals left but the fire was spreading which lead to our second step.

We ran to the boiler room to get Mr. McNickel then ran to the first and second floor very quickly to do the same thing because there were animals living on every floor of the house. Once done we ran to the window and forced it open with all our might the fire was spreading to the outside of the house already so we have to be fast. Now is the time to do a little parcore.

We'll have to jump to the lawn and run to the fence and either jump over it or force it open. I've never really done parcore, so it was really hard. I almost fell but Jessie caught me. We also had to help Mr. McNickel because he's...you know old. We were coughing like crazy from the smoke but eventually we made it to the gate and decided to kick the gate open. We made it!

We were happy at first but when we saw what was in front of us we all (except Mr. McNickel) almost freaked out! There were fire fighters, police, an ambulance, and worst of all our steaming mad parents! "What in the world are you two doing in Mr. McNickel's house," said my mom. "You know breaking in someone's house is illegal especially if you set their house on fire!" Then the real trouble came, the police "Your mothers correct young lade your under arrest and you too young man." Then just when he was about to put us in the police car (I was crying then) we heard a chorus of angels. The curse had finally been lifted I thought. When we saw him he was dressed way nicer. Then Mr. McNickel said "Do not take those children they have done something extraordinary." "They helped me lift my curse by burning the place now I am free." The police seemed to believe it because they let us go. We thanked Mr. McNickel after he thanked us then he started talking to our parents. Whatever he said did the trick because our parents weren't mad at us at all. They must be proud we did something good but we'll always know the good deed started with a bad one.

The End