
BLACK WATER RIVER
Holiday Lets at Inchbae, Garve
McSkellington and the
Mystery of the Missing Kneecap
A Black Water Adventure
McSkellington's Haunted Cottage
The Black Water Children's Story Corner
1

BLACK WATER RIVER

Holiday Lets at Inchbae, Garve

2. A Most Peculiar Morning

One misty morning, McSkellington climbed out of bed.

CLATTER!

He fell straight onto the floor. He looked at his legs. His right knee was perfectly fine ... but his left kneecap was missing!



3. Bessie at the Riverbank



McSkellington crawled down to the riverbank. His old friend Bessie swam over.

“Hello, McSkellington! Why are you crawling?”

“I’ve lost my left kneecap!” he said.

Bessie’s eyes widened. “Oh my! How did that happen?”

“I don’t know,” he said.

4. A Squirrel’s Clue



“Don’t worry,” said Bessie. “We’ll find it.”

A cheeky red squirrel popped onto a branch.

“I saw something round rolling towards the old oak tree!”

“A clue!” cried McSkellington. “To the oak tree!”

He crawled by the river, with Bessie swimming beside him.

5. A Mushroom Mistake



At the old oak tree,
they found an acorn, a
button and a teaspoon.

Then McSkellington
spotted something white.

“My kneecap!” he cried,
holding it up.

Bessie looked closer.
“McSkellington… that’s
a mushroom!”

“Oh,” he said.

The squirrel laughed so
hard he tumbled into
a pile of leaves.

BLACK WATER RIVER
Holiday Lets at Inchbae, Garve

6. A Ghostly Surprise



They searched under rocks and bracken.
Still no kneecap!

A little ghost had been watching from the oak.

“Perhaps I can help!” he called, floating closer.

“A GHOST!” squeaked McSkellington.

He scrambled towards Bessie… and slipped.

SPLASH!
His hat floated away.


BLACK WATER RIVER
Holiday Lets at Inchbae, Garve
7. A Helpful Little Ghost
Bessie helped him back onto the mossy bank.
“Sorry!” said the ghost. “I only wanted to help.”
McSkellington dripped. “Well… you certainly helped me have a bath!”
The ghost fetched his soggy tartan hat. “May I help find your kneecap?”
McSkellington smiled. “All right. But no more sneaking up on me!”
7

BLACK WATER RIVER
Holiday Lets at Inchbae, Garve

8. A Rattle in the Mug



Back at the cottage, McSkellington warmed his chilly bones.

“What did you do last night?” asked the little ghost.

“Polished my bones and had cocoa,” he said.

He picked up his favourite mug.

CLINK!

Something rattled inside.

The ghost leaned closer. “A clue!” he whispered.

9. Mystery Solved!



McSkellington tipped the mug over his palm.

Out dropped something small, round and white.

“MY KNEECAP!”

Then he remembered. “I polished it last night and put it in my mug for safekeeping!”

Bessie laughed. “And forgot where you had put it!”

The little ghost beamed. “Mystery solved!”

10. Back on His Feet



CLICK!
McSkellington fitted his kneecap back into place.

He stood up carefully. One step… then another.

Then he danced a jig!

“Thank you, everyone!” he said. “Especially you, my little ghostly friend.”

The ghost glowed with pride.

Bessie laughed. “Keep your bones out of your cocoa next time!”

11. A Ghostly Goodnight



At dusk, the cottage glowed beside the river.

Bessie and the squirrel waved goodnight.

The little ghost lingered. “Could I practise my very smallest boo?”

McSkellington sat beside the warm fire. “Of course! I’m feeling much braver now.”

The ghost took a breath. “Just a little one, then…”

12. A Rattling Surprise



"Boo!" whispered the little ghost.

CLATTER! CLUNK! McSkellington collapsed into a pile of bones.

The ghost jumped back. "Oh! What have I done?"

Bessie looked closer.

The squirrel twitched his whiskers.

Was that a tiny wink from McSkellington?

13. Only Joking!

CLICK! CLACK!
McSkellington sprang back onto his feet.

“Only joking!” he said.

The ghost blinked.
“You gave me a fright!”

McSkellington chuckled.
“Sorry! That makes two of us!”

Bessie and the squirrel burst out laughing.

And four friends wished each other goodnight.

THE END



The moral of the story

Always take care of your knees—and remember where you put them!

14. The Kneecap Word Hunt

Can you find all eight story words?

L	M	L	B	R	U	M	L	D	R	U	I	F
B	N	C	J	E	I	M	Z	D	T	H	V	Z
G	B	E	D	R	S	V	G	C	F	Q	H	C
X	A	O	H	U	L	S	E	M	Q	R	H	S
C	K	S	N	R	G	G	I	R	O	O	U	Q
U	R	E	Q	E	Z	S	C	E	S	B	N	U
W	K	G	H	O	S	T	E	O	B	I	B	I
B	W	N	T	A	R	T	A	N	C	Z	D	R
A	X	V	E	C	J	G	L	H	X	O	Q	R
L	V	Y	W	E	J	G	J	H	U	R	A	E
K	T	K	F	P	C	W	O	Q	B	B	A	L
J	R	Y	P	Y	R	A	S	I	C	E	S	H
R	T	Z	J	C	Y	R	P	I	N	I	O	G

None of the words go backwards.

Be a word detective!

Find these eight words. They go across, down or diagonally.

BESSIE
BONES
RIVER
GHOST
COCOA
SQUIRREL
KNEECAP
TARTAN

My name: _____

15. The Missing-Bone Mystery

Eight questions about the new story

Remember the adventure?

Circle one answer for each question.

Look back at the story if you need a clue.

Then tell someone how the mystery was solved.

My name: _____

1. What was missing when McSkellington got out of bed?

A. His hat
B. His left kneecap
C. An elbow

2. Who was his old friend in the river?

A. Bessie
B. The Little Ghost
C. The squirrel

3. What did he mistake for his kneecap?

A. An acorn
B. A teaspoon
C. A mushroom

4. Why did the Little Ghost come closer?

A. To steal a hat
B. To offer help
C. To hide the mug

5. What first made him tumble into the river?

A. Seeing the unexpected ghost
B. Diving for his hat
C. Chasing the squirrel

6. Where did he find his kneecap?

A. In a boot
B. In his hat
C. In his cocoa mug

7. Why did he become a pile of bones at the end?

A. His kneecap vanished again
B. He was playing a joke
C. The ghost broke his bones

8. What is the final reminder in the story?

A. Take care of your knees
B. Keep bones in cocoa
C. Hide all your mugs

16. Draw a Highland Adventure

Your turn to imagine!

Draw McSkellington and his new ghostly friend beside the Black Water.

- ☐ Both kneecaps in place
- ☐ Bessie in the river
- ☐ A cheeky red squirrel
- ☐ A tartan detail
- ☐ Your own funny surprise

My name: _____

Give your adventure a title: _____

17. Colour the Four Friends

Add your own colours to the new friends' adventure.



All four friends!

McSkellington has both kneecaps back in place.

Give the friends your favourite colours. Can you make their tartan bright and cheerful?

When you finish, point to both of McSkellington's knees!

My name: _____



18. Answers & a Rattling Goodbye

Story quiz answers

1. B

His left kneecap was missing.

2. A

Bessie was already his old friend.

3. C

The white object by the oak was a mushroom.

4. B

He wanted to help with the search.

5. A

The ghost's unexpected appearance gave him a fright.

6. C

It was in his cocoa mug, where he had put it after polishing it.

7. B

He was joking. He sprang back together straight afterwards.

8. A

Take care of your knees - and remember where you put them!

Word-search solution

L	M	L	B	R	U	M	L	D	R	U	I	F
B	N	C	J	E	I	M	Z	D	T	H	V	Z
G	B	E	D	R	S	V	G	C	F	Q	H	C
X	A	O	H	U	L	S	E	M	Q	R	H	S
C	K	S	N	R	G	G	I	R	O	O	U	Q
U	R	E	Q	E	Z	S	C	E	S	B	N	U
W	K	G	H	O	S	T	E	O	B	I	B	I
B	W	N	T	A	R	T	A	N	C	Z	D	R
A	X	V	E	C	J	G	L	H	X	O	Q	R
L	V	Y	W	E	J	G	J	H	U	R	A	E
K	T	K	F	P	C	W	O	Q	B	B	A	L
J	R	Y	P	Y	R	A	S	I	C	E	S	H
R	T	Z	J	C	Y	R	P	I	N	I	O	G

All eight words are highlighted.

Well done, Highland detective!

Always take care of your knees - and remember where you put them!



Credits & permissions

© 2026 Tim McIntyre. All rights reserved.

Created by Tim McIntyre for Black Water Holiday Lets, with AI assistance in developing the storylines and producing the illustrations.

You are welcome to download and print these stories and activities for personal use. Commercial use or republication requires prior written permission.