

Seven Spooky Season Story Starters for Students

Sometimes it's fun to write a scary story. It's like riding a rollercoaster. You get some thrills, but know that you're safe. Lots of people want to write a spooky story but don't know where to begin. Here are some ideas to help you get started.

Each page has a space for an illustration, a story idea, and a few lines to get you started, then you can finish it on other pages.

Here are a few tips for writing scary stories...

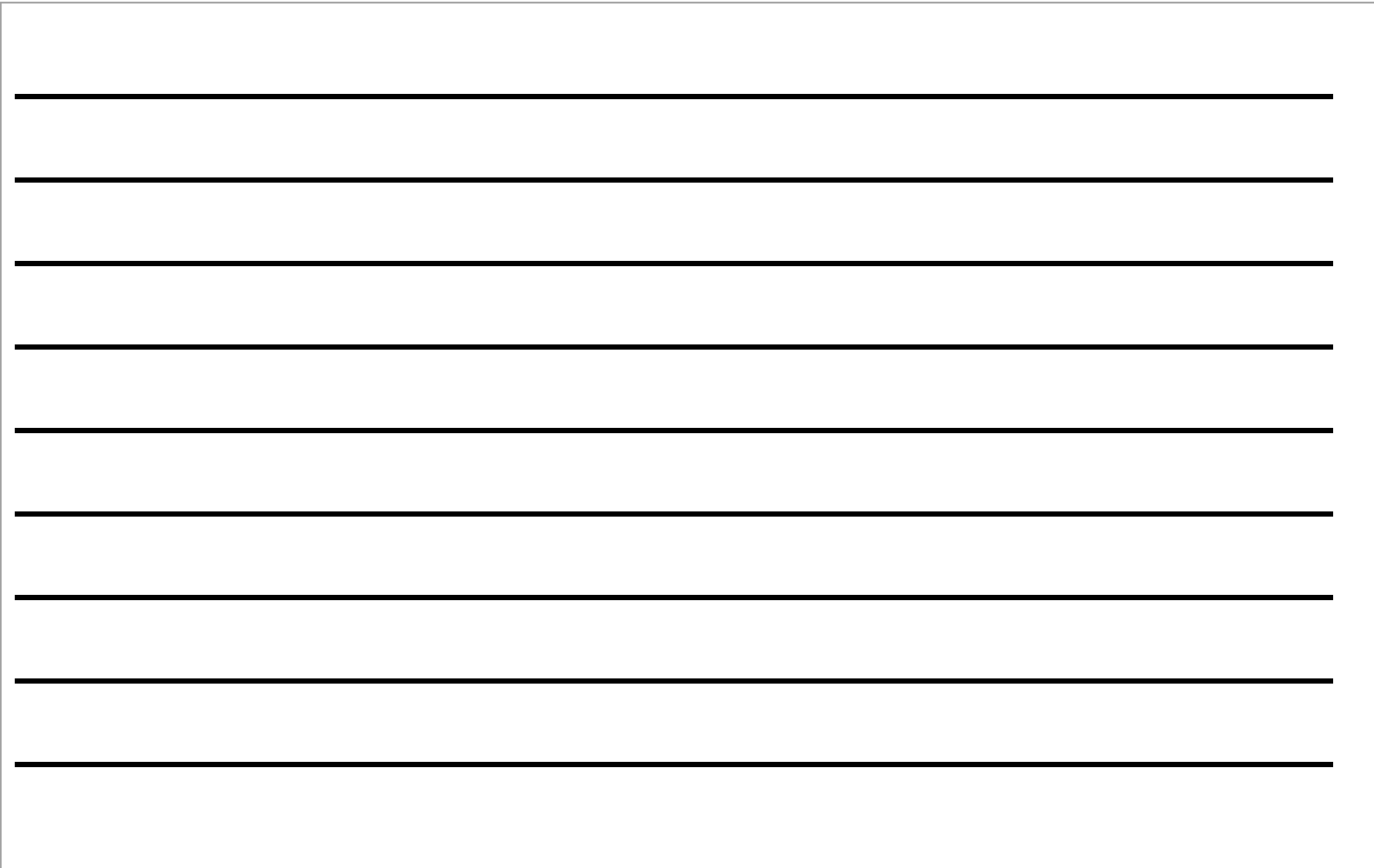
- Take your time! I know it's exciting to get to the scary stuff, but if you don't take the time to let the readers get to know, and get to like the main character, then they won't care as much when the scary stuff starts to happen.
- If you're stuck, ask yourself, "What is something that could happen that would make things harder, but not hopeless for my character?"
- Remember, you may have every detail pictured in your mind, but the reader doesn't. Make sure you describe things so that the reader has the picture in their head that you intended.
- Describe things using at least three of the five senses. If a zombie is shambling towards the main character, don't just say how gross it looks. Describe how creepy its groans are and how nasty it smells.
- Monsters can represent the theme. Think of a big idea that frightens your main character, and have the monster be a reflection of that. So if my main character is scared of how many gray hairs he's getting now that he's not a kid anymore, a vampire that doesn't age would be a monster with a great thematic connection.

Draw a cover/illustration!



Your main character is home alone on a dark and stormy night. They are expecting their parent to come home, but they call and say that they're going to be late because the storm led to some roads being closed.

The character is relaxing, perhaps reading or playing video games but then the power goes out. They look out the window and they see a shadowy figure in a hoodie with their face covered standing in the rain staring at them. What happens next?



Draw a cover/illustration!



Your main character is on a camping trip and becomes separated from their group. They use all of their outdoor skills to try to find the group, but no matter what they do, they seem to be getting more and more lost. Eventually, the sun goes down and they decide to try to sleep.

Then they hear a growl in the distance.



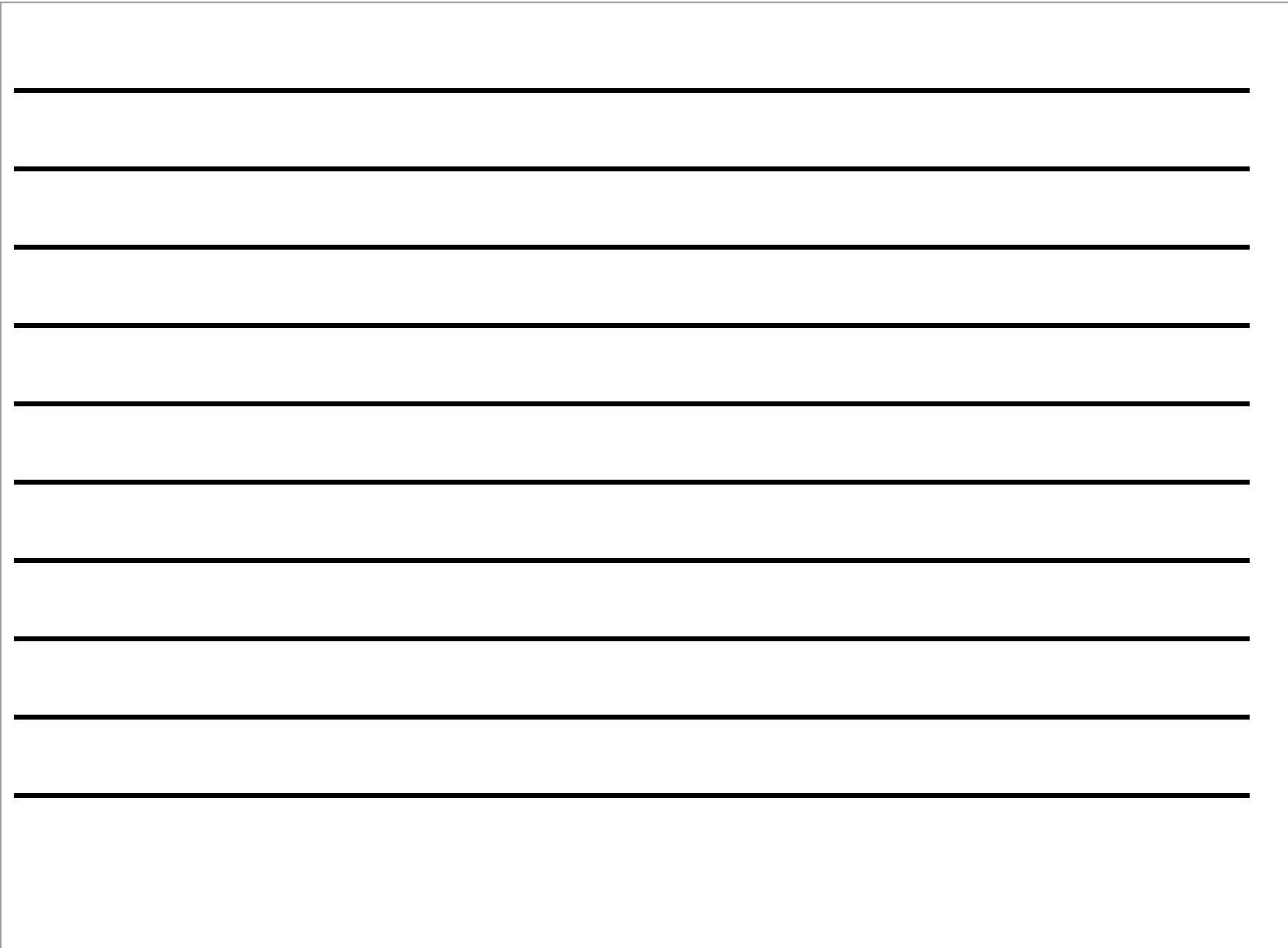
Draw a cover/illustration!



Your main character is moving into a new house. At their new school, all the kids say, “Oh I can’t believe you live in *that* house...that’s where the witch used to live.”

The main character doesn’t believe it, but then when they’re cleaning they find an old broomstick, and a black cape.

What happens next?

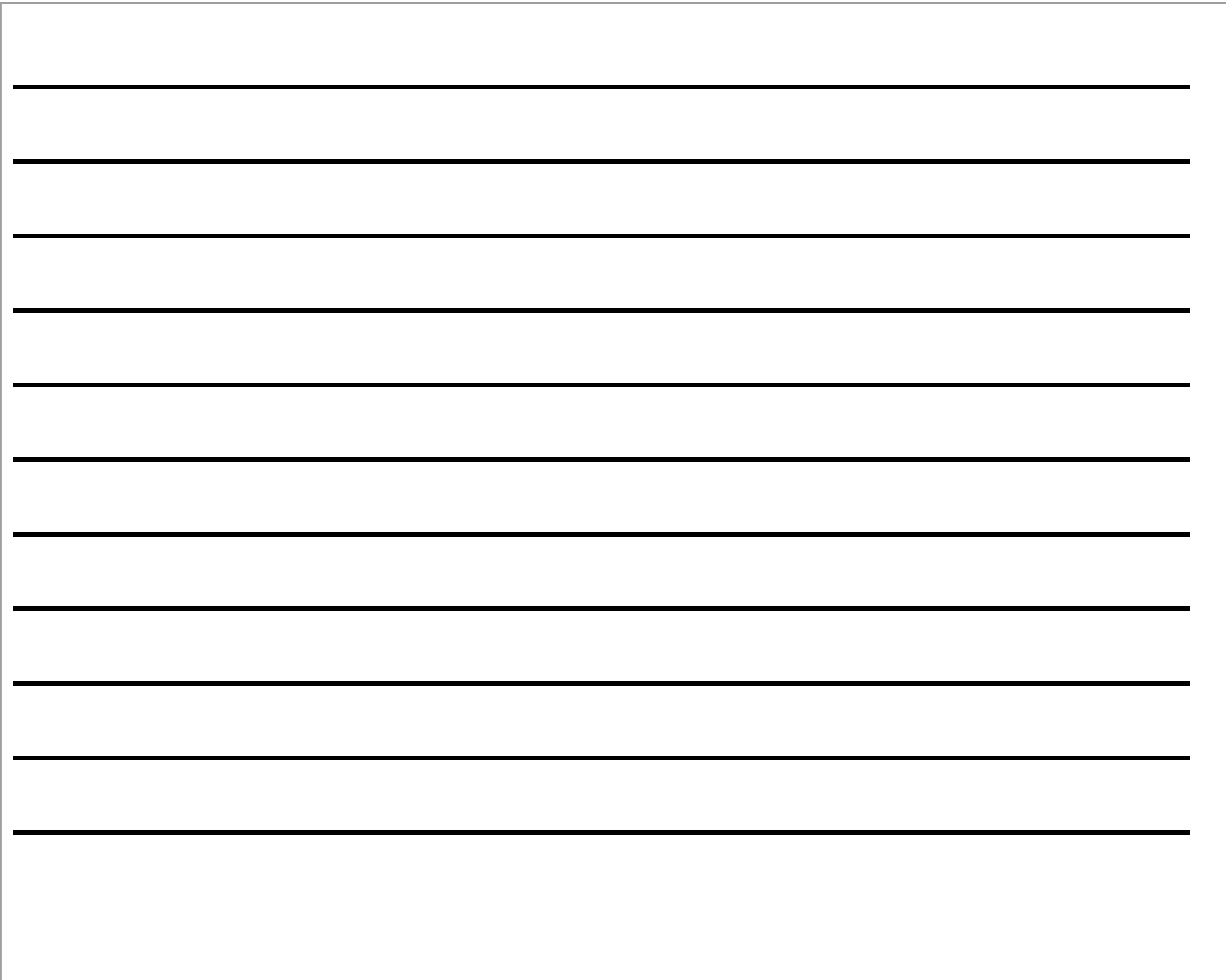


Draw a cover/illustration!



Write a story about a substitute teacher who, instead of teaching the math lesson about multiplying fractions, decides to teach an incredibly complex formula that they say will open up a portal to another dimension where monsters rule.

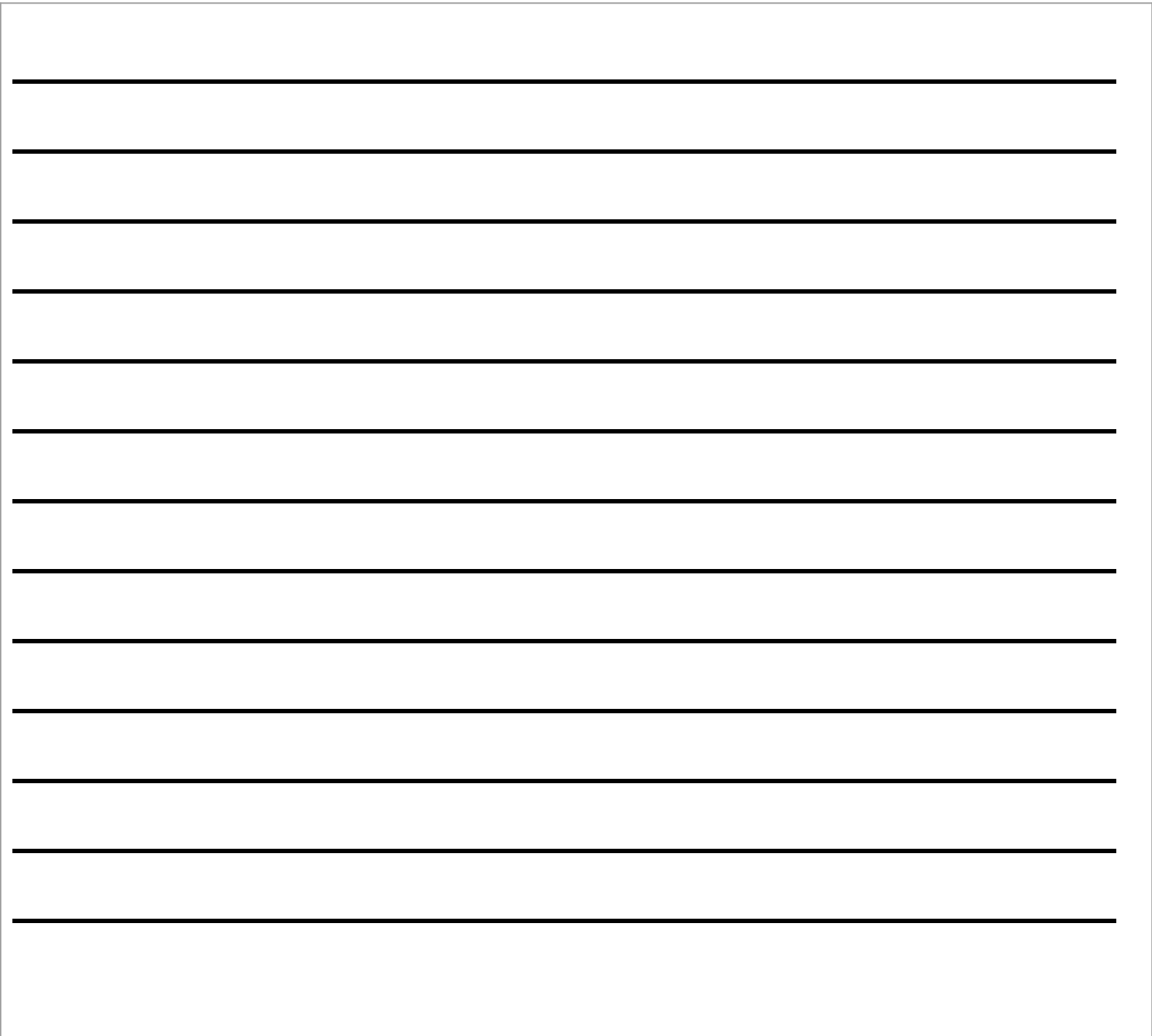
The best mathematician in class just figured it out.



Draw a cover/illustration!



Your main character joins the school's historical society, but when they joins the club, they quickly realize, it's secretly the school's ghost-hunting club and the kids suspect the school is haunted.



Draw a cover/illustration!



The main character is camping. They get attacked by a really big wolf, and they get sent to the hospital, but strangely enough, their injuries all heal completely by morning.

The character slowly begins to realize they may have been transformed into a werewolf, and they have just one month until the next full moon to figure it all out.

Draw a cover/illustration!



Your main character has a new neighbor. She seems really nice, except for the fact that she only mows her lawn at night, and only goes for a run at night, and goes to work at night. But that's okay. She's really nice. She's always smiling, but your main character notices that the neighbor's smile includes fangs!



Draw a cover/illustration!



Do you have a plan to start a spooky story from scratch? Awesome! Start it here...



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