



# HAUNTED HOUSE ESCAPE

## SQL HALLOWEEN CHALLENGE

**Time Commitment:** 1-3 hours

**Level:** Intermediate



# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Haunted House SQL Escape Challenge, where the shadows hide more than just cobwebs; they hide secrets in the database! As a daring data explorer, you'll navigate through ghostly tables, eerie queries, and cryptic clues to uncover the truth behind the mansion's mysteries. Only the sharpest minds, skilled in SELECTs, JOINs, and WHEREs, will survive the night. Dare to enter... and see if you can escape the haunted SQL house!

Mary Knoefel

# HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Click the **link in the description** to access the **“haunted\_house\_escape.db” file**.
2. Download the database and open it up in **SQLite DB Browser**. Alternatively, you may access the database **online via SQLite Viewer**. Just right click on the file, click “Open with” and click “SQLite Viewer”.
3. **Explore the database** to ensure it was downloaded correctly.

Name	Type	Schema
Tables (12)		
> attempts		CREATE TABLE attempts ( key_id INTEGER, lock_id INTEGER, success INTEGER )
> authors		CREATE TABLE authors ( author_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, name TEXT, death_year INTEGER )
> books		CREATE TABLE books ( book_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, title TEXT, author_id INTEGER )
> chimes		CREATE TABLE chimes ( chime_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, chime_time TEXT )
> experime...		CREATE TABLE experiments ( id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, experiment_name TEXT )
> ghosts		CREATE TABLE ghosts ( name TEXT, year_died INTEGER, favorite_number INTEGER )
> keys		CREATE TABLE keys ( key_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, material TEXT, power_level INTEGER )
> locks		CREATE TABLE locks ( lock_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, door_name TEXT, required_key_id INTEGER )
> meals		CREATE TABLE meals ( meal_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, course TEXT, served_time TEXT )
> portraits		CREATE TABLE portraits ( portrait_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, subject_name TEXT )
> rooms		CREATE TABLE rooms ( room_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY, name TEXT )
> tombston...		CREATE TABLE tombstones ( name TEXT, epitaph TEXT, cause_of_death TEXT )
Indices (0)		
Views (0)		
Triggers (0)		

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# ROOM 1: THE ENTRYWAY

**The ghosts guard the main door.  
They whisper:**

**“Only those who know our favorite  
number may pass.”**

Write a query to find the sum of favorite\_number for all ghosts who haunt the Entryway and whose name starts with ‘B’.



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# **ROOM 2: THE HALL OF PORTRAITS**

**The eyes in the portraits follow you.  
Only the oldest painting reveals the  
next clue.**

Write a query to find the subject\_name of the  
oldest portrait (lowest painted\_year).

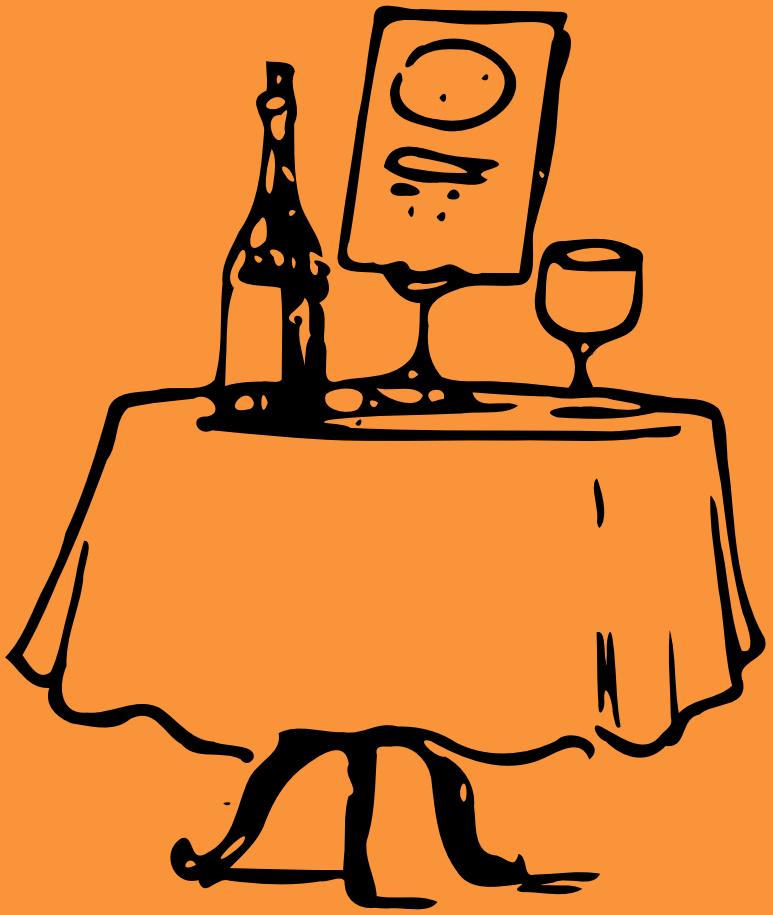


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# ROOM 3: THE DINING HALL

**The dining table is cursed. Every guest was poisoned. Some more than others.**

Find all course types where the average poison\_level > 7.



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# ROOM 4: THE LIBRARY

**You search dusty tomes for the writings of the dead.**

Return the title and author name for every book written by an author who died before 1900.

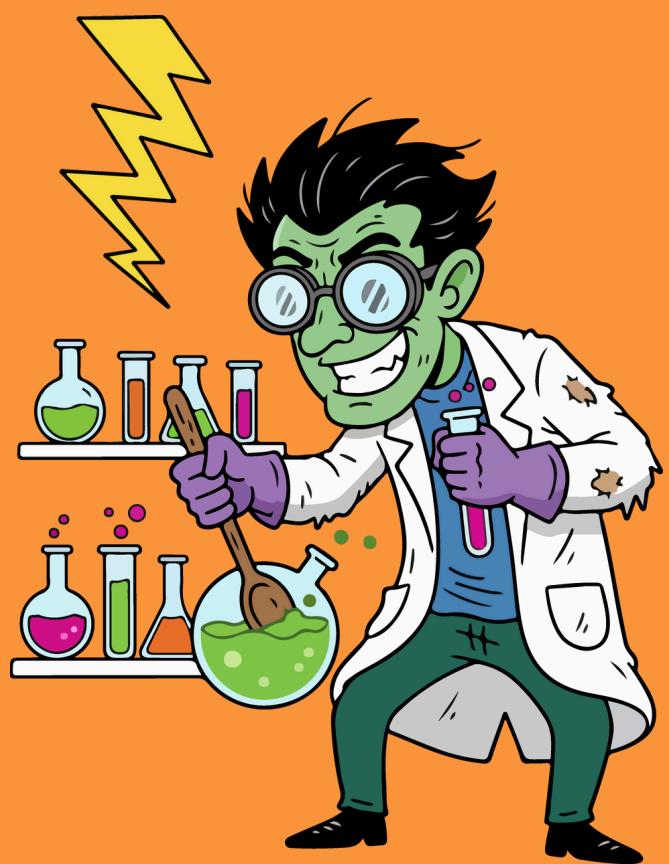


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# ROOM 5: THE LABORATORY

**Beakers bubble and fumes rise. Only  
the most successful experiment  
holds the key to escape.**

Find the experiment\_name of the  
experiment(s) with the highest success\_rate.



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# ROOM 6: THE GRAVEYARD

**Each gravestone reveals a fate. Some peaceful, some... not.**

Create a query that returns name, cause\_of\_death, and a new column “peacefulness” using:

- If cause\_of\_death = 'old age', then ‘Peaceful’
- Otherwise, ‘Tragic’



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# ROOM 7: THE CLOCK TOWER

**The tower tolls every hour. But one chime was louder than the one before it. And that's when the door cracked open.**

Use a window function to find all chimes where the volume increased compared to the previous chime.



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# ROOM 8: THE FINAL DOOR

You face the final door. You have many keys and many locks, but only one perfect match.

Write a query to find the door\_name that can be opened by the key with the highest average power\_level among successful attempts.



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# **DID YOU ESCAPE THE HAUNTED HOUSE?**

Think you got all the right answers? Post your SQL code on LinkedIn and I'll tell you if you escaped!

The solution code will be posted on Saturday,  
November 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Mary Knoeferl**  
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