

Mystery Structure Rewrite

Example

There is blood in the bathroom. A clown doll sits on a sink with an eerie smile. There are human fingernails stuck in the wall. A pot still boils on the stove. The house smells of rotten eggs. What happened? Dad went crazy and beat his child who was trying to cling to the wall as Dad dragged him through the house. Dad could not stand the smell of rotten eggs from the sewer backup and his child would not stop talking like the TV clown. Dad just left to bury his child.

Revision

There is blood in the bathroom. It is human blood. A clown doll sits on a sink with a smile. The doll has the name Johnnie written on its tag. Johnnie is the only child of the house. There are human fingernails stuck in the wall. They are too small to be an adult's. A pot still boils on the stove. The house smells of rotten eggs. The smell is coming from the basement. The sewer backed up recently.

What happened?

Dad has been under pressure. His wife left him and he cannot afford to feed his child. Tonight he was boiling the last packet of ramen noodles for their dinner. The child was taking a bath to prepare for dinner. The son is clearly ignorant to his father's stresses. The father asked the son to stop talking like a clown. The son continued. That father asked him repeatedly, but the child insisted. The son was grumpy from not eating. When the father came into the bathroom, the child did not listen. He simply continued singing the clown song. The father pulled him from the bathtub. The son reached for the clown on the sink. The son cried, and cried, and fought with his father. His father's anger took hold of him. The child clings to the wall as his father beats him. The child is dead. Panic rises in the father. He runs from the home cradling the child. He begins to dig a grave with his bare hands.