

Story 18: The story about El Guije

Story shared by: *Jorge*

Representing: *Cuban and lives in Belgrade.*

The Story:

El Güije is like a child with long, curly hair. He lives in the forests. In Cuba, forests are usually found on hills and mountain ranges. El Güije lives near rivers and feeds on fish and small animals. He typically comes out at night, and all the stories, especially those from the villages, warn that you shouldn't go near the river late at night because El Güije might appear.

For older people, El Güije was everywhere, not just by the river or the lake, but all around. Originally, El Güije lives near rivers and lakes or in any wet places, and he tries to make contact with people who go there. In some versions of the story, he just plays tricks on you, laughs at you, and tries to scare you, but in other stories, he can take you away. El Güije is a fantastic but also comical creature who does mischievous things for fun (like teasing, without causing real harm). All depictions of El Güije are the same — he's a black guy with curly hair, built like a child or a tiny man.