



**SPOOKY
SKATERS**

THE SKATE PARK AFTER DARK – EXTRA

Starter Level

This level is suitable for beginner-level students who have been learning English for less than a year. It precedes the Common European Framework level A1. Suitable for users of CLICK magazine.

SYNOPSIS

Leila, Ben and their friends are young teenagers who love skating. Every day, after school, they can be found at the local skate park practising new stunts. Roland and Patty are brother and sister and also like the skate park – but they can't skate, and they're definitely not cool! Their father owns a chain of burger bars and they often eat burgers. As a result, Roland and Patty are a bit overweight.

One day, Roland tries out his new skateboard at the skate park but he falls over and the other skaters all laugh at him. Later that night, when all the skaters have gone, Roland and Patty's father takes his family to the skate park and announces his plans to buy the land and use it for a burger bar. Roland and Patty are unhappy about this and sneak away from their parents. Enter the spooky skaters aka Rip (a skeleton), Jinx (a female vampire), Zombo (a zombie), Hex (a demon) and Juju (a baby skeleton)! They all live in the Land of the Dead under the skate park and only come out at night to skate. They take Roland and Patty under their wing and every night, the two teenagers sneak out to the skate park for skating lessons. Their confidence grows, helped by the cool new clothes and hairstyles that the Spookies give them. After a couple of weeks, Roland and Patty are barely recognisable, glowing with a new inner and outer confidence.

Roland and Patty decide to talk to their parents about the skate park. Seeing the transformation that skating has brought

about in his children, their dad decides not to buy the skate park. The story closes with Roland and Patty impressing Ben and Leila with their new skating stunts and moves.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND THEMES

For many teenagers in the UK, skateboarding is not just a sport but a whole way of life, with its own music and fashion (see Fact File p.28–9). Almost every town in the UK has some kind of skate park which skaters customise with graffiti art. Some skateboarders go to skate parks to practise and learn new stunts from other skaters. They are popular meeting places for teenagers.

Themes to develop further from the story include the value of friendship, and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. You can also discuss what is more important – how you look or what sort of person you are.

For more information on the Spooky Skaters, go to:

www.spookyskaters.com

CASUAL LANGUAGE

There are two pieces of casual language in the story.

- **'guy'** is used to refer to a person. It is usually used when you are talking to a group of people e.g. 'Hey, guys. How are you?'
- **'dead'** means 'really' e.g. 'It's dead good.' 'It's dead boring.'

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Do they want to read it? If not, choose another story! Motivate them with some background information and by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere and emotion.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading.

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read, or read and then listen. They can listen and then predict the next part of the story. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' on the inside back cover of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find the meanings at home.

Anticipating

Read People and Places pages 4–5 aloud with the class. Talk

about the characters. Ask for predictions. What is going to happen in this story?

Casual language

Introduce the two informal expressions used in *Spooky Skaters: The Skate Park After Dark*. Put them into context (see above). Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Book exercises

Show students the Self-Study Activities on pages 30–32. These are divided into sections. They complete some exercises before they read a section, and some after. Check exercise answers with the whole class. Answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

Fact Files

After the story, there are two Fact Files. Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. The files explore the themes of the story and cultural contexts. They include student activities. Project ideas are on page 4.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or verbal review of *Spooky Skaters: The Skate Park After Dark*. Compare opinions. Take account of these opinions when you choose the next class reader. Did you like it? Let us know at readers@scholasticeltreaders.com.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



SPooky SKATERS

THE SKATE PARK AFTER DARK

- EXTRA

People and places

1 Match the pictures and the names of the people in the story.

Patty	Zombo	Hex	Ben	Leila	Roland
Roland and Patty's mum and dad			Jinx	Rip	Juju



- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| a) Roland | f) |
| b) | g) |
| c) | h) |
| d) | i) |
| e) | j) |

2 Match the two parts of the sentence.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| a) Roland is | i) under the skate park. |
| b) Jinx, Hex, Zombo, Rip and Juju are | ii) to the skate park with their friends. |
| c) The Land of the Dead is | iii) Patty's brother. |
| d) Roland and Patty's dad | iv) are sad. |
| e) Roland and Patty | v) has a lot of burger bars. |
| f) Ben and Leila go | vi) the Spooky Skaters. |

Pages 6-11

1 Who says what? Write the correct name next to each sentence.

Roland	Patty	Ben	Leila	Rip	Juju
--------	-------	-----	------------------	-----	------

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| a) 'Hey, Ben. What are you building?' | Leila |
| b) 'OK, Roland. Try your new skateboard.' | ..... |
| c) 'Be quiet! It's not funny!' | ..... |
| d) 'I see them here every day. They're always eating burgers.' | ..... |
| e) 'Rip! Teach me a cool stunt!' | ..... |
| f) 'But we can't skate here during the day. We're not from here - you know that.' | ..... |

2 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

first	laugh	happy	Skaters	ramp	boring
-------	-------	-------	---------	-----------------	--------

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a) Ben builds a new | ramp |
| b) The other skaters | at Roland. |
| c) Leila wants to be the | to try the new ramp. |
| d) The Spooky | live in the Land of the Dead. |
| e) Juju thinks the land of the Dead is | ..... |
| f) Jinx is | there is a new ramp. |

3 Work in pairs. Write down the conversation between Roland and Patty as they walk home.

Pages 12-19

1 Are the sentences true or false? Correct the false sentences.

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) The Spooky Skaters aren't having fun at the skate park. | False. The spooky skaters are having lots of fun at the skate park. |
| b) The Spooky Skaters hide when Roland and Patty and their parents arrive at the skate park. | ..... |
| c) Roland and Patty's parents think Roland and Patty are at home. | ..... |
| d) The Spooky Skaters can't do any stunts. | ..... |
| e) Patty learns the new stunts fast. | ..... |
| f) Jinx gives Patty some CDs from her favourite music shop. | ..... |

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

2 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- a) like / We / too. / the / park / skate
We like the skate park too.
- b) are / Patty / learning / Roland and / skate! / to
.....
- c) night? / they / Why / are / here / at
.....
- d) like / Zomboy and / Jinx. / Hex / both
.....
- e) learn / stunts / You / can / night. / more / tomorrow
.....
- f) black / love / I / T-shirt! / this
.....

3 Work in pairs. Which of the Spooky Skaters do you like the best? Why?

Pages 20–25

1 Answer the questions.

- a) What does Zomboy think about Roland about Patty now?
*He thinks Patty looks very different now.
He think she's a good skater.*
- b) Roland and Patty's dad goes to the skate park with photos of his children. Why?
.....
- c) Do Patty and Roland think they can stop their father?
.....
- d) Why are their parents surprised when they see Roland and Patty?
.....
- e) Does Roland and Patty's dad buy the skate park? Why/Why not?
.....
- f) Do Ben and Leila want to talk to Roland and Patty at the end of the story? Why/Why not?
.....

2 Choose the correct answers.

- a) The Spooky Skaters are / aren't friendly.
- b) The Spooky Skaters live in / under the skate park.
- c) At the end of the story Roland and Patty are sad / happy.
- d) At the end of the story Roland and Patty can / can't do good skating stunts.
- e) At the end of the story Ben and Leila want / don't want to talk to Roland and Patty.

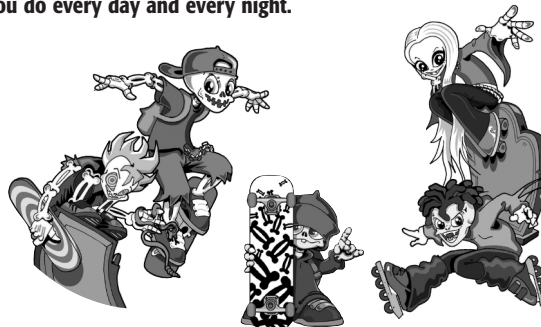
3 Write four adjectives to describe Roland and Patty before they meet the Spooky Skaters. Then write four adjective to describe them after they meet the Spooky Skaters.

FINAL TASKS

1 Create a new adventure story. Look at the end of the story. What happens next? Work in pairs.

2 Act it out! Read the story aloud with other students in the class.

3 Imagine you are one of the Spooky Skaters. Write about what you do every day and every night.



VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Look at the list of 'New Words' at the back of *Spooky Skaters: The Skate Park After Dark*. Choose the right word for these sentences.

1. They are building a new *CAMP* in the skate park.
2. My best friend tells me all her
3. We sometimes eat in the I prefer pizzas to
4. 'Hello How are you?'
5. 'Can you do any skateboard ?'
'Yes, I can do a

2 Choose the correct word.

1. I don't like this place after dark. It's *spooky* / *secret*.
2. I've got a new *skater* / *skateboard*. It's great!
3. 'Do you believe in *spooky* / *ghosts*?'
'Yes, I think they're dead people who aren't happy.'
4. I can do a stunt on the *pipe* / *land*.
5. We're *always* / *alive*, not dead!
6. The *land* / *flip* where we live is very good.

Casual language

Complete the dialogue with the words in the box.

dead guys

JANE: Hello, How are you?

KATE AND ROB: We're fine.

JANE: What are you doing?

KATE: We're playing this new computer game.

ROB: Yeah, it's good!

SKATEBOARDING – THEN AND NOW! (pages 26–7)

Organise a sports survey. Give each student a copy of the questions and get them to interview another student. If you prefer, you can divide the class into pairs/small groups and give each pair a question. Then they ask their question to all the students. When they have finished, the students report back on what they have discovered.

1 Do you like sports?
a) yes b) no c) it depends

2 What is your favourite sport?

3 What sport or sports do you do?
 football basketball
 tennis skateboarding
 swimming karate/judo
 gymnastics athletics
 other – what?

4 How often do you do sports?
a) every day b) once or twice a week
c) rarely d) never

5 Where do you usually do sports?
a) at home
b) at school
c) at the sports centre
d) other – where?

6 Do you prefer doing team sports or individual sports? Why?
.....
.....

7 Do you ever watch sports on TV? Why?/Why not? If yes, which sports do you watch?
.....
.....

8 Who is your favourite sports star? Why?
.....
.....

SKATE STYLE (pages 28–9)

Project

Ask students to look at the Fact File and make a list of all the names of clothes. Write the words on the board: *hoodies, top, baggy jeans, trainers, beanies, hats*. Elicit other clothes words and write them on the board, e.g. *skirt, trousers, shoes, jacket, tracksuit, T-shirt* etc.

Ask: *Do you like skateboarding clothes? Why/Why not?* Ask students to describe the people in the photos on pages 28-29 and help them to write a description. Write the descriptions on the board, e.g. *He's wearing jeans and black trainers. He's got dark hair and blue eyes. He's wearing a green and blue hoodie and a blue beanie. He's tall and slim. He's doing a stunt in the street. He looks cool.*

Ask students to bring in photos/pictures of people wearing clothes they like. In pairs, students write descriptions of the people. Go round as they are working and help as necessary. Stick the pictures up in one area of the classroom, and the descriptions in another. Ask students to go round and match the pictures and descriptions.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 30–2)

Pages 6–11

- a) park b) secret c) burger d) stunts, flip e) skateboard f) alive g) skater
- a) ii b) iii c) iv d) i
- a) False. Ben and Leila and their friends go to the skate park every day after school.
b) True.
c) False. Roland has got a new skateboard.
d) False. Ben and Leila and their friends laugh at Roland.
e) True.
- a) Roland b) Patty c) Spooky Skaters d) Zomboy e) Jinx f) Rip

Pages 12–19

- a) burger bar b) Ghosts c) pipe d) darling
- a) Roland and Patty meet the Spooky Skaters
b) Roland and Patty.
c) Roland and Patty's dad. He wants to build a new burger bar.
- The correct order is: d, c, b, f, e, a.

Pages 20–25

- a) Yes, they do.
b) No, he doesn't.
- The correct order is: e (Roland and Patty's dad), a (Juju), f (Patty), c (Jinx), d (Ben), b (Ben).
- a) Ben and Leila b) Ben and Leila
c) Roland and Patty's mum d) Roland and Patty's dad
e) Roland f) Patty

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- b) Patty c) Roland and Patty's mum and dad
d) Zomboy e) Jinx f) Rip g) Hex h) Juju i) Leila j) Ben
- b) vi c) i d) v e) iv f) ii

Pages 6–11

- b) Patty c) Roland d) Ben e) Juju f) Rip
- b) laugh c) first d) Skaters e) boring f) happy

Pages 12–19

- b) True
c) False. Their parents think Roland and Patty are in the late night burger bar.
d) False. The Spooky Skaters can do stunts.
e) True.
f) False. Jinx gives Patty some clothes from her favourite clothes shop.
- b) Roland and Patty are learning to skate!
b) Why are they here at night?
c) Zomboy and Hex both like Jinx.
d) You can learn more stunts tomorrow night.
e) I love this black T-shirt!

Pages 20–25

- b) Because he wants to find Roland and Patty.
c) Yes, they do.
d) Because they look different. Patty has some cool clothes and Roland has got green hair.
e) No, he doesn't. Because he wants Roland and Patty to be happy.
f) Yes, they do. They want to learn their stunts.
- b) under c) happy d) can e) want

Vocabulary Builder

2. secrets 3. burger bar, burgers 4. darling 5. stunts, flip
1. spooky 2. skateboard 3. ghosts 4. pipe 5. alive 6. land

Casual language

guys, dead