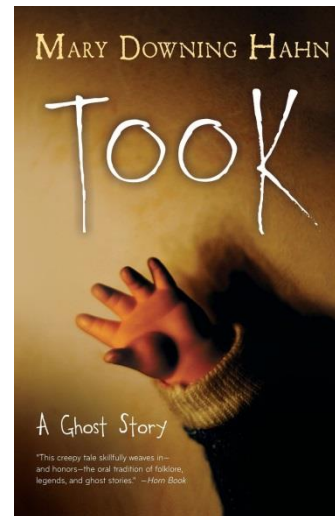


***Took: A Ghost Story* by Mary Downing Hahn
(Houghton Mifflin, 2015)**

Daniel is a new kid in a small town in West Virginia and he isn't fooled by Brody trying to scare him with creepy ghost stories.

But when Daniel's little sister starts acting strange, eventually disappearing into the woods, Daniel knows something is terribly wrong. Could the Ghost stories be true?

Has Erica been "Took?"



Discussion Questions

1. 13 year old Daniel and 7 year old Erica like their lives in Fairfield, CT even after their father lost his job. Why didn't their parents talk to them about the move to West Virginia?
2. Why did Daniel and Erica not like their new home? What about school?
3. What begins to happen to the family after they move into the house?
4. Brody Mason, their scruffy next door neighbor tells Daniel a crazy story: *Folks say Old Auntie takes a girl and keeps her fifty years—then lets her go and takes another one.* The most recent girl, Selene, who was “took” fifty years ago, was friends with the daughter of their only friendly neighbor, the O’Neill’s. But Daniel doesn’t believe Brody’s crazy stories about the ghost witch who lives up on Brewster’s Hill with Bloody Bones, her man-eating razorback hog. He figures Brody’s probably just trying to scare him since he’s the new kid. Why does Daniel initially dismiss these rumors?
5. They first discover the mountain cabin with their dad, who is fascinated by the old contents and thinks they will make amazing photographs. Why are neither Daniel nor Erica interested in the cabin and are anxious to return home?
6. Almost as soon as they move into the house Erica begins to tell Daniel about the voices whispering in her head saying her name over and over again. What do you think is happening to Erica?

7. Why does Erica begin to go to the woods with just her doll and won't talk to Daniel about why she is there? Why do you think Erica was an easy target for Old Auntie?
8. After Erica and Daniel return for Erica's doll, they can't find it and Erica runs away. At that point did you believe she had been "took?"
9. How does Mrs. O'Neill help to break the spell?
What role does the cat lady, Miss Perkins play in the breaking of the spell?
10. His parents are so out of it, the police and other adults have given up on the search for Erica. Why does Daniel realize he is the only one who can save his sister and their family? What kind of courage do you think it took to rescue his sister?
11. After Erica is returned her mother offers to replace her doll and Erica throws the catalog away. Why didn't Erica want another doll that looked like her?
12. Why is Selene the same age as she was 50 years ago? Once the spell is broken why do Selene and Erica become friends?
13. In an interview on her home page author Mary Downing Hahn responds to the following question: **Why do you like writing spooky stories?**
"I enjoy adding a touch of fantasy or unreality to a story. A ghost often makes things happen. A ghost may also give a character insight or empathy, a deeper understanding of his own nature or of the world around him. It's fun to twitch reality, to imagine something beyond our five senses."