

## "A Midnight Dreary" Preview page #1

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**Actions:** *The "Mystery Person" brings in a radio and puts it on a table, and tunes through some channels, then finds the one the story is on. He (or she) leaves and the spotlight stays on the radio, which the audience is listening to as the show begins. After the introduction, the lights come up on the other side of the stage and we see the living room set.)*

**The Unseen Storyteller:** Welcome to Mind's Eye Theater... where you... help bring the story... to life. I'm your host, the Unseen Storyteller.

Fear... it grows like a fungus on the rotting logs of doubt and uncertainty in the forest of our mind. Fear... taking it's nourishment from the decay of personal faith and trust. Only in the darkness of spiritual blindness can it thrive and spread. And spread it does... until it covers the heart and blights the mind with a paralyzing toxin.

Sometimes the seeds of the fungus of fear are spread by the enemy of our souls... and other times, it merely grows on it's own as we allow the light of the Word to fade from our lives. This... is one such story. Sit back and picture the events in your mind as I paint the picture... you might even begin to see it happening in your mind's eye. Tonight's tale is titled "A Midnight Dreary."

It was on a rainy autumn evening in the quiet little community of Tarrytown, New York, as our main character unlocked the door to his home after a quick trip to the store. But the threatening thunderstorm outside was only an echo of the gathering storm in his life... which was about to break out in a torrential downpour.. of terror.

**(Actions during the next part of the narrative:** *Derek comes through the door, arms loaded with bags and holding an umbrella over his head, which he lowers and closes as he enters.. As he is closing it, he almost drops the bags and has to scramble to keep the contents from spilling everywhere. He is a somewhat clumsy and nervous character. He sets the umbrella beside the door, then takes the bags to the table.)*

**Narrator:** Derek Crane was a young 4th grade schoolteacher at Tarrytown Elementary School, as well as a Sunday School teacher at his church. Yes, Derek was a believer in Jesus, and had a good influence on both the children he taught and the people around him. His imagination was an asset to him as he used it to help the children learn both the school lessons and bible stories. But sometime his imagination was a liability, as it often ran away with him.

**(Actions during the next part of the narrative:** *Turning on the lamps in the room, Derek then removes his coat, hanging it on the coat rack. He goes back to the table to take the contents out and put them on the table. He smiles as he surveys the spread of junk food and soda he now has spread out before him, and rubs his hands together as though antucipating digging into it soon. He picks up the TV guide from the table and sits down on the sofa to look through it.)*

**Narrator:** Now, you should know that our man Derek Crane was descended from a long line of schoolteachers named Crane, the most famous of which was Ihabod Crane, whose story was told by Washington Irving. Proud of his heritage and family name, Derek in fact often used the story to introduce his students to the joys of classic literature, as well as local history. As Derek unpacked the bag of goodies, he was prepared for a nice relaxing Saturday evening of reading, snacking and TV while his wife was away visiting her ailing mother. From here on out we'll let Derek himself tell you what happened on... "A Midnight Dreary."