THE LITTLE RAG DOLL Adapted by Linda Nesbitt

Characters

Narrator	Miss Baker
Sarah	Mrs. Lindsey
Narrator: Many years ago in a small community not far from here Was a small one-room schoolhouse and inside sat the Young teacher, Miss Baker, grading papers.	
	I know the school board and my landlady don't want me To stay late to grade papers – but I am almost finished – And besides they never really said why I shouldn't stay.
Narrator: Miss Baker was working quietly at her desk when she Suddenly felt something cold – like a chill – pass over her From head to foot. She began to feel an unknown fear, and Something told her to look at the back of the dreary little Schoolroom. She was amazed to see a little girl – dressed In pitifully ragged clothes – seated at the very back of the Room. The little girl had her hand raised as if to ask a Question. Miss Baker walked slowly to the back of the room.	
Miss Baker:	Why, my dear, where did you come from? How can I help You?
Sarah: Please show me my lesson in my primer, and Teacher (brokenly)I can't find my little rag doll.	
Miss Baker:	Why just look at this book you have – it's an old-fashioned Primer – we haven't used these for years!

Narrator: As Miss Baker looked up from the primer on the desk, the Little girl seemed to fade – and just disappeared before her Eyes! Miss Baker was very frightened – she hurried back to Her desk, gathered up her belongings and set off for home to Tell her landlady what had happened at the school. Miss Baker: Mrs. Lindsey – Mrs. Lindsey!

- Mrs. Lindsey: Why, Miss Baker, what's wrong? You look frightened To death!!
- Miss Baker: Mrs. Lindsey you won't believe this but I think I just Saw the ghost of a child at school!!
- Mrs. Lindsey: Sit down dear let me make you some tea so you can Calm down. You've had a terrible fright. As for not Believing you? No, I believe you quite well. Let me tell You what it is that you saw – and the circumstances Surrounding it.
- Narrator: Mrs. Lindsey proceeded to tell Miss Baker that the school Was haunted by the ghost of a child who died more than 50 Years ago. Once the ghost of the child appeared - and was Seen by the teacher – each teacher before Miss Baker left Abruptly. It seems that the little girl was killed while on her Way home from school – after searching and searching, her Family and friends found her body in some woods not far From the main path. Although the little girl was found, her Rag doll was never discovered – and the murderer was never Found.

Miss Baker: What was the child's name?

- Mrs. Lindsey: She was the youngest child of the Kinsey family. Her Name was Sarah and not long after her death her Heartbroken family moved away. Little Sarah is Buried in the church cemetery up on Bunner's Ridge.
- Narrator: Later that evening, Miss Baker could not quit thinking about The sad little child. She felt in her heart that unless the Child's requests for her lesson in her primer and her rag doll Were fulfilled, the child's ghost would never rest. With that In mind, Miss Baker prepared an assignment for the child

And got her sewing kit and some material and fashioned a

Little rag doll. She would be prepared if the child appeared At the school again. Sure enough, the next evening the child Visited the school and made the same request.

- Sarah: Please show me my lesson in my primer and Teacher- I can't Find my little rag doll.
- Miss Baker: Here you are, Sarah. Here's the lesson in your primer And here is your rag doll.
- Narrator: At just that moment Miss Baker heard a scratching noise Behind her. She slowly turned around and was astonished To see printed in small shaky letters on the blackboard the Words "thank you". When she turned back to reply to Sarah the child had vanished as before.

Later that spring evening Miss Baker and Mrs. Lindsey Were taking a walk on a nearby country lane.

- Miss Baker: I just can't get over these mysterious happenings at the School.
- Mrs. Lindsey: You know, we're just a short distance from the church Cemetery where Sarah is buried – would you like to stop By?
- Miss Baker: Oh, yes. I'd like very much to pay my respects.
- Narrator: When they arrived at the child's grave they were amazed to See, resting against the tombstone, the little rag doll Miss Baker had made. Sarah's ghost never visited the school Again.