



The Starless Sea by Erin Morgenstern



"...she created not one story but many. Stories within stories. Puzzles and wrong turns and false endings, in stone and in wax and in smoke. She crafted locks and destroyed their keys. She wove narratives of what would happen, what might happen, what had already happened, and what could never happen and blurred them all together." This is the perfect description of this puzzle box of a story. It is magical and confusing and wonderful. However, if you are looking for a chronological tale or a straightforward plot...this won't be for you. But don't worry, as Ms. Morgenstern writes "Not all stories speak to all listeners, but all listeners can find a story that does, somewhere, sometime. In one form or another."



The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud



The teen ghost hunters are fun, flirty, and sarcastic. The ghosts are creepy without inspiring horror. A light mystery pulls everything together. This felt reminiscent of Scooby-Doo.



Tunnel of Bones by Victoria Schwab



This has the perfect amount of creepiness. When Cass, Jacob, and her parents visit Paris' catacombs, a poltergeist comes out to "play". A bit of creepy history and some fabulous characters and atmosphere later and you have a great ghostly book.



Butterflies on the First Day of School by Annie Silvestro. Illustrated by Dream Chen



A story of a girl named Rosa. Rosa is going to school for the very first time and has "butterflies" in her stomach. A great way to introduce the concepts of nerves or anxiety to young kids. Spoiler: Rosa had a great time and met another little girl, Isabella, who also had butterflies.