“THE OLD GUARD”
 bleedin' hell! it's cold out!!

that's not a very princely statement!

yeah well, it ain' very princely weath'r.

there's something to be said for lazy days, though.

Mr Elliot's got hot chocolate.

and we're just about to start a spooky story!!

krak-oom.

Well that was a little ominous...

Do you mind if I tell the story?

I have a story that Master Saffron used to spook me with that might work.

Sounds good t' me!

Sure, go ahead.

Let me see...

It starts as these stories often do, long ago and far away...

In a country that no longer exists...

A lone scout keeps watch in a remote mountain pass, all alone...
Okay, war could break any time. I've got to try to stay alert and keep watch....

What was that?!

Just a bird...

...it was just a bird...

...right?

...Phew.

I've been out here alone for too long.

Get it together.

Focus!

I must stay alert. Anyone could come through here. Monsters, raiders, enemy scouts...

Whatever comes will be stopped here.

I'm well-equipped, and this pass is a good defensive point...

Whatever comes, I can handle--

Who's there?!
...Nothing.

I'd better head back to camp.

How much longer do I have to stay out here...? It's been so quiet.

*Sigh* I miss home....

What...?! Someone there?! Hey! Show yourself!!

I have to protect this pass!
Down the road, lay the town
the guard came from... it was not too
far from the pass, but everybody knew:
you don't go to the pass at night.

Because there is a monster up there.
it kills everyone it sees.

The war never happened, but the old
guard never heard.

They had to defend the pass.

Hmm. That's different to our
usual ones, I think I liked it.

Thank you.

Is it still rainin'?

Maybe we jus' tell more
stories, huh?

Hey that was an interesting story.

Oh, thanks. Umm-

Blaze.

Thanks Blaze!

So you lot usually tell
stories in the rain?

Yeah, it sort of became tradition somehow.

I like that!

It's important to have tradition.
Even in a school open
less than a year?

Especially then!

Let me tell the next story! So it was a
dark and scary night, right? And then...