Funnybones

3-4 Nursery Autumn 1 2026

Useful Information	
Author	Alan Ahlberg
Illustrator	Janet Ahlberg
Year published	1980
Other titles by this author	Each Peach Pear Plum, The Jolly Postman, Peepo Peepo, Burglar Bill, Happy Family Stories, Dinosaur Dreams

Tales Toolkit			
	Character- A person or an animal in a story.		Setting- Where the story takes place.
	There are 3 main characters; a big skeleton, a small skeleton and a dog skeleton. They like scaring people.		**In a dark, dark, town…**
	Problem- There is another character or a situation that is a problem for the main character.		How the characters manage to sort out the problem and have a happy ending.
	It is night time and everyone is asleep. They can't find anyone to scare in the park, at the zoo or in the town.		**They decide to scare each other on the way home.**

Phrases and repeated refrains from story text Children will become very familiar with these phrases and use them in the oral retelling of the story	
This is how the story begins	scratched his skull
in the dark, dark,	let's frighten someone
Good idea!	all the way home
come to pieces	They still do

Vocabulary – definitions and synonyms synonyms are words with the same meaning (or almost the same meaning)	
cellar	an underground room under a building (basement, vault)
skeleton	the framework of bones that holds up your body and protects it (frame)
connected	joined together (join, link)
skull	the bones inside your head and face that keep your brain safe (head)
joint	a place where two bones are connected (junction, socket)
protect	to keep something safe (defend, guard, shield)



Book Knowledge and Concepts about Print
Can your child show you the..

Front Cover



Back Cover



Spine



Title

