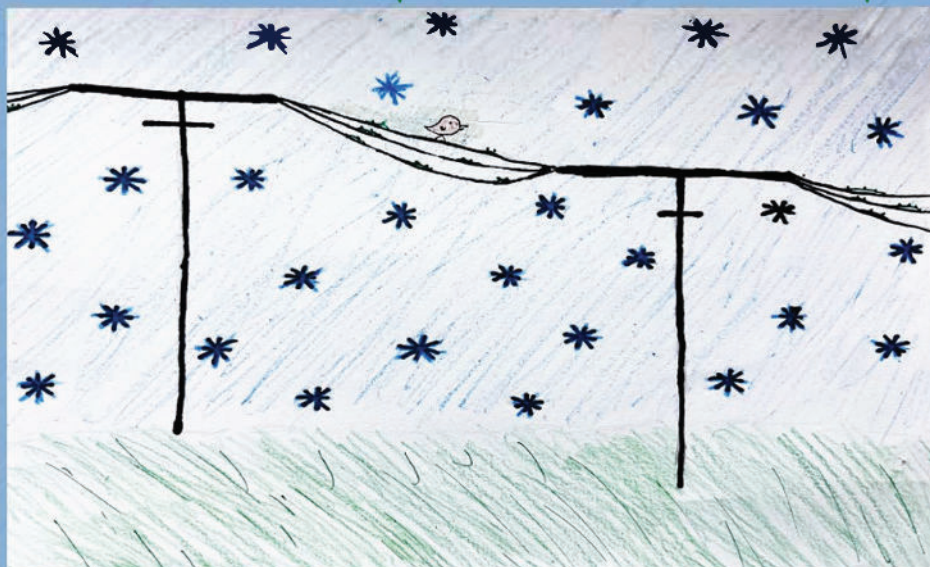


Electra

A Girl's Journey to Electrical Safety

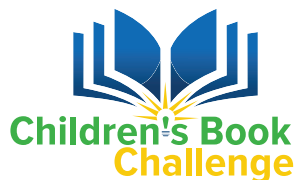


written and illustrated by Ansley Gratzmiller

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Electra, A Girl's Journey to Electrical Safety by Ansley Gratzmiller was selected as one of two winners of the 2025 Children's Book Challenge—an educational initiative of The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. The competition challenges fourth- and fifth-grade students to write and illustrate stories that focus on electricity. This year's theme was "Staying safe around electricity."

South Carolina's electric cooperatives have been committed to powering rural communities since 1938. Since their founding, co-ops across the state have been guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles, which includes a commitment to education and concern for their communities.



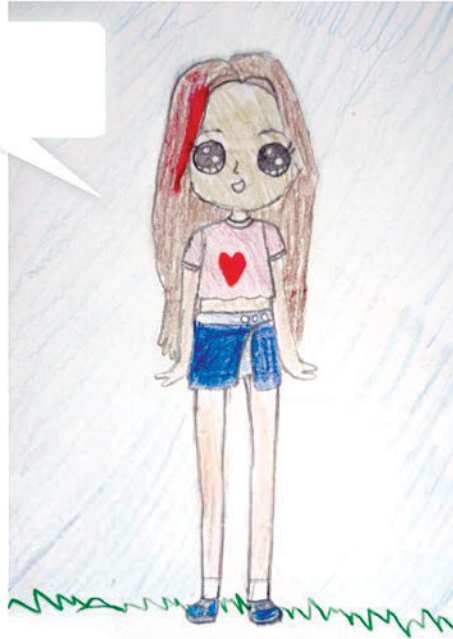
By inspiring students to learn about the history of electricity in our state, S.C.'s electric co-ops hope to spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's energy leaders.

To learn more about the Children's Book Challenge, visit **scbookchallenge.com**.

Electra, A Girl's Journey to Electrical Safety is dedicated to
my teacher, Ms. Williams, and my mom,
who has always and will always support me.

This is Electra.

Hì!

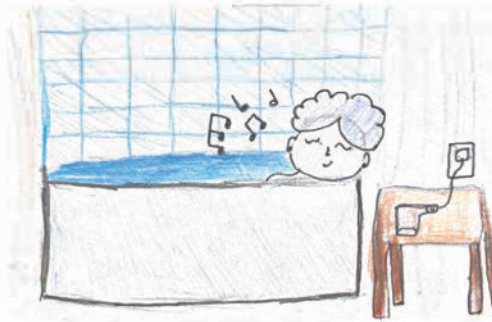


She did not really respect
electric safety.

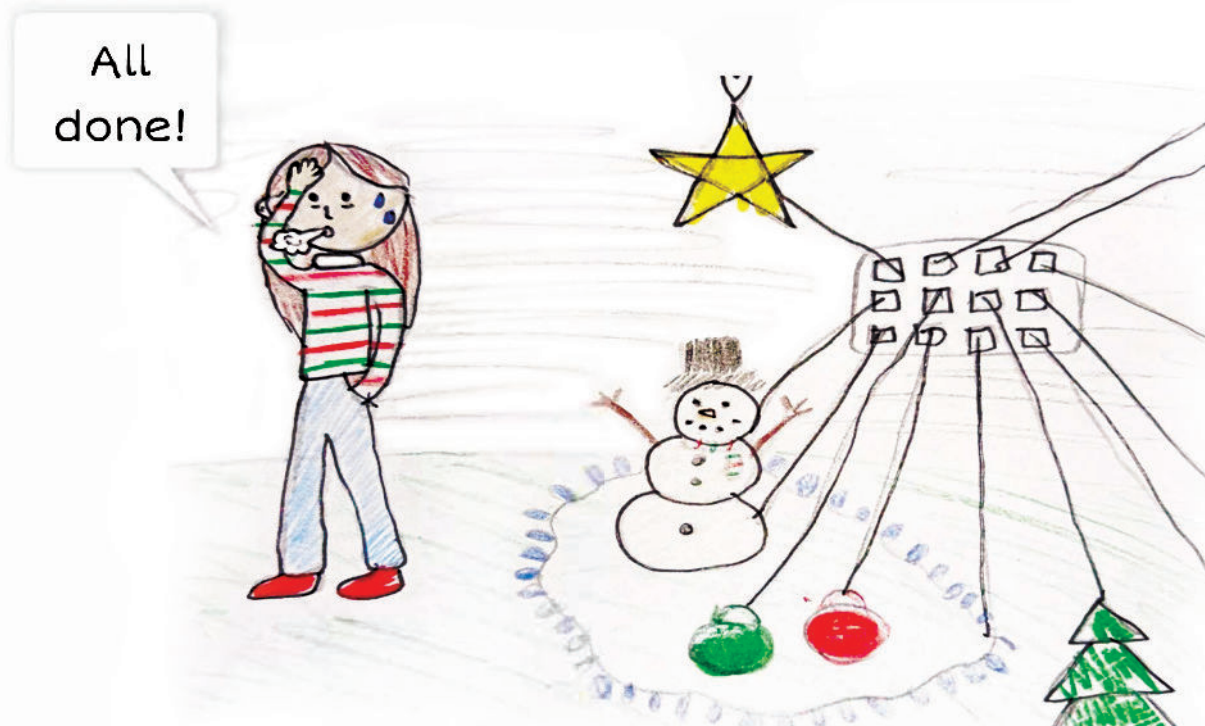
She never
unplugged her
hairdryer
when she took
a shower,

and

she always
flew her kite
too close to
power lines.



Holiday times were the worst for Electra because there were so many things to plug in!



One night, a mysterious
ghost visited her.

I am the
Ghost of Electric

Co-ops.

Tonight 3
ghosts and their
assistants will
visit you.

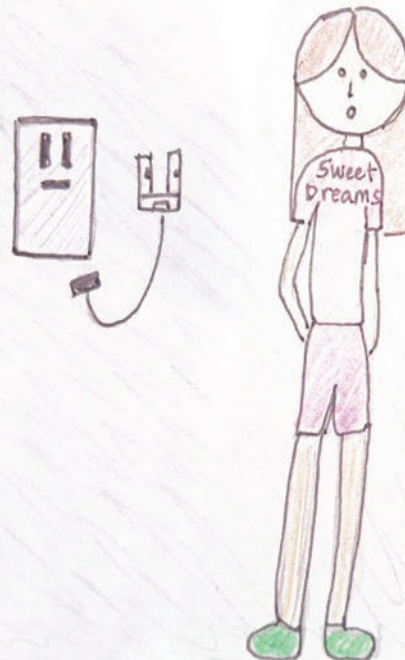


They have sent
me to tell you
that you are not
using electricity
safely.



Sure enough, the first ¹ghost came with his assistant.

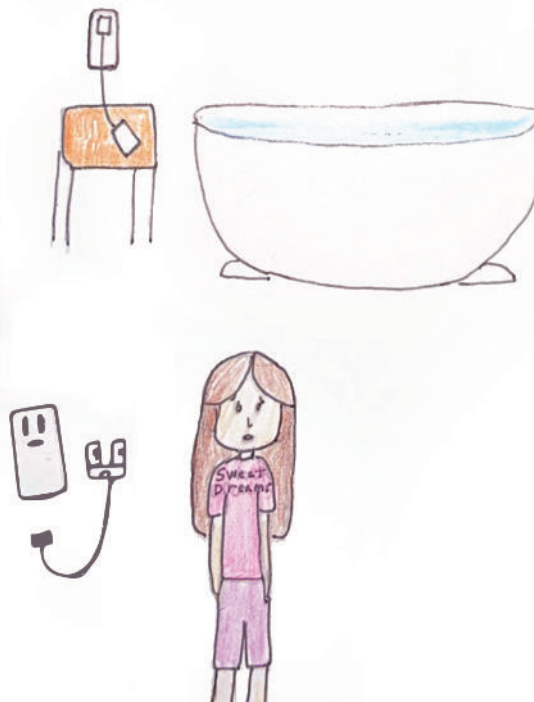
I am the
Ghost of Outlet Safety.
I will take you to three places to
show you how to be more
careful around electricity.



He took her to a bathroom with a full bathtub and a hairdryer plugged in nearby.

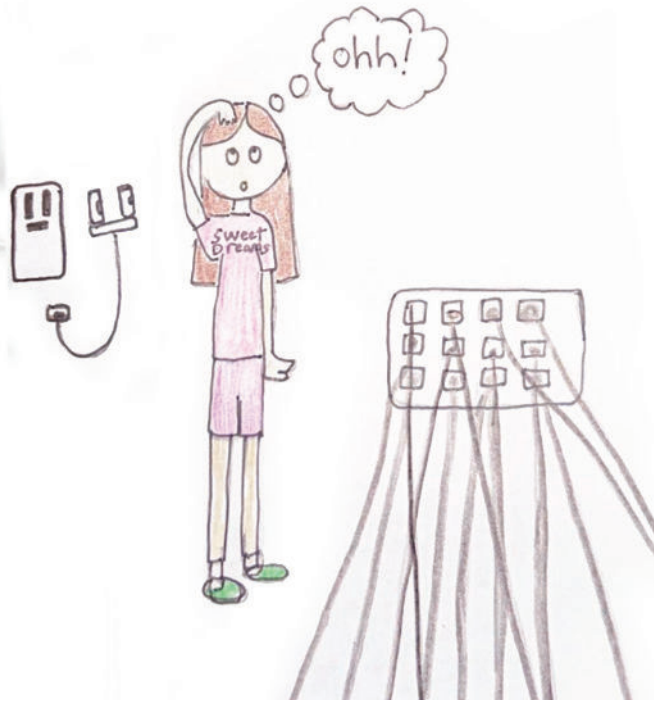
Never ever plug in anything near a full bathtub. It could cause a really bad injury.

Remember: water and electricity do NOT mix!



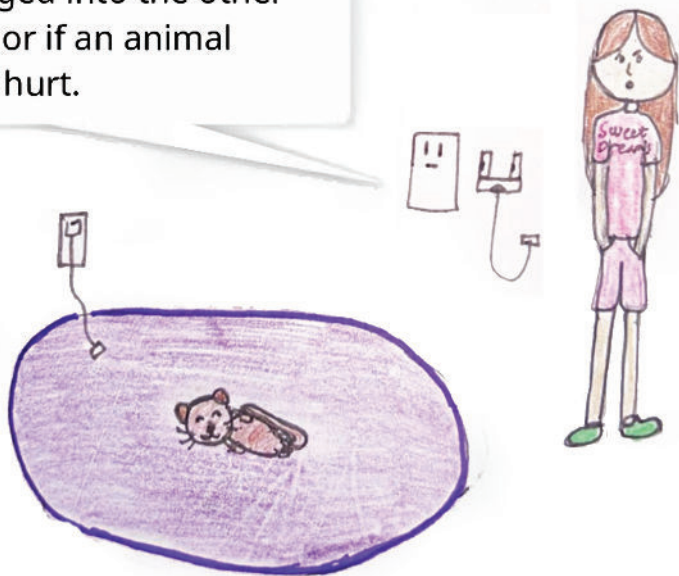
Next, he brought her to an outlet with way too many cords plugged in.

Never plug too many
cords into outlets.
It could cause a fire,
power outage, or worse!



Last he brought her to a cord that was plugged in but was not connected to the other end.

You shouldn't leave a cord plugged into the wall without anything plugged into the other end. This could start a fire, or if an animal chews on it, they could get hurt.



The first ghosts vanished and Electra was back in her room.
Sure enough, the second ghosts were waiting.

We are the
Ghosts of Power Line Safety.
We will take you to two
different places to
teach you about how to
be safe near power
lines.



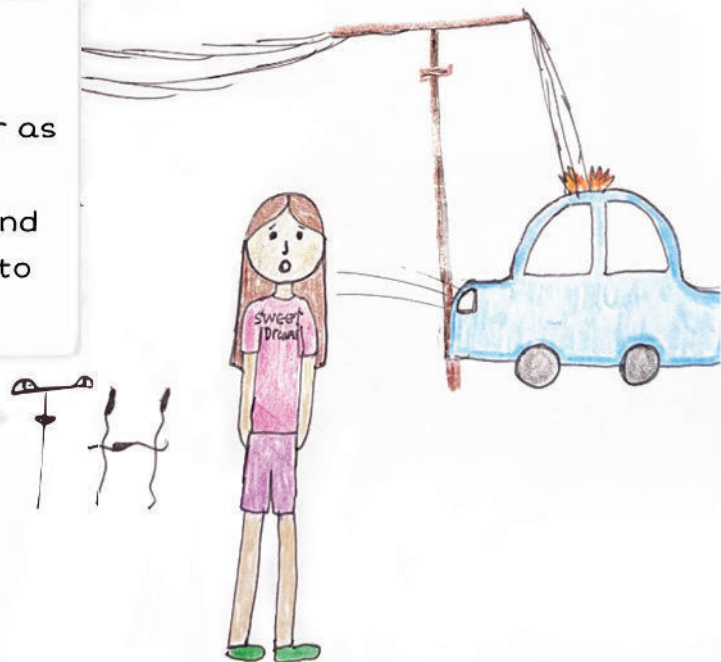
AHHHH!
They are so
creepy!

They brought her to a car near power lines. The car had crashed into a powerline pole and the wires were hanging.

If your car hits a power line and the lines fall, stay inside the car unless there's an immediate danger, like a fire.

If you must leave, jump as far as possible away from the car.

Avoid touching both the car and the ground at the same time to stay safe when you land.



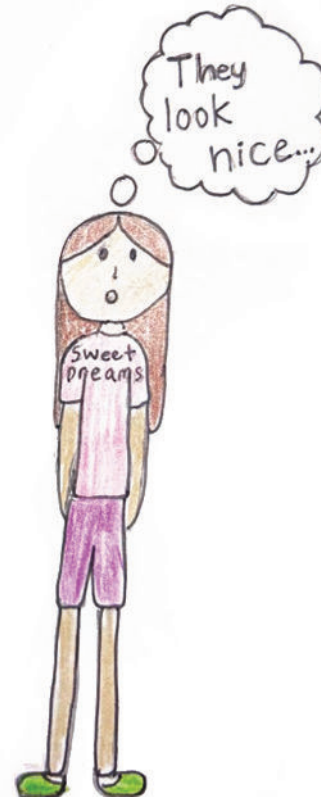
Finally, he showed Electra a kite stuck in a power line.

EEK! Never fly a kite near a power line! If the kite touches that power line, the electricity could shoot from the power line to your hand, and you could get really hurt. To prevent that, stay far away from the power lines - fly kites in fields instead.



All of a sudden Electra was in her room, and a ghost and his assistant were there, too.

We are the
Ghosts of Light Safety and
will bring you to one
last small, but
important, place.



They brought her to a lamp with clothes over it.

Oh my goodness! Never place clothes
over a lamp! It could start a fire or
cause serious damage.
Put clothes where they belong –
not on a lamp!



When Electra turned around to remove the clothes, the ghosts disappeared.

In their place was the Ghost of Electric Co-op.

Electra was so thankful for all the ghosts had taught her.
She wanted to know how they knew all that information.

I worked for your local Electric Co-op,
Berkeley Electric.

It was formed in 1940! Now, we help serve over
108,000 community members over 6,400 miles.



The ghost continued,



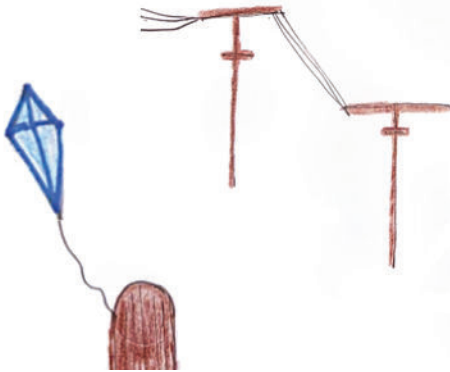
We're the biggest electric co-op in South Carolina! The cool thing about electric cooperatives is that the people who use them own them, and it only costs \$5 to join!

Any extra money made goes back to the people who are members. The co-op helps build and take care of power lines and other important services. They also visit the community to teach safety using special mobile substations.

The next thing she knew, the ghost had vanished and Electra was back in her room. She thought about what she had learned for a second and then she was deep asleep.



From then on Electra followed the electricity safety tips thanks to all of the ghosts and the co-op.





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

My name is Ansley Gratzmiller. I am a 4th grader at Buist Academy of Advanced Studies in downtown Charleston, South Carolina. I researched my topic on electricity safety for kids. I found a video, and it seemed to be made just for me!

My co-op contact was Micah Ponce at Berkeley Electric Cooperative. To learn more about the co-op I spoke with him in January of 2025. He was super polite and helpful. I got a lot of information.

I am a soccer player and enjoy art. I also love reading. My favorite book is *Out Of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper. I want to be an architect when I grow up. My mother is a science teacher and my father is a real estate agent. I have one brother named Kellen and he is super fun.

If you'd like to learn more about electrical safety, check out these websites:



Berkeley Electric Cooperative: berkeleyelectric.coop



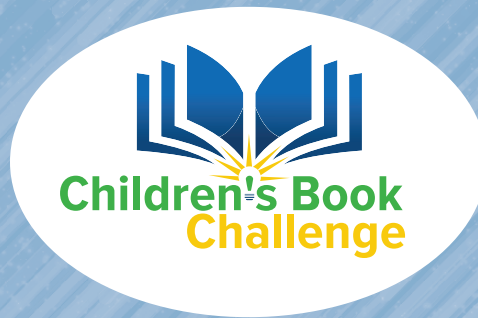
SC Children's Book Challenge: scbookchallenge.com



Electrical Safety Foundation International: esfi.org/kids-safety



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Registration opens for the
2025-26 Children's Book Challenge
in September 2025.