

# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

When Mr Hiram B. Otis decides to buy Canterville Chase, everyone tells him he is crazy. The house is haunted by the Ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville who murdered his wife three hundred years ago. But the American family are not afraid, and when they go to live there, strange things begin to happen...

- Accessible adaptation at elementary level
- PET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities
- Exit test with answer key
- Wide range of activities on the four skills
- Internet Project
- Informative background information on Oscar Wilde in America, and the existence of ghosts
- Full recording of the text
- Playscript to enable dramatisation of the story



## beginner

Exam Preparation: PET (B1)

## elementary

Exam: PET (B1)

## pre-intermediate

Exam Preparation: FCE (B2)

## intermediate

Exam: FCE (B2)

## upper-intermediate

Exam Preparation: CAE (C1)

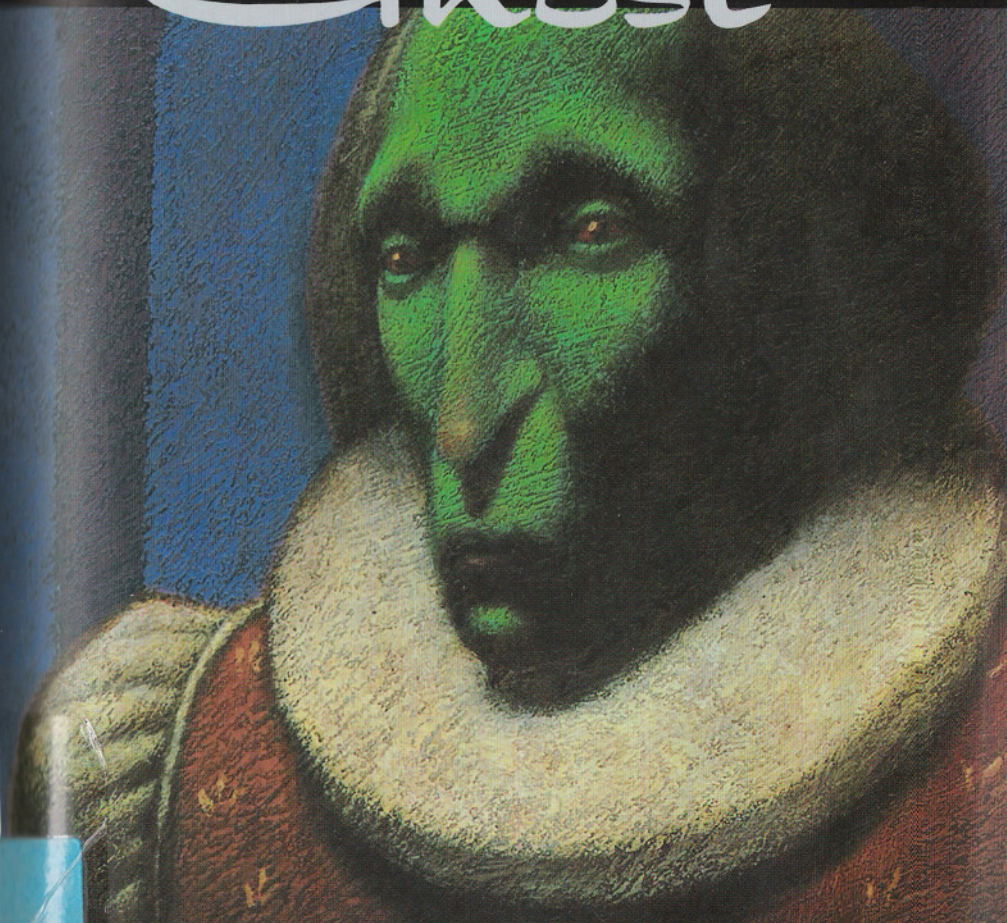
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WILDE, OSCAR  
THE CANTERVILLE GHOST 2/1



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OSCAR WILDE

# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

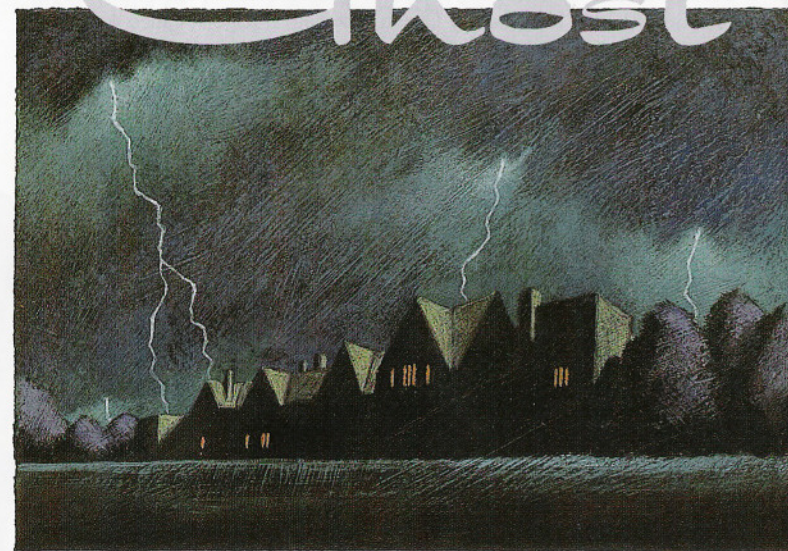




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OSCAR WILDE

# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost



Text adaptation, notes and activities  
by Derek Sellen

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2/1



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**PET** Cambridge Preliminary English Test  
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This story is recorded in full.  
This symbol indicates a listening activity.



# Introduction

## *The Life of Oscar Wilde*



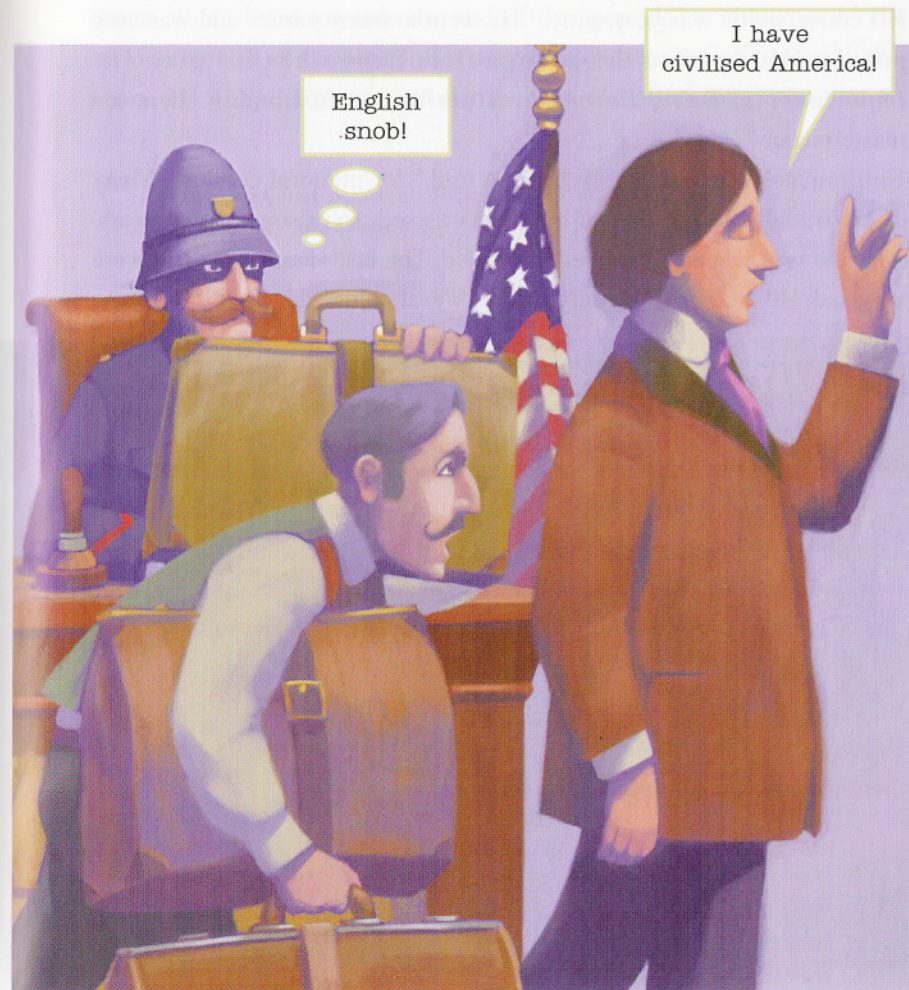
Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1854. After he finished his education in Ireland, he studied at Oxford University in England. He was an excellent scholar. He travelled widely in Europe and made many friends. But he also made many enemies. He dressed in flamboyant<sup>1</sup> clothes and had unusual opinions about religion and life. He liked to be the centre of attention. In 1882, Oscar Wilde went on a lecture tour<sup>2</sup> of the United States. When he was entering America, the Customs Officer<sup>3</sup> asked him: 'Do you have anything to declare?'

Wilde answered: 'I have nothing to declare but<sup>4</sup> my genius.'  
When he left America, he said: 'I have civilised America.'

1. **flamboyant** : colourful, extravagant.
2. **lecture tour** : he talked in public in many different cities.
3. **Customs Officer** : person who checks the passports and luggage of people arriving in or leaving a country.
4. **but** : except.



Arriving in America.



Leaving America.

He married in 1884. He and his wife, Constance, had two sons. He wrote his most famous children's story, 'The Happy Prince', for his sons. He became famous in London as a poet, a writer and a dramatist. His conversation was very witty.<sup>1</sup> He went to many parties and was very popular. He reached the peak<sup>2</sup> of his fame when his play *The Importance of Being Earnest* was performed in London. It is his masterpiece.<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately, he was involved<sup>4</sup> in a trial<sup>5</sup> for immoral conduct. Many of his friends did not defend him. He was sent to prison for two years. After he was released, he lived in France. The last years of his life were very sad. He died in 1900, only forty-six years old.

## *The Times of Oscar Wilde*

Oscar Wilde lived in the Victorian Age. Queen Victoria ruled Britain for over sixty years from 1837 to 1901. During her reign,<sup>6</sup> Britain was a very powerful nation. It had successful industry, a large empire and great writers and artists.

Tower Bridge, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament were built. Charles Dickens wrote his novels. Railways were developed. Britain and other European nations explored Africa. London, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and other big cities grew quickly. Many people were rich but there were also great numbers of very poor people.

1. **witty** : clever and amusing, funny.
2. **peak** : the top point.
3. **masterpiece** : his best play.
4. **involved** : implicated, mixed up.
5. **trial** : legal process.
6. **reign** [rein] : period when a king or queen has power.

Most Victorians had very strong moral beliefs. Marriage, patriotism and church-going were considered very important. It was a difficult time for people like Wilde who had unconventional<sup>1</sup> ideas.

Oscar Wilde lived towards the end of this period. He challenged<sup>2</sup> the serious mood<sup>3</sup> of the times. His plays and stories are often very light-hearted.<sup>4</sup> They laugh at Victorian beliefs. He often suggested that art

1. **unconventional** : unusual, different from normal society.
2. **challenged** : fought against.
3. **mood** : atmosphere.
4. **light-hearted** : not very serious, humorous.



*The Inauguration of the Great Exhibition, 1 May 1851, by David Roberts (1796-1864). This exhibition paid homage to the century's technological achievements.*

and wit were the most important things in life. He liked to shock people. America was a new nation, growing in power and success. Many English people thought that it had money but no civilisation. Oscar Wilde sometimes laughed at the Americans. But in 'The Canterville Ghost', the American family have many good qualities. Wilde shows that the English can learn from the fresh attitudes<sup>1</sup> and behaviour of Mr Hiram B. Otis and his family. They are not afraid of anything. This story is one of Oscar Wilde's most famous works. I hope that you enjoy it.



*Oscar Wilde's house at 34 Tite Street, Chelsea, London.*

## *'The Canterville Ghost'*


Mr Hiram B. Otis and his family come from modern democratic America to live in old-fashioned England. They move into an old house in the middle of the countryside. As soon as they arrive, they hear a mysterious story about a ghost. Then, very strange things begin to happen. There is a bloodstain which changes colour. There are terrible noises in the night. Finally, Mr and Mrs Otis's only daughter, Virginia, disappears...

1. **fresh attitudes** : new ideas, modern opinions.



## PART ONE

# The Stain<sup>1</sup>

 **M**r Hiram B. Otis was American. He was very rich and very important. He wanted to live in an old house in England, so he decided to buy Canterville Chase, the home of Lord Canterville. Everyone told him that he was doing a very foolish thing. 'Canterville Chase is haunted,'<sup>2</sup> they said.

Lord Canterville himself warned<sup>3</sup> Mr Otis about the Ghost. 'Many members of my family have seen the Ghost. My grand-aunt, the Duchess, was dressing for dinner one night. Suddenly, the hands of a skeleton touched her on the shoulders. She has never recovered from the shock.'<sup>4</sup> My wife, Lady Canterville, cannot sleep at night because of the mysterious noises in the house.'

'My Lord,' said Mr Otis, 'I will pay you extra for the Ghost. I come from a modern democratic country. If we find a ghost, we'll put it in a museum or a show for everyone to see.'

Lord Canterville smiled. 'The Ghost really exists. People have seen it many times in the last three hundred years, since

1. **stain** : mark that is difficult to remove.
2. **haunted** : occupied by a ghost.
3. **warned** : informed about a danger or problem.
4. **has never recovered from the shock** : has never become well after the shock.



# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

1584 in fact. It always appears before the death of any member of my family.'

'In my home,' joked <sup>1</sup> Mr Otis, 'the *doctor* appears before the death of any member of my family.'

'I am an American,' he continued. 'Americans don't believe in ghosts. They are an old-fashioned European idea.'

'If you don't mind having a ghost in the house, that's all right. But please remember that I have warned you.'

A few weeks later Lord Canterville sold Canterville Chase to the Americans. There were six people in the Otis family. Mr Otis himself was a United States government minister. <sup>2</sup> He was a strong democrat. His wife, Mrs Lucrezia Otis, was a good-looking, middle-aged lady. When she had been a young woman in New York, she had been famous for her beauty. She was full of energy and very healthy. <sup>3</sup>

Their eldest son was called Washington. He was tall, fair-haired and handsome. <sup>4</sup> He liked dancing very much. His sister, Virginia, was fifteen years old. She was lovely. Her large blue eyes had a spirit of freedom. She loved riding her pony in the country. A young English lord, Cecil, the Duke of Cheshire, was in love with her.

The youngest children were twins, <sup>5</sup> Ricky and Robby.

1. **joked** : said in a funny way.

2. **minister** : member of the government with special responsibility.

3. **healthy** : never ill, well.

4. **handsome** : good-looking (usually for a man).

5. **twins** : two babies born at the same time.



They were often naughty <sup>1</sup> but everybody liked them.

When the family came to live at the house, they drove through the woods in a carriage. <sup>2</sup> It was a lovely July evening. The birds were singing. Squirrels <sup>3</sup> looked at them from the trees. Rabbits <sup>4</sup> ran away over the grass. However, as they approached <sup>5</sup> Canterville Chase, the weather changed. Dark clouds appeared. Some large black birds flew over their heads. It began to rain. In the garden, they saw a black tree with no leaves or flowers on it.

An old woman dressed in black with a white apron <sup>6</sup> and cap was waiting for them at the door of the house. This was Mrs Umney, the housekeeper. <sup>7</sup>

1. **naughty** : badly behaved, disobedient.

2. **carriage** : coach pulled by horses.



3. **squirrels** : small animals that live in trees in the woods.

4. **rabbits** : small animals with long ears.

5. **approached** : came near to.

6. **apron** : you wear an apron to keep your clothes clean, for example while you are cooking.

7. **housekeeper** : person who looks after the house.



## THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

'Welcome to Canterville Chase,' she said. They followed her through the dark wooden hall into the library. Tea <sup>1</sup> was ready for them.

'What's that?' asked Mrs Otis suddenly. There was a dark red stain on the floor by the fireplace.

'It is blood,' replied the old housekeeper.

'How horrible!' said Mrs Otis. 'I don't like bloodstains in the sitting room. Remove it.'

Mrs Umney smiled.

'It is the blood of Lady Eleanore de Canterville. Her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville, murdered her on that exact spot <sup>2</sup> in 1575. Sir Simon disappeared nine years later. Nobody has ever found his body. But his guilty <sup>3</sup> spirit still haunts <sup>4</sup> Canterville Chase. And nobody can remove the stain.'

'Nonsense!' cried Washington. "'Pinkerton's Champion Cleaner'" will clean it away. It's the latest American technology.'

He knelt <sup>5</sup> down and rubbed <sup>6</sup> the floor with the 'Champion Cleaner'. In a few moments, the blood had disappeared.

'I knew "Pinkerton's" would do it,' he said triumphantly.

At that moment, there was a great flash of lightning. <sup>7</sup> There was a boom of thunder. <sup>8</sup> Everyone was frightened.

1. **tea** : (here) cold meat, salad, cakes, fruit and cups of tea.

2. **spot** : place.

3. **guilty** : not innocent.

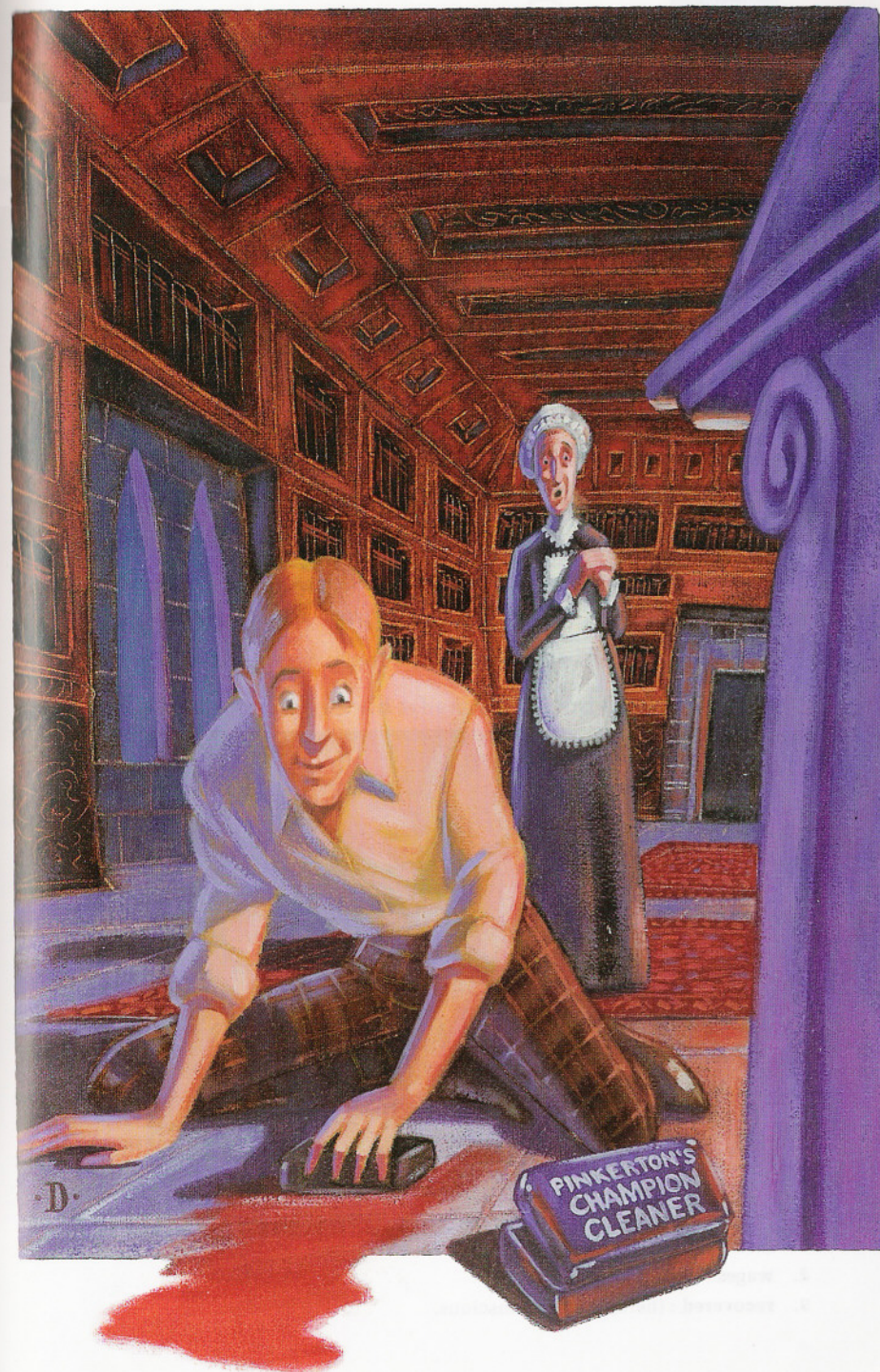
4. **haunts** : visits (for a ghost).

5. **knelt** : went down on his knees.

6. **rubbed** : moved the cloth vigorously.

7. **lightning** : light in the sky during a storm.

8. **boom of thunder** : loud noise during a storm.





# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

'The Ghost is angry,' cried Mrs Umney. And she fainted. <sup>1</sup>

'The English climate is really terrible,' said Mr Otis calmly, lighting a cigar. 'I'm not surprised that everyone wants to leave the country to go to live in America.'

'Look at Mrs Umney,' said his wife. 'She's fainted! What a useless housekeeper.'

'We'll reduce her wages,' <sup>2</sup> said Mr Otis.

As soon as he said that, Mrs Umney recovered. <sup>3</sup>

'Don't laugh at the Ghost, sir. I have seen terrible things in this house.'

'We are Americans,' said Mr Otis. 'We're not afraid of ghosts.'

'You are safe with us,' added Mrs Otis. 'Now let's all go to bed.'



1. **fainted** : lost consciousness.
2. **wages** : money for a job.
3. **recovered** : (here) became conscious.

## What happened in Part One?

**PET 1** Look at the statements below about the events and characters in Part One. Reread Part One to decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A as your answer. If it is not correct, write B as your answer.

1. Lord Canterville did not believe in the Ghost.
2. Mr Otis thought that ghosts were an un-American idea.
3. The weather improved as they approached the house.
4. The tree in the garden seemed to be dead.
5. Mrs Umney was the person who guarded the house.
6. Mrs Umney believed the stain was the blood of a murdered woman.
7. Washington did not agree with Mrs Umney's ideas.
8. Everyone was afraid when they heard the thunder and lightning.
9. Mr and Mrs Otis reduced Mrs Umney's wages.
10. The Otis family thought that the Ghost was dangerous.

### ANSWER HERE:

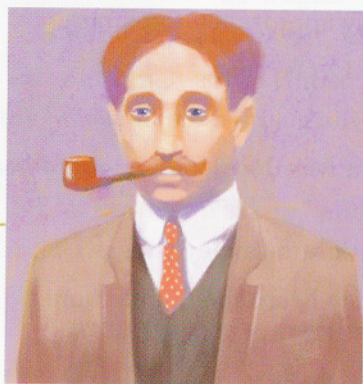
1. .... 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. .... 6. .... 7. .... 8. .... 9. .... 10. ....

## What do you think?

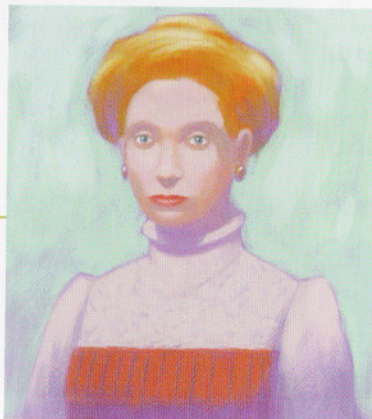
**2** Is there a ghost in Canterville Chase? What will happen next?

## Who reads what?

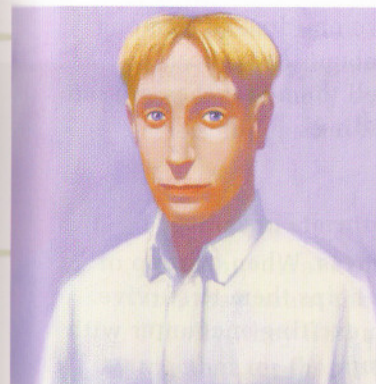
**PET 3** Each member of the Otis family wants to read a ghost story. On page 20 there are descriptions of eight stories. Decide which story (letters A-H) would be most suitable for each person or people (numbers 1-5).



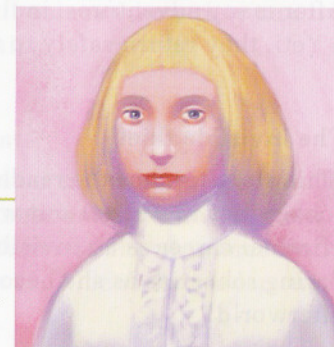
1. Hiram likes ghost stories with a moral lesson. He believes the stories should teach the reader how to behave better.



2. Lucrezia likes ghost stories which include a romantic interest. She also likes happy endings and not too much suspense.



3. Washington likes ghost stories set in unusual locations. He likes a lot of excitement but no violence or cruelty.



4. Virginia likes reading books about nature, especially about gentle wild creatures.



5. The twins like stories with a lot of blood and horror. They want to read a book with a lot of excitement.

**A The lake children**

By a lake in Ireland, the ghosts of two children live among the deer and rabbits. The story tells about their efforts to communicate with their parents to tell them that they are safe in the spirit world. It has a happy ending.

**B The Everest spirit**

Sherpa Ghan is a ghost in the Himalayas. When a group of climbers have an accident, the ghost helps them to survive. After many adventures, including an exciting encounter with a Yeti, they return safely to their camp.

**C The invisible thief**

This story teaches the reader a lesson – crime pays! A female robber dies in a shoot-out with the police but continues her criminal career as an invisible ghost. The book follows her daring robberies as she becomes the richest ghost in the afterworld!

**D Hacker and Chopbones**

Hacker and Chopbones are the ghosts of Viking warriors. After death, they find themselves in a twenty-first century city where they continue to fight, killing their enemies and threatening our civilisation with destruction. Terrifying!!!

**E Never together!**

Keep a box of tissues near. This is a real tear-jerker about two lovers who die and spend their time as ghosts searching for each other in a world of mists and illusion. But destiny is against them.

**F On earth and in heaven**

Two ghosts haunt an old castle. One is mean and selfish and enjoys terrifying people. He never escapes from his existence as a lonely, ugly spirit. The other ghost helps the people he meets and, as a reward, becomes a beautiful angel in heaven.

**G Together in eternity**

A jealous rival kills two lovers. Their love lasts beyond death and they haunt the places where they used to be so happy. Finally, they find a beautiful palace where they can live together for the rest of eternity.

**H Blood and horror in the mist**

Despite its title, this story does not contain very much excitement. Two ghosts witness a murder in the mist. Following this they help to unmask the murderer by doing research in the police archives. A book for readers who like intellectual puzzles.

**ANSWER HERE:**

1. .... 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. ....

## Grammar

## The Present Perfect versus the Past Simple

Lord Canterville talked about two time periods:

1. from the **past** until **now** (Present Perfect)

Many members of my family **have seen** the Ghost.

She **has** never **recovered** from the shock.

2. at a specific time in the **past** (Past Simple)

The hands of a skeleton **touched** her on the shoulders.

- 4 Look at the sentences below. Use the Present Perfect or the Past Simple of each verb to fill the gap. Be careful. Some of the verbs are irregular.

- I ..... a ghost in my life. (*never see*)
- It was 1 a.m. The ghost ..... slowly along the corridor. (*come*)
- She ..... America six times since 1992. (*visit*)
- In 1891, Oscar Wilde ..... 'The Canterville Ghost'. (*write*)
- They ..... any plays by Oscar Wilde. (*never perform*)
- Five years ago, he ..... a play by Oscar Wilde. (*see*)
- Sir Simon ..... his wife in 1575. (*murder*)
- 'Sir Simon's Ghost ..... the house since then,' said Mrs Umney. (*haunt*)
- ..... you ..... 'Pinkerton's Champion Cleaner'? (*ever use*)
- Mrs Otis ..... in New York from 1856 to 1870. (*live*)

## Vocabulary

- 5 Find the missing words below. Each word is the name of part of a house. There are clues to help you.

- You go up and down these \_ T \_ \_ \_ \_
- This is the first room in the house \_ ALL
- You sleep in this room \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- You cook in this room \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- This room is full of books L \_ \_ \_ \_
- Babies sleep here N \_ RSERY
- You eat dinner here \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- This room is at the top A \_ \_ \_ \_
- This room is underground C \_ \_ \_ \_
- This is long and narrow CORR \_ \_ \_ \_
- You can wash in this room \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- You can relax in this room L \_ \_ \_ \_
- This is another name for 'l' L \_ \_ \_ G E
- The horses live here \_ \_ \_ \_ LE
- This is usually the smallest room TO \_ \_ \_ \_

Now look at your answers carefully. Read downwards from 'T'. What do the letters spell?

T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

In which rooms would you put these things?

wardrobe   coffee table   oven   sink   washbasin  
cot   bookshelf   chest of drawers   mirror  
medicine cabinet   shower   wine-rack

## Listening

**PET 6** Look at the questions for this part. Put a tick (✓) in the correct box for each question.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. The Ghost</p> <p>A <input type="checkbox"/> paused at the top of the stairs</p> <p>B <input type="checkbox"/> did not stop</p> <p>C <input type="checkbox"/> went straight ahead</p>                      | <p>4. Hiram B. Otis was</p> <p>A <input type="checkbox"/> sleeping</p> <p>B <input type="checkbox"/> waiting for the Ghost</p> <p>C <input type="checkbox"/> peeping at the Ghost</p>                  |
| <p>2. He looked</p> <p>A <input type="checkbox"/> in all the rooms</p> <p>B <input type="checkbox"/> in none of the rooms</p> <p>C <input type="checkbox"/> in one of the rooms</p>                             | <p>5. Who saw the Ghost?</p> <p>A <input type="checkbox"/> Everybody</p> <p>B <input type="checkbox"/> Only the twins</p> <p>C <input type="checkbox"/> Nobody</p>                                     |
| <p>3. The parents occupied</p> <p>A <input type="checkbox"/> a small room on the south side</p> <p>B <input type="checkbox"/> a large room</p> <p>C <input type="checkbox"/> a large room on the north side</p> | <p>6. The Ghost entered his secret room</p> <p>A <input type="checkbox"/> through the window</p> <p>B <input type="checkbox"/> through the door</p> <p>C <input type="checkbox"/> through the wall</p> |

## Writing a letter

**PET 7** Your friends have just moved to another country. Now you are writing them a letter. Ask them questions about the country and write about your feelings now they have gone. Finish the letter, using about 100 words.

Dear Phil and Julie,

How are you? Do you enjoy living in .....?

## Speaking

T: GRADE 5/6

### **8** Topic – Home life

Look at the picture of Canterville Chase on page 13. Bring a picture of your home. Use the following points to help you talk to the class.

- Describe where you live and compare it to Canterville Chase.
- Say how long you have lived in your present home.
- Say where you would prefer to live: in a big old house or a modern flat, and why.



## PART TWO

# The Ghost Appears



That night, there was a terrible storm. Next morning, when the family came downstairs, the stain was there again. Washington was very disappointed.

“Pinkerton’s Champion Cleaner” always works.’<sup>1</sup>

He rubbed the floor with the stain remover. Next morning, the stain was there again. He removed it for a third time and his father locked<sup>2</sup> the library door at night. But in the morning, the stain was there again.

‘This is interesting,’ said Mr Hiram B. Otis. ‘Perhaps there really *is* a ghost.’

Mrs Otis wrote letters about it to all her friends in America. Washington decided to publish a scientific thesis about supernatural stains. The next night, they knew for certain that the Ghost was in the house. During the dinner, they discussed America and Europe.

‘American actresses are much better than European ones,’ said Mr Otis.

1. **always works** : is always effective.

2. **locked** : closed with a key.



‘American food is much better than English food,’ said Mrs Otis.

‘Boston is more important than Rome,’ said Washington.

‘New Yorkers speak much more sweetly<sup>1</sup> than Londoners,’ said Virginia.

At eleven o’clock, they all went to bed. Suddenly, Mr Otis woke up. It was one o’clock. There was a strange noise in the corridor. The American minister lit<sup>2</sup> a candle and opened his bedroom door.

In front of him, in the pale moonlight, there was a terrible old man. He had red burning eyes.<sup>3</sup> His long grey

1. **more sweetly** : in a nicer way.

2. **lit** : past of the verb ‘to light’ = to make something burn.

3. **burning eyes** : eyes like fire, intense.



# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

hair was thick and dirty. His old-fashioned clothes were ragged.<sup>1</sup> Heavy chains were hanging<sup>2</sup> from his wrists and ankles.<sup>3</sup>

Mr Otis stayed absolutely calm.

'Your chains are making a terrible noise. You will wake up everybody in the house. Let me give you this bottle of "Rising Sun American Lubricator".<sup>4</sup> Put it on your chains to stop them making a noise. Goodnight, sir.'

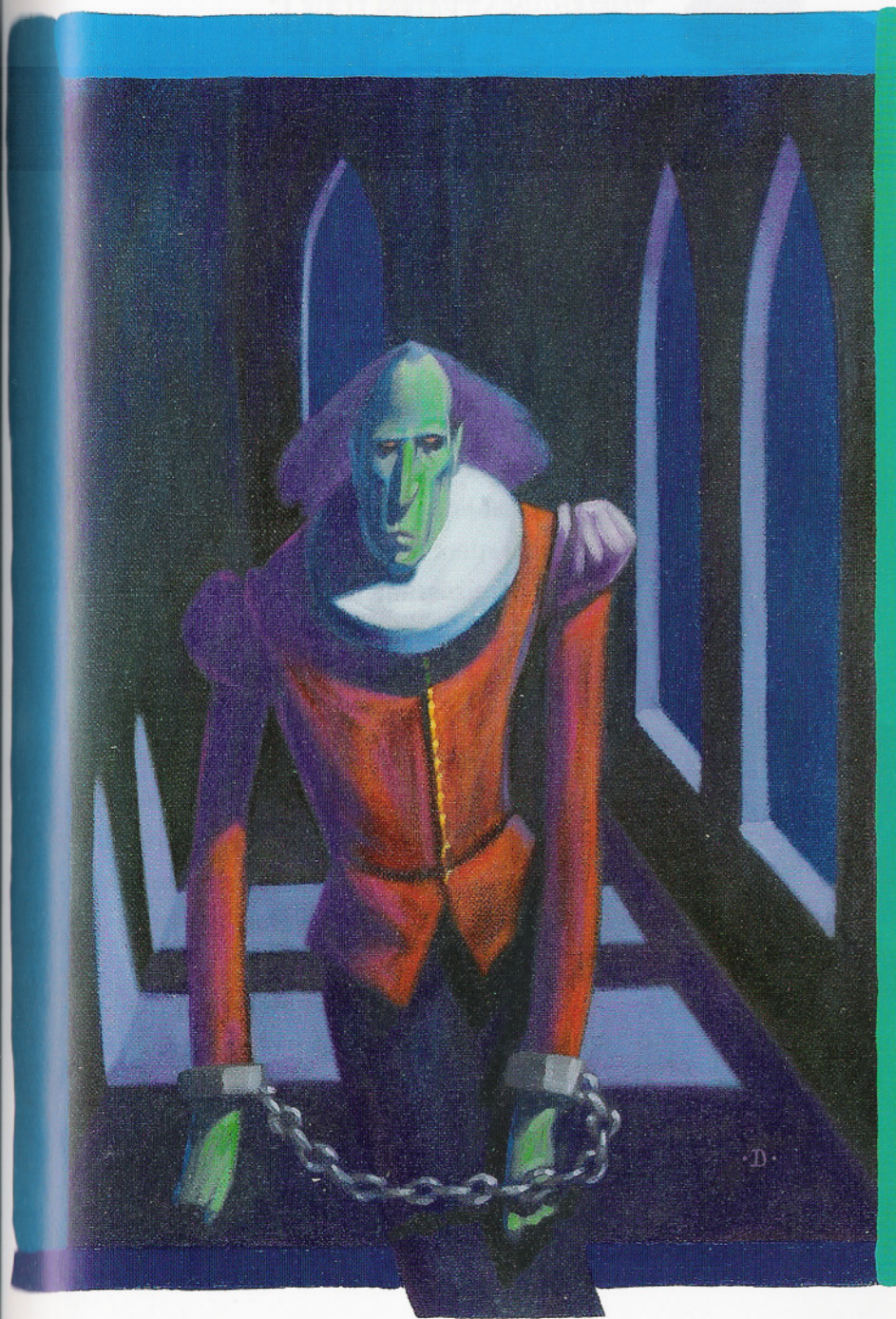


The Ghost was very surprised. He threw the bottle<sup>5</sup> on the floor. Then he ran down the corridor, shouting terribly. Another bedroom door opened. The twins threw their pillows<sup>6</sup> at his head.

The Ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville disappeared through the wall and went to his secret room. He was very angry.

'For three hundred years, I have frightened everyone in this house. The servants have all run away. Famous lords have shot themselves.<sup>7</sup> Famous ladies have drowned

1. **ragged** [ragid] : old and in bad condition.
2. **hanging** : suspended.
3. **wrists and ankles** : parts of the body (see the activity on page 59).
4. **lubricator** : oil which you can put on metal.
5. **threw the bottle** : he released it from his hand (to throw-threw-thrown).
6. **pillows** : rectangular cushions you rest your head on when you are in bed.
7. **shot themselves** : killed themselves with a gun (to shoot-shot-shot).





## THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

themselves<sup>1</sup> in the lake. 'After all that,' he continued, 'these Americans have come to live here. They have no respect. I hate them!'

Next morning, at breakfast, the Otis family talked about the Ghost.

'We hit him with our pillows,' laughed the twins.

'That's not polite,'<sup>2</sup> said their father. 'That poor ghost has lived in this house for centuries. We should respect him. On the other hand, I am sorry he has not used the "Rising Sun Lubricator". We must take his chains away from him. It is

impossible to sleep with so much noise.'

Only one unusual thing happened for the rest of the week.

Every evening,

Washington cleaned the

stain. Every morning, it had appeared

again. Strangely, it was a different colour. One day it was red. Then it was purple.<sup>3</sup> Once it was bright green.



1. **drowned themselves** : killed themselves in the water.

2. **polite** : kind, considerate.

3. **purple** : red-blue colour.

## THE GHOST APPEARS



'That's strange,' laughed Mrs Otis. 'I've never seen green blood before.'

'It's not funny,' said Virginia. She seemed really upset<sup>1</sup> but nobody knew why.

On Sunday night, the Ghost of Sir Simon decided to appear again.

'I will climb inside the old suit of armour<sup>2</sup> in the hall. Everyone will be afraid when they see the armour moving.'

The armour was heavier than he expected.<sup>3</sup> When he tried to put it on, it fell over with a loud crash.<sup>4</sup>

'Ow!!! I've hurt my knees and elbows,'<sup>5</sup> the Ghost cried.

The noise woke everybody up. The twins ran downstairs. They shot the Ghost with their peashooters.<sup>6</sup> Mr Hiram B. Otis came downstairs in his pyjamas. He pointed<sup>7</sup> a gun at the Ghost.

'Hold up your hands,' he said.

The Ghost screamed with anger. He changed into a mist<sup>8</sup> and ran through them. Washington's candle went out.<sup>9</sup> It was completely dark.

1. **upset** : sad or angry.

2. **suit of armour** : metal clothes for a soldier.

3. **expected** : thought, imagined.

4. **loud crash** : big noise, sound of something falling.

5. **knees and elbows** : parts of the body (see the activity on page 59).

6. **peashooter(s)** : a long thin tube through which small objects, usually peas, can be blown in order to hit something.

7. **pointed** : held in the direction of.

8. **mist** : vapour.

9. **went out** : stopped burning.



# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

'Now I will give them my famous ghostly laughter,' thought the Ghost. 'Their hair will turn <sup>1</sup> white when they hear it.'

'Haaaa! Haaaa! Haaaa!' His terrible laugh echoed through the old house.

'Are you all right?' asked Mrs Otis. She came calmly out of her bedroom with a bottle of medicine in her hand. 'You must have a bad stomach-ache. Take this medicine. It is made in America. It's the best in the world.'

The Ghost was even angrier. <sup>2</sup> It was impossible to frighten these people. The twins came towards him with their peashooters. Immediately he disappeared and went to his secret room. He had failed. <sup>3</sup>

For some days, he was very ill. He did not leave his room except to replace the bloodstain. <sup>4</sup> But when he felt stronger, he decided to haunt the Otis family for the third time.

'I will do terrible things. They will never come back to this house.'

1. **turn** : become.

2. **even angrier** : still more upset.

3. **failed** : not succeeded.

4. **replace the bloodstain** : put the bloodstain there again.

## What happened in Part Two?

**PET 1** Look at the statements below about the events and characters in Part Two. Reread Part Two to decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A as your answer. If it is not correct, write B as your answer.

1. Pinkerton's Champion Cleaner removed the stain permanently.
2. The Otis family believed that America was better than Europe.
3. The rattling of the chains woke Mr Otis at night.
4. The Ghost used the Rising Sun Lubricator.
5. Mr Otis congratulated the twins for throwing their pillows at the Ghost.
6. The stain was different colours during the next few days.
7. The Ghost's plan of hiding in the armour was a good one.
8. The Ghost made a noise because he had stomach-ache.
9. The Ghost didn't drink Mrs Otis's medicine.
10. In this chapter, the Ghost haunted the Otis family three times.

### ANSWER HERE:

1. .... 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. .... 6. .... 7. .... 8. .... 9. .... 10. ....

## What do you think?

**2** Who will win, the Ghost or the Americans?

## Test your memory

- 3** Can you remember the story? Read this description of the Ghost. How many differences can you find from the story on pages 27-8. What were the original words?

'Mrs Otis turned on the light and opened her bedroom door. In front of her, in the bright sunlight, there was a handsome young man. He had cold blue eyes. His short black hair was well-cut and clean. His modern clothes were in excellent condition. Golden chains were hanging from his neck and waist.'

Now choose another part of the story and change some of the words in it. Show it to a friend. Can he or she find the differences?

## Comparing America and Europe

- PET 4** Look at pages 26-7. At dinner, the Otis family said things like this:

*American actresses are much better than English ones.  
Boston is much more important than Rome.*

Now do the following exercise. Here are some sentences about the Otis family's opinions.

For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first using no more than three words. Use *more* (with words of three syllables) or add *-er* (with short words of one syllable). The second sentence is started for you. Write only the missing words.

Example: Most European cars are much smaller than Cadillacs.  
Cadillacs are much larger than most European cars.

- European films are less successful than Hollywood ones.  
Hollywood films are ..... European ones.

- British English is more difficult to understand than American English.  
American English ..... to understand than American English.
- Venice is not as beautiful as Chicago.  
Chicago is ..... Venice.
- Europeans are poorer than Americans.  
Americans ..... Europeans.
- European cities are safer than American ones.  
American cities are ..... European ones.
- Football is not as exciting as baseball.  
Baseball is ..... football.
- Pasta is not as delicious as hamburgers.  
Hamburgers are ..... pasta.

## Internet Project

'Mr Otis himself was a United States government minister. He was a strong democrat'. This means that he believed that everyone shared the same fundamental rights. Today, America has two political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. Let's find out some more about them.

Divide the class into two groups.

Group one can learn more about the Democrats, Group two about the Republicans. Your teacher will give you some Web site addresses where you can find some more information.

Try to answer the following questions:

- Name some famous leaders of the party who became President.
- Name some important dates in their history.
- What important issues do they focus on?

Now compare the two parties. How are they different? How are they similar? Do they present themselves in similar ways?

Now think about political parties in your country. How many parties are there? Are any similar to the Democrats or the Republicans?

## Listening

- PET 5** Look at this table about the Ghost's previous activities. Some of the information is missing. You will hear the Ghost telling you about five incidents. Fill in the missing information in the numbered spaces on the table.

Name	Date	What did the ghost do?	What did the victim do?
0 Lady Mary	1730	He whispered in her ear while she was asleep.	1
2	3	He carried him in his arms high up in the sky.	4
Prince Victor of Austria	1835	5	He became a beggar.*
6	1876	7	8
The Duchess of Newbury	9	He came into her room. Then he disappeared.	10

\* beggar : poor man who asks for money.

## Signs

- PET 6** Look at the sign in each question. Someone asks you what it means. Write the letter next to the correct explanation – A, B or C – in the space provided on page 38.

Example:

0.



- A Do not smoke here.
- B Do not burn rubbish here.
- C It is forbidden to light fires here.

1.



- A You can buy things here at a reduced price.
- B Somebody has started negotiations to buy this house.
- C Binns wants to sell his house.

2.



- A A housekeeper is looking for a place to live.
- B The police are looking for a criminal.
- C If you want a job as a housekeeper, ask here.

3.

### CHAMPION CLEANER

money refunded if  
not fully satisfied

- A Pay for this cleaner after you have tested it.
- B Get your money back if the cleaner is not completely effective.
- C If the cleaner is useless, you get your money back.

4.

Citizens of the USA:  
straight ahead.

All others, please  
pass through  
immigration control

- A You can't enter the country if you're not American.
- B Other nationalities needn't go to immigration control.
- C American citizens needn't go to immigration control.

5.

### HAUNTED HOUSE

Visitors enter at  
their own risk

- A The house is very dangerous for visitors.
- B Visitors themselves are responsible for their safety.
- C There is a special entrance for visitors.

ANSWER HERE:

0. A 1. .... 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. ....

## Writing a letter

- 7 A. Virginia wants to write a letter to her friend Louise. Here are the things she wants to tell her:

- ☐ he gave him a bottle of 'Rising Sun Lubricator'
- ☐ my father heard a noise
- ☐ they threw pillows at the Ghost
- ☐ he saw an old man with lots of chains
- ☐ the Ghost was very angry
- ☐ he went into the corridor
- ☐ the Ghost ran away
- ☐ he spoke to the Ghost
- ☐ the twins came out of their room

Put them in the correct order. Then write the letter. Add any other details. Use *and* or *but* to make longer sentences.

Begin the letter like this:

Dear Louise,

A lot has happened since the last time that I wrote to you. We have seen the Ghost...

End the letter like this:

Poor Ghost. I think he must be very unhappy. He cannot rest. I'll write and tell you if he appears again,

with lots of love,

- B. You have just seen a ghost in the old hotel where you and your friends are staying on holiday. Now you are writing a letter to your friends about it. Tell them all about the hotel and the ghost – the time when you saw it, its appearance, how you reacted, when the other people believed you. Finish the letter, using about 100 words.

Dear Tom and Anne,

I'm writing to tell you about something very unusual and exciting.  
Last night, I saw a ghost...

## Speaking

T: GRADE 5/6

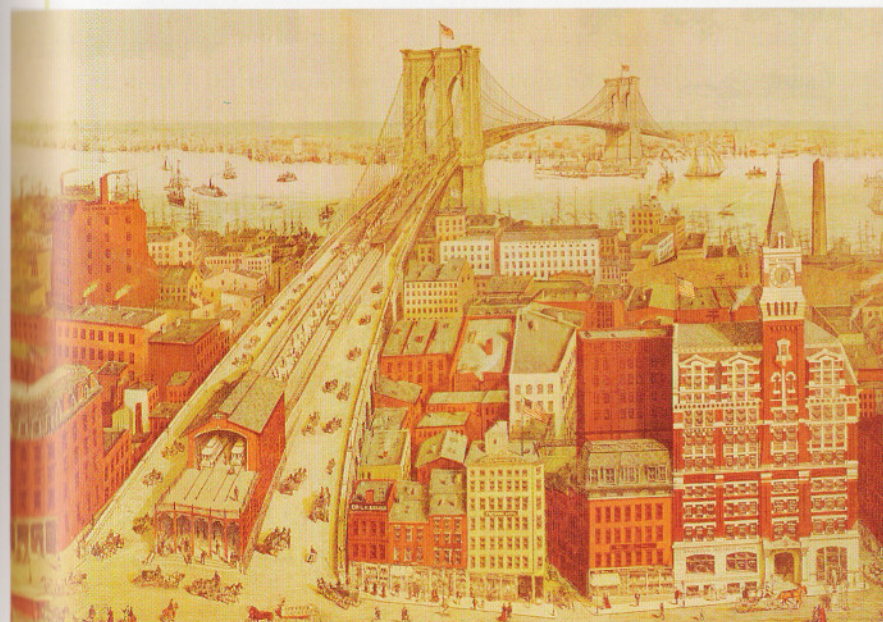
### 8 Topic – Own holidays

Find a picture or photograph of a hotel you know. Tell the class about it using the following points to help you.

- Where is the hotel and have you stayed in it?
- Describe the hotel and what you can do there.
- Do you think the hotel has a ghost? Why?/Why not?
- What do you think about ghosts, do they exist?
- Where else have you stayed on holiday, would you like to stay in a haunted castle?

## Oscar Wilde in America

In 1882, Oscar Wilde visited America and gave a series of lectures. He was not the first important British writer to give a lecture tour in America. Charles Dickens had been a great success in America earlier in the nineteenth century. Wilde travelled to many great cities, including New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington and Baltimore. He also went to Canada during his lecture tour. He was in America from January until October and earned a lot of money. The Americans wanted to see Oscar Wilde because of his reputation.

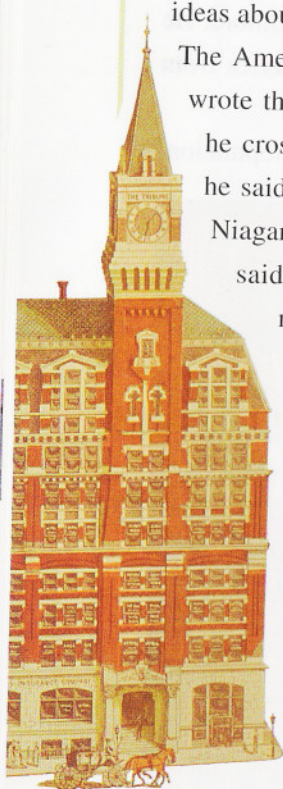


Brooklyn Bridge, c. 1883 (engraving) by R. Schwartz.  
The bridge had been recently built when Wilde arrived in New York.

He was famous for being witty, for wearing strange clothes and for having the latest ideas about art. He chose his clothes carefully before he began his visit. For example, on the ship from England, he wore a great green coat, a round cap like a turban, a shirt with a wide collar and a sky-blue tie. During his lectures, he often wore 'knee-breeches'. These were half-length trousers with silk stockings. Everybody wanted to see the eccentric Irish writer with flamboyant clothes and shocking ideas about beauty in art.

The American newspapers printed lots of stories about Oscar. They wrote that 'Oscar Wilde was disappointed with the Atlantic' when he crossed from England to America. As he entered the country, he said: 'I have nothing to declare but my genius.' When he saw Niagara Falls, where many Americans went on honeymoon,<sup>1</sup> he said: "Niagara is the first great disappointment of American married life." Towards the end of his tour, he said: 'I have civilised America.'

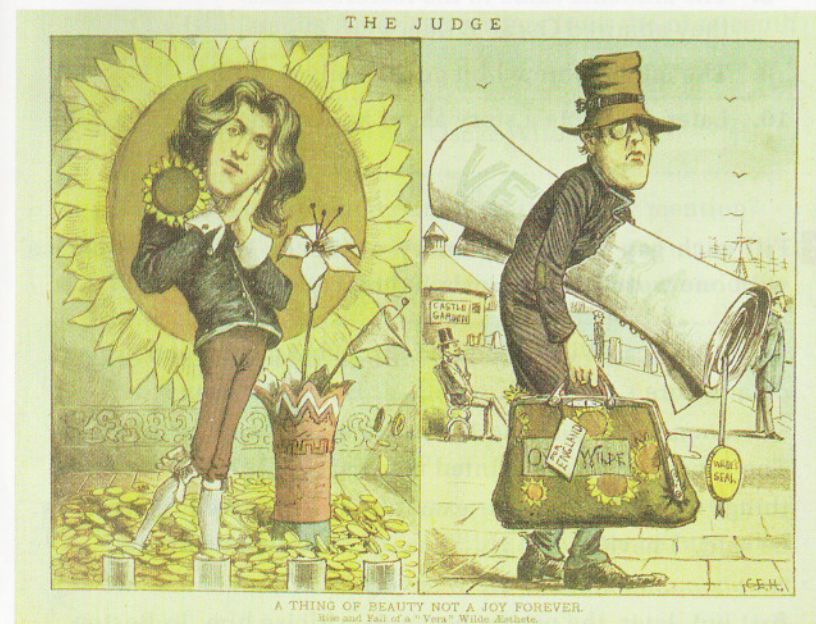
At first, Oscar Wilde was very popular. People invited him to dinners and parties and introduced him to famous American writers. He met the two most famous American poets at that time, Walt Whitman and Longfellow. But not everybody liked Oscar. Many Americans thought his clothes were silly and his ideas were dangerous. In Boston, sixty American university students from Harvard attended his lecture, wearing similar clothes to Oscar. Each one carried a sunflower. They wanted to mock<sup>2</sup>



1. **honeymoon** : holiday for a married couple after the wedding.
2. **mock** : laugh at, insult.

him for being effeminate and ridiculous. The newspapers began to attack him. But large audiences came to his lectures and Oscar continued to make money. Wilde even visited a silver mine in the Rocky Mountains. The miners had never seen anyone like Oscar before. They lowered him down a mine in a silver bucket and he had dinner under the ground. His visit to the mine was a great success.

The visit to America was an important step in Oscar Wilde's career. After the tour, he stayed in America a little longer and arranged for productions of two of his plays. And in 1887, he published 'The Canterville Ghost', a story about the Otis family.



Caricature of Oscar Wilde by an American satirist, published in New York, 1883.

**1 Write T for TRUE or F for FALSE after these statements.**

1. Oscar Wilde visited America with Charles Dickens. ....
2. He also visited Canada and gave lectures there. ....
3. The lecture tour was financially successful. ....
4. He wore very unusual and dramatic clothes. ....
5. All the Americans liked Oscar Wilde. ....
6. Oscar Wilde refused to visit Niagara Falls. ....
7. The newspaper stories stopped people from attending his lectures. ....
8. The students came to his lecture because they admired Oscar Wilde. ....
9. The miners threw him down a silver mine. ....
10. Later, he wrote a story about an American family. ....

**2 Fill each gap in this summary of 'Oscar Wilde in America' with one word from the original text.**

In 1882, Oscar Wilde travelled through America and Canada on a lecture <sup>1</sup>..... . He visited many <sup>2</sup>..... and <sup>3</sup>..... a lot of money. The American media printed many <sup>4</sup>..... things which he said. For example, as he entered the country, he said, 'I have <sup>5</sup>..... to declare but my <sup>6</sup>..... .' He was very <sup>7</sup>..... at first but, later, the papers began to criticise him. In Boston, sixty <sup>8</sup>..... mocked him at one of his lectures.

However, he continued his tour and even went down a <sup>9</sup>..... <sup>10</sup>..... in the Rocky Mountains. Later, American theatres put on two of his <sup>11</sup>..... . Near the end of his tour, he said, 'I have <sup>12</sup>..... America!'

**3 Now answer these questions by finding the information in the text.**

1. When did Oscar Wilde publish 'The Canterville Ghost'? .....
2. Name two famous American writers from the nineteenth century. ....
3. What kind of trousers did Oscar Wilde wear? .....
4. Which American university does the writer mention? .....
5. Which other writer from Britain had visited America? .....
6. How many countries did Wilde visit on his lecture tour? .....
7. What was a popular honeymoon destination for Americans? .....
8. In which month did Oscar Wilde begin his lecture tour? .....



## PART THREE

# The Terrible Twins



**T**he ghost planned his revenge.<sup>1</sup>  
 'I will dress myself in old-fashioned clothes. I will wear this hat with a red feather<sup>2</sup> and this shroud<sup>3</sup> round my body. I will take this old knife. Then I will go to Washington's bedroom. I hate that boy because he always removes my bloodstain. I will wake him up. Then I will stab<sup>4</sup> myself three times in the neck. He will scream with terror.

'Then I will go to his parents' room. I will put my hand on their faces in the middle of the night. I will whisper<sup>5</sup> the secrets of death in their ears.

'Then I will go to the twins. I will be a skeleton. By the end of the night, they will all be mad.

'But I won't hurt pretty Miss Virginia. She is the only one of the family who has not laughed at me.'

1. **revenge** : punishment for the Otis family.

2. **feather** :

3. **shroud** : sheet for covering a dead body.

4. **stab** : strike with a knife.

5. **whisper** : speak in a very quiet voice.



It was the perfect night. The rain fell heavily. The wind blew<sup>1</sup> round the old house.

For a long time the twins were awake. They were laughing about something. At last the house was silent.

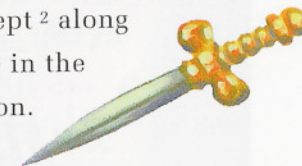
'Three hundred years ago I murdered my wife. Now I will do another terrible thing.'

The Ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville crept<sup>2</sup> along the corridor in the darkness. A dog howled<sup>3</sup> in the night. The storm clouds passed over the moon.

He approached Washington's bedroom.

'Aaaaaaaaaaaaaagh!!!'

In front of him there was a horrible ghost. It had a round, fat, white face. Fire came from its eyes and mouth. It was



1. **blew** : moved (for the wind) (to blow-blew-blown).

2. **crept** : moved quietly and slowly (to creep-crept-crept).

3. **howled** : made a terrible loud noise.



## THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

covered in a long white shroud. There was a notice hanging from its neck with strange writing. Perhaps it was a list of crimes. It raised <sup>1</sup> a sword <sup>2</sup> in its hand.

Sir Simon had never seen another ghost before. He was very afraid. He ran away back to his secret room. He was there all night in the dark, shivering <sup>3</sup> with fear. <sup>4</sup>

At last, the sun rose. <sup>5</sup> Very carefully and slowly, he went back to look at the other ghost. Perhaps it was a friend. They could work together to frighten the Americans.

But the other ghost was not there. He found only a white curtain, <sup>6</sup> a turnip, <sup>7</sup> a kitchen knife and a notice. He read these words in old-fashioned writing:

**YE OTIS GHOSTE<sup>8</sup>**  
***Ye Only True and***  
***Original Spirit***  
**IGNORE**  
**ALL IMITATIONS!**

1. raised : held up.

2. sword : weapon.

3. shivering : trembling, shaking.

4. fear : feeling of being afraid.

5. rose : came up (to rise-rose-risen).

6. curtain : cloth that hangs at a window.

7. turnip : kind of round vegetable.

8. Ye Otis Ghoste : The Otis Ghost (old-fashioned English).



# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

At last he understood. The twins had made the figure of a ghost. They had tricked <sup>1</sup> him.

'I will murder them,' he promised himself.

The Ghost was too tired and afraid to take revenge. Instead, he went back

to his room and climbed inside an old empty coffin. <sup>2</sup> There he felt safe from the terrible American family. Poor Ghost. He had very bad nerves. If there was a sudden noise, he jumped

with fear. He did not even

replace the bloodstain in the library.

'The Otis family come from a modern country with no history and no soul. <sup>3</sup> It is impossible to live with them in the same house.'

But the Ghost's job was to haunt Canterville Chase. Three hundred years ago, he had promised to do this. It was his duty. <sup>4</sup> Every Saturday he walked through the corridors. He was afraid of the twins so he used 'Rising Sun Lubricator' on his chains. He did not want to make a noise.

1. **tricked** : made a fool of, deceived.
2. **coffin** : box for a dead body.
3. **no soul** : no spirit, no civilisation.
4. **duty** : responsibility.

# THE TERRIBLE TWINS



The twins continued to hurt him. They tied strings <sup>1</sup> across the corridor so that he fell over. They put butter on the stairs so that he slipped. <sup>2</sup>

The Ghost was very angry. He recovered <sup>3</sup> his courage.

'I will appear as "the Headless <sup>4</sup> Lord",' he decided. 'This time, I will frighten them all. Seventy years ago, I appeared as the Headless Lord in front of young Lady Barbara. She ran away from Canterville Chase and never returned.'


He took three hours to get ready. Then, in the middle of the night, he crept towards the twins' bedroom. He pushed the door open.

'Aaaaaaaagh!!!!'

A large, heavy jug <sup>5</sup> of water was on top of the door. It fell on his head. He was wet from head to toe. <sup>6</sup> Sitting up in bed, the twins laughed and laughed.

The Ghost was afraid to leave his room. Because of the water, he had a terrible cold and sneezed <sup>7</sup> all day.

When he haunted the house after this, he was very quiet. One night, he was downstairs in the hall. He looked at the large photograph of Mr and Mrs Otis.

1. **strings** : thin ropes.
2. **slipped** : fell, for example on a wet surface.
3. **recovered** : got back.
4. **Headless** : without a head.
5. **jug** : container for water. 
6. **from head to toe** : all over, from the top to the bottom.
7. **sneezed** : went 'Atishoo'.



# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

'Where are the old paintings of all the Lord Cantervilles?' he wondered. 'These Americans are so uncivilised.'

'BOOOOOO!!!'


The twins jumped out of a dark corner and shouted in his ear.

The Ghost ran up the stairs. Washington was waiting for him. He had a large garden syringe<sup>1</sup> in his hands.

'Help!' shouted the Ghost. 'Help!'

He jumped into the fireplace and escaped up the chimney.<sup>2</sup> 'These Americans are dangerous. I will never leave my room again.'



1. syringe : 

2. chimney : passage for the smoke from the fireplace.

A C T I V I T I E S

## What happened in Part Three?

**PET 1** Look at the statements below about the events and characters in Part Three. Reread Part Three to decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A as your answer. If it is not correct, write B as your answer.

1. The Ghost decided to frighten all the members of the Otis family.
2. It was a perfect night with no bad weather.
3. Washington screamed as the Ghost approached his room.
4. It was the first time Sir Simon had seen another ghost.
5. He did not return to look for the other ghost until it was daylight.
6. Sir Simon went back to the library to replace the bloodstain.
7. The twins stopped playing tricks on Sir Simon after the success of their 'ghost'.
8. The Headless Lord and Lady Barbara ran away and never returned.
9. When he pushed open the twins' door, a jug of water fell down.
10. Mr and Mrs Otis replaced the old paintings with a photograph of themselves.

### ANSWER HERE:

1. .... 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. .... 6. .... 7. .... 8. .... 9. .... 10. ....

## What do you think?

- 2 Did the twins do the right thing? Do you feel sorry for the Ghost? What will Virginia do if she meets the Ghost?

## Vocabulary

### ADJECTIVES THAT END IN -Y

- 3 Can you complete these words? There are clues to help you. The first word is done for you.

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. c r a z y (mad)             | j. a _ g _ y (upset)                |
| b. h _ _ _ y (not sad)         | k. l _ _ y (not hard-working)       |
| c. r _ _ _ y (wet weather)     | l. s _ _ _ y (bright weather)       |
| d. f _ _ _ y (unclear weather) | m. c l _ _ _ y (covered sky)        |
| e. u _ _ y (not beautiful)     | n. d _ _ _ y (not clean)            |
| f. d _ y (not wet)             | o. f _ _ _ y (amusing / strange)    |
| g. p _ _ _ _ y (attractive)    | p. l _ _ _ y (fortunate)            |
| h. r _ _ k y (dangerous)       | q. f r _ _ _ _ l y (nice to people) |
| i. s t _ _ m y (bad weather)   | r. n _ _ _ _ _ y (badly behaved)    |

When you add **-er** and **-est** to these words, the **y** changes to **i**.

Example: Who are the naughtiest children in the world?

The twins.

Who is the unluckiest ghost in the world? Sir Simon.

Who is the craziest person in the world? My brother.

Make more questions like these.

## Grammar

### The Future

Look at page 46. The Ghost often uses the future tense.

Can you find all the future verbs? Look for: **will / 'll / won't**.

We generally use **will / 'll / won't** when:

1. We are predicting a future event or situation  
'Perhaps the Ghost will appear tonight,' said Mr Otis.
2. We decide to do something at the moment of speaking  
The Ghost suddenly saw Washington. 'I'll frighten him,' he decided.

We can also use **going to** to talk about the future.

We use **going to** when:

1. We are certain about a future event  
Look at those clouds. It's **going to** rain.  
The Otis family are **going to** leave the house.
2. We have already decided to do something  
'I'm **going to** buy Canterville Chase,' Mr Otis told everyone.

- 4 Which form is more suitable in these sentences: **will / 'll** or **am / is / are going to**?

- a. Suddenly Mrs Otis had an idea. 'I ..... have a party for our new neighbours,' she thought.
- b. 'Look at those black clouds. It ..... rain,' said Virginia.
- c. Later the sun came out. 'I ..... go riding in the woods,' decided Virginia.
- d. Virginia went to get her pony. 'I ..... go riding,' she told Washington.
- e. Cecil fell in love with Virginia when he first saw her. 'I ..... marry her one day,' he thought.
- f. 'Do you know what you want to do in the future?' 'Yes,' said Washington. 'I ..... become President of the United States.'

## Dialogue

5 The twins are planning to frighten Sir Simon.

jug of water – top of door  
opens door – gets wet

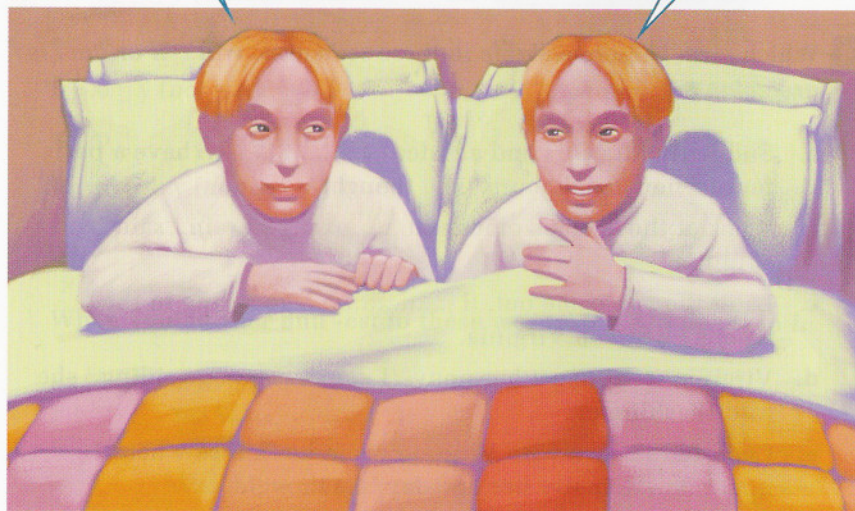
put butter near top of stairs –  
slips – falls down the stairs

hide behind door – jump out  
scream in his ear – runs away

tie string across corridor –  
walks along – falls over

cut hole in floor –  
cover with carpet –  
walk along – falls into cellar

come up quietly behind him –  
tie a firework\* to his shirt –  
light it



\* firework : explosive usually used to celebrate special occasions.

Use these ideas to create a dialogue between Ricky and Robby.  
You can begin like this:

Ricky: Let's frighten the Ghost.

Robby: Yes, but how?

Ricky: Let's put a jug of water on top of the bedroom door.

Robby: That's a good idea.

Ricky: When he opens the door, the jug will fall. Then the Ghost will get wet.

Robby: Fantastic. But I've got an even better idea...

Can you think of any other tricks?

## Newspaper article

PET 6 Read the text and questions below. For each question, write A, B, C or D in the space for answers.

### AMERICAN FAMILY IN HAUNTED HOUSE

Mr and Mrs Hiram B. Otis and their three children have recently moved into our region's most celebrated haunted house – Canterville Chase. There have been strange events associated with the house ever since the mysterious disappearance of Sir Simon de Canterville in the 16th century.

While some local people are optimistic about the chances of the new residents, the majority think that they are unlikely to stay long once the haunting begins. Our area is rightly proud of its association with one of the most frightening and most witnessed ghosts in

Britain. The Canterville Ghost will soon send the Otis clan back across the Atlantic to where they came from.

Mrs Umney, the long-serving housekeeper at the Chase, told our reporter: 'The Americans have no respect for Sir Simon. He is sure to take his revenge.' We will keep our readers informed of developments at the ancient house. Our advice to local residents is that they should keep well clear of the house until this dangerous, unpredictable situation is over. Sir Simon has a three-hundred year reputation for violence.

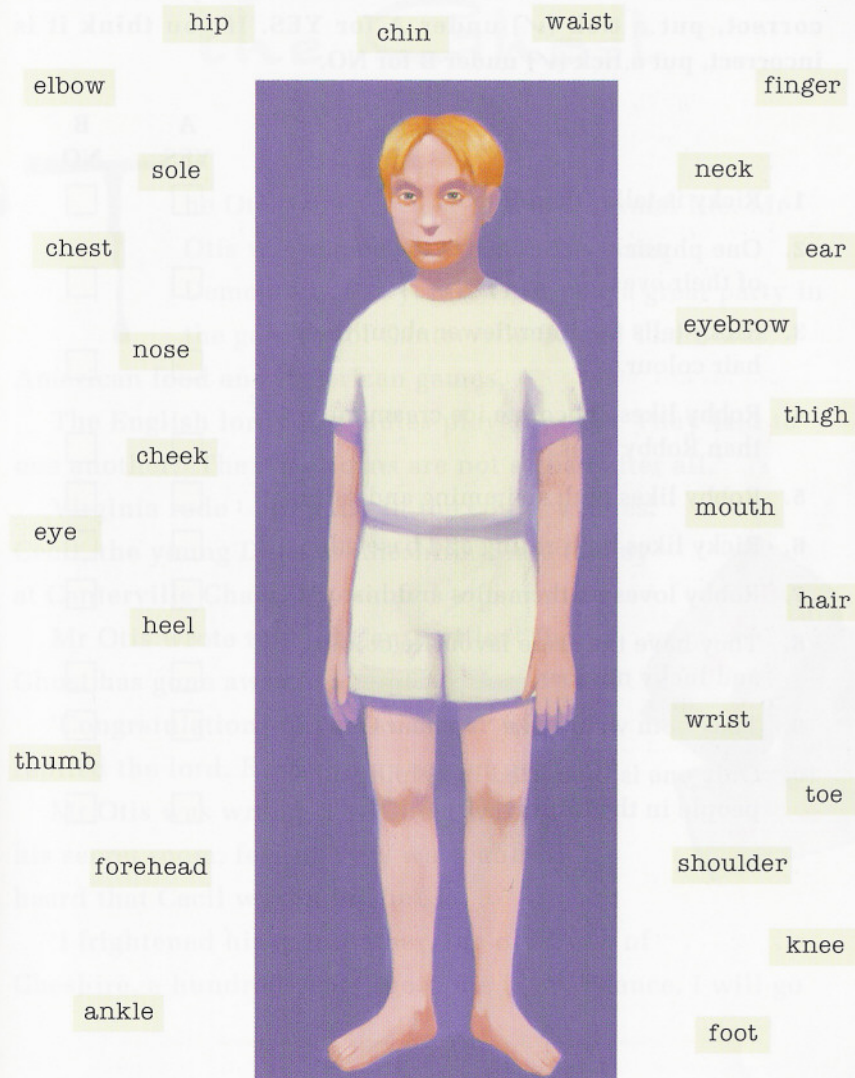
- The article is probably written for
  - a national newspaper
  - a local newspaper
  - an American newspaper
  - a scientific journal about ghosts
- In general, the writer is
  - in favour of the Ghost
  - in favour of the Americans
  - against the Ghost
  - neutral
- How do you think the writer might regard the Ghost?
  - an evil presence in the house
  - a gentle, welcoming spirit
  - not real
  - an important and powerful spirit
- What do the local people think?
  - They all believe the Ghost will win
  - They mostly want the Otis family to stay
  - They mostly think the Otis family will leave soon
  - They all agree with Mrs Umney
- The writer suggests that local people should
  - visit Canterville Chase
  - avoid Canterville Chase
  - protect the Americans from danger
  - keep the house safe

ANSWER HERE:

1. .... 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. ....

## Parts of the body

- 7 Look at this picture of one of the twins. Can you draw a line from each word to the correct place on the body?



 **Listening**

**PET 8** Look at the ten statements for this part. You will hear an interview between the twins and an interviewer. Decide if you think each statement is correct or incorrect. If you think it is correct, put a tick (✓) under A for YES. If you think it is incorrect, put a tick (✓) under B for NO.

	A YES	B NO
1. Ricky is taller than Robby.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. One physical difference is the colour of their eyes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Ricky tells the interviewer about their hair colour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Robby likes chocolate ice cream more than Robby does.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Robby likes both swimming and riding.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Ricky likes both riding and baseball.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Robby loves mathematics and history.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. They have the same favourite colour and lucky number.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. They both want to be 'Number One'.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Only one is interested in helping other people in the future.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## PART FOUR

# Virginia Meets the Ghost



The Otis family began to live a normal life. Mr Otis wrote a history of the American Democratic Party. Mrs Otis gave a great party in the gardens of Canterville Chase. There was American food and American games.

The English lords and ladies played poker. They said to one another, 'The Americans are not so bad after all.'

Virginia rode<sup>1</sup> her pony in the country lanes. Cecil, the young Duke of Cheshire, came to stay at Canterville Chase. He wanted to marry her.

Mr Otis wrote to Lord Canterville: 'The Ghost has gone away.'

'Congratulations to you and your wife,' replied the lord. Everything seemed perfect.

Mr Otis was wrong. The Ghost was still in his secret room, feeling very weak and ill. He heard that Cecil was in the house.

'I frightened his grandfather, the old Duke of Cheshire, a hundred years ago. This is my chance. I will go



1. rode : went on a horse (to ride-rode-ridden).



## THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

out again, dressed as a vampire. I will make him die with fear.'

The Ghost got ready <sup>1</sup> to haunt the house again. Then he remembered the terrible twins.

'No,' he decided. 'I am too ill. I will stay in my room for ever.'

That night, the young Duke slept peacefully in his bed. What did he dream about? Virginia.

The next day, the two young people went riding together. They were very happy. Then a branch <sup>2</sup> tore <sup>3</sup> Virginia's jacket.

'I must go back to the house,' she told Cecil. 'I'll see you later.'

Virginia returned alone to the house. She went up the back stairs. <sup>4</sup> She did not want anyone to see her torn jacket. The door of one of the rooms at the back of the house was open. There was someone inside.

'Who's that?' she thought. 'Perhaps it's a servant.'

She went inside the room quietly. To her surprise, she saw the Canterville Ghost sitting by the window. He was sadly looking at the red and golden autumn leaves. Virginia decided to speak to him.

'I am so sorry for you. My twin brothers are going away to

---

1. **got ready** : prepared himself.

2. **branch** : part of a tree.

3. **tore** : broke, damaged (to tear-tore-torn).

4. **back stairs** : stairs at the back of the house.



Eton <sup>1</sup> tomorrow. After that, if you are good, nobody will upset <sup>2</sup> you.'

Sir Simon looked at the sweet pretty girl.

'Don't ask me to be good. I am a ghost. I *must* make noise with my chains. I *must* frighten people. I *must* walk about at night. It is my job.'

'I know you have been very bad,' said Virginia. 'Mrs Umney said that you murdered your wife.'

'Yes, that's true. But it was a family matter. <sup>3</sup> It isn't your business.'

'It is wrong to kill anyone.'

The Ghost became angry. 'My wife was ugly. She cooked badly. She didn't look after my clothes. And after she died,

---

1. **Eton** : name of a famous English school for rich children.

2. **upset** : make sad or angry.

3. **matter** : affair, concern.



## THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

her brothers took revenge. Do you know what they did?’

‘No.’

‘They shut me <sup>1</sup> in a room without any food until I died.’

‘Oh, Mr Ghost – I mean, Sir Simon – are you hungry? I have a sandwich here. Would you like it?’

‘No, thank you. Ghosts don’t eat anything. But it is very kind of you. You are much nicer than the rest of your horrible, rude, <sup>2</sup> vulgar, dishonest family.’

‘Stop!’ cried Virginia. ‘*You* are rude and dishonest. You stole <sup>3</sup> my paints <sup>4</sup> and used them to replace the bloodstain. That is why it was sometimes red, sometimes purple, sometimes green. I love painting but you took all my colours.’

‘I’m sorry,’ said the Ghost. ‘It is very difficult to get real blood these days. Your horrible brother removed the stain every day with his “Pinkerton’s Champion Cleaner”. It was necessary to use your paints. It wasn’t wrong. You Americans don’t understand ghosts.’

Virginia was angry too.

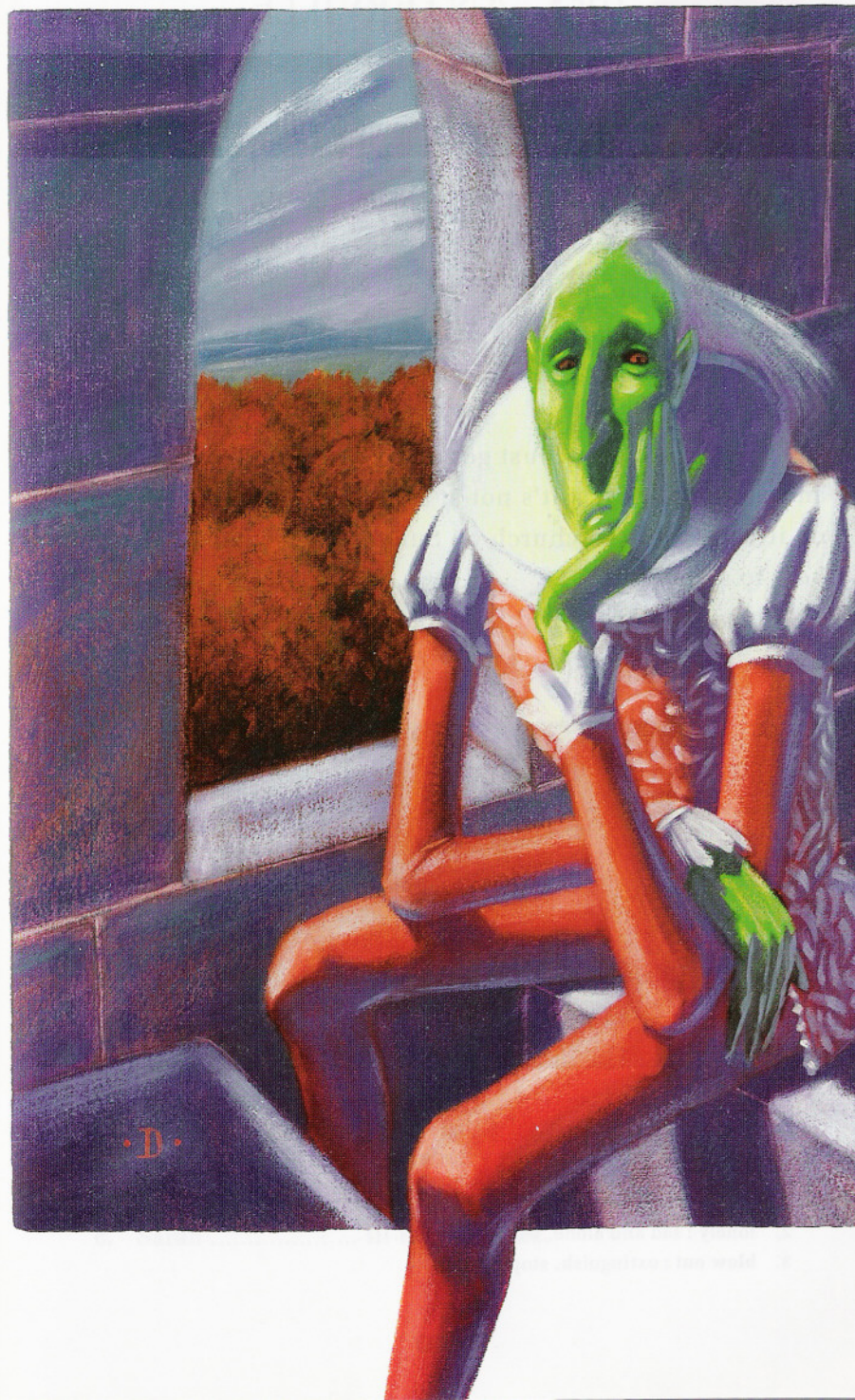
‘You know nothing about it. You must come to America. Then you will understand. My father will get you a free ticket. You will be a great success in New York. The people will pay a hundred thousand dollars for a ticket to see you.’

1. **shut me** : locked me, put me in a room so I couldn’t escape.

2. **rude** : not polite.

3. **stole** : took without permission (to steal-stole-stolen).

4. **paints** : colours for making a picture.





# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

'I don't like America. You have no history. All you have is money and bad manners.' <sup>1</sup>

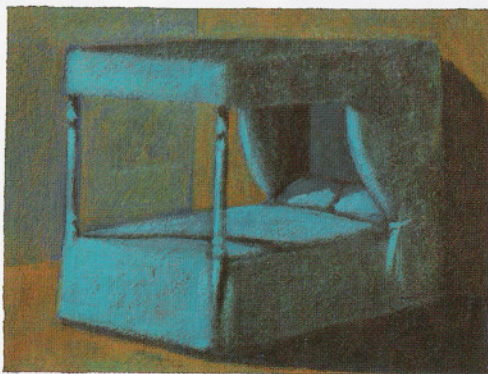
'Goodbye,' said Virginia angrily. 'I will go and get the twins.'

The Ghost looked sorry.

'Please don't go, Miss Virginia,' he cried. 'I am so lonely <sup>2</sup> and unhappy. I don't know what to do. I want to go to sleep but I cannot.'

'That's ridiculous. Just go to bed, blow out <sup>3</sup> your candle and close your eyes. It's not at all difficult to fall asleep. I do it very easily in church on Sundays. Even babies know how to sleep.'

'I have not slept for three hundred years,' said the Ghost sadly. 'I am so tired.'



1. **bad manners** : rude behaviour, behaviour which is not nice.
2. **lonely** : sad and alone, without friends.
3. **blow out** : extinguish, stop burning.

## What happened in Part Four?

### 1 Answer the following questions.

- a. What did Mr Otis tell Lord Canterville?
- b. Why did Virginia go back to the house?
- c. What was the Ghost doing when Virginia saw him?
- d. Was Sir Simon sorry for killing his wife?
- e. What did Virginia suggest to the Ghost?
- f. Why was the Ghost tired?

## What do you think?

### 2 Can Virginia help the Ghost?

## Grammar

### The Present Perfect

We use the **Present Perfect** form of the verb for an action that lasts from the **past** until **now**. We often use it with:

– **for** with the period of time:

Example: 'I **haven't slept** for three hundred years,' Sir Simon said.

– **since** with a date or time in the past:

Example: The Ghost **has lived** in Canterville Chase **since** 1584.

### 3 Fill the gaps in these sentences. Use *haven't* or *hasn't* with a suitable verb.

- a. Connie ..... blueberry pie since she left America.
- b. Joe ..... a book since he left school.
- c. Sarah ..... ill for ten years.

- d. Max ..... a letter to his girlfriend for three weeks.
- e. Anne ..... a bicycle since she was a child.
- f. Steve ..... a car since the accident.
- g. Mary-Lou ..... her parents for fifteen years.
- h. Bob and Sheila ..... by air since their honeymoon.

## Grammar

### While + the Past Continuous

Look at these examples:

Virginia (*talk*) to the Ghost. (long action)

+ She (*become*) angry. (sudden action)

**While** Virginia **was talking** to the Ghost, she **became** angry.

She (*come*) into the room. (sudden action)

+ The Ghost (*look*) out of the window. (long action)

She **came** into the room **while** the Ghost **was looking** out of the window.

- 4** Now look at the sentences below. Join the sentences by using **while**. Put the verbs in the Past Continuous or the Past Simple.

- a. The storm (*begin*). + They (*drive*) to Canterbury Chase.
- b. They (*eat*) supper. + Mrs Otis (*notice*) the bloodstain.
- c. The Otis family (*sleep*). + Strange things (*happen*).
- d. The Ghost (*run*) away. + The twins (*throw*) pillows at him.
- e. The Ghost (*laugh*). + Mrs Otis (*come*) out of her bedroom.
- f. The twins (*jump*) out. + The Ghost (*look*) at the photographs.
- g. Cecil (*sleep*). + He (*dream*) about Virginia.
- h. Virginia (*ride*) her pony. + She (*tear*) her jacket.
- i. Virginia (*notice*) an open door. + She (*go*) to her room.

Can you write more sentences using **while** and the Past Continuous?

## The United States

### 5 What do you know about the United States?

- 1. How many states are there?
- 2. How many states can you name?
- 3. What are the most important cities?
- 4. What is the longest river?
- 5. What is the name of the most famous mountain range?
- 6. What is the name of the biggest waterfall?
- 7. Who is the President?
- 8. Who was the first president of the United States?
- 9. What does the flag look like?
- 10. What languages are spoken in the USA?
- 11. Who discovered America? When?
- 12. What kinds of food do Americans like to eat?

If you don't know the answers, look in an encyclopaedia. Use the encyclopaedia to make your own questions about America.

## Speaking

T: GRADE 5/6

### 6 Topic – Entertainment

Bring an object which has American origins to class (a CD, a magazine, a film, some food.) Talk about the American influence in your life using the points below.

- a. Describe your object and compare it to something similar from your country.
- b. How often do you eat hamburgers, watch American films or listen to American pop music?
- c. Have you visited the USA? Do you want to go there in the future?

## A letter to a penpal

- 7** Here is a letter from an English boy to his American penpal, Marianne. It is the first time he has written to her.

Dear Marianne,

How are you? I have never had a pen-pal in the United States before, so I am looking forward to hearing from you.

First of all, I want to tell you something about myself. My name is Julian. I am 14 years old and I live in Cambridge. It is an old city with a famous university. I live with my parents and my two brothers, Mark and Tony. We have a dog and two cats.

I go to secondary school and next month I will take some important exams. My favourite subjects at school are Italian and Art. I hate Mathematics. My hobbies are ice-skating and riding. I also enjoy going to the disco. I like dancing very much.

I don't know much about the United States. But I like American film-stars and hamburgers. I would love to see all the famous things, like the Statue of Liberty and the White House and the Grand Canyon.

Please write back as soon as you can. Tell me about yourself, your family and your city. What kind of music do you like? Do you like dancing too?

In my next letter I'll tell you the results of my exams.

I hope that you soon have time to write back,

with best wishes

Julian

Now write a letter about yourself to a new penpal in America. Tell him or her about your family, your hobbies, your school, your city, etc.

## Listening



- 8** You will hear some questions. As you listen, tick (✓) A or B or C or D below.

- |    |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | A <input type="checkbox"/> | B <input type="checkbox"/> | C <input type="checkbox"/> | D <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | A <input type="checkbox"/> | B <input type="checkbox"/> | C <input type="checkbox"/> | D <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | A <input type="checkbox"/> | B <input type="checkbox"/> | C <input type="checkbox"/> | D <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | A <input type="checkbox"/> | B <input type="checkbox"/> | C <input type="checkbox"/> | D <input type="checkbox"/> |

Look at your answers. The voice on the cassette will tell you how to add up your points.

**0-10 points:** You are not at all superstitious.  
You don't believe in ghosts.

**15-30 points:** You don't really believe in ghosts.  
But if somebody shows you good evidence, you are ready to accept it.

**35-45 points:** You are superstitious.  
You are ready to believe in ghosts.  
You are probably afraid of ghosts.

**50-60 points:** You believe in money.  
Ghosts are not important to you.  
But you want to be rich and famous.

# GHOSTS

**T**here are many places in Britain where there are stories about ghosts. The ghosts haunt castles, palaces, churches, graveyards, old houses like Canterville Chase, theatres, even pubs and modern homes. Some ghosts look like real people. They are headless aristocrats or beautiful women. Some ghosts are adults and some are children. In other cases, they seem like a mist or a transparent white shape. Sometimes, the witnesses <sup>1</sup> cannot see the ghost. Instead, they hear a voice or feel a cold wind in the house. Is there any evidence that ghosts really exist? Some people have taken photographs which perhaps show ghosts. But usually the photos are not clear. Sometimes, several witnesses have seen a ghost at the same time. Or separate witnesses describe the same kind of

ghost that they have seen at different times. Some years ago, some researchers spent the night in a room under the ground in Dover Castle. They took a video camera with them. In the middle of the night there



Dover Castle.

1. **witnesses** : people who see an event.

was a strange knocking noise. You can hear the noise on the video. Was it a ghost? Or was it the wind? Nobody knows.

Many large houses have stories about ghosts. One of the most famous ghosts haunts Hampton Court Palace, near London. People have seen the ghost of one of Henry VIII's wives there. Her name was Catherine Howard and King Henry executed her. Before her death, she walked along the long corridor to ask Henry to forgive her. Now, they say that her ghost haunts the corridor.

Are ghosts friendly or do they try to harm <sup>1</sup> us? There are stories about evil ghosts who try to lead human beings to their death.

However, there are also ghosts which are useful and good. Shakespeare wrote about a ghost in his famous play, *Hamlet*. The ghost of Hamlet's father tells the truth about his murder to his son. In Shakespeare's time many people believed in ghosts. Nowadays, fewer people believe in them. But we still enjoy telling or listening to ghost stories. Countries all over the world have legends about ghosts.

In the nineteenth century, when Oscar Wilde was alive, ghost stories were very



Called Catherine Howard  
by unknown artist.

1. **harm** : damage, cause injury.

*Gertrude, Hamlet and the Ghost of Hamlet's Father* (1773)  
by Johann Heinrich Füssli.



popular. Do you know the famous story about ghosts that Charles Dickens wrote? It is called *A Christmas Carol*. There are stories about ghosts from all periods of history. In some places, people have seen the ghosts of Roman soldiers. They are walking on the original level of the ground from Roman times. So you can only see the soldiers from the knees upwards! In other places, people who have died recently come back as ghosts. But these are only stories. Do you believe them?

**1** Now look at these statements. According to the passage, are they True or False? Write T for True or F for False after each one.

1. All ghosts look like real people. ....
2. Some people hear ghosts without seeing them. ....
3. The evidence that ghosts exist is not very strong. ....

4. The researchers proved that there is a ghost in Dover Castle. ....
5. King Henry VIII's ghost haunts Hampton Court Palace. ....
6. There is a photograph of Catherine Howard's ghost. ....
7. Ghosts can be good or bad. ....
8. In Shakespeare's play, Hamlet's father came back as a ghost. ....
9. The Victorians liked ghost stories. ....
10. Oscar Wilde wrote *A Christmas Carol*. ....
11. There are no modern ghosts. ....
12. The author of this article is sure that ghosts exist. ....

**2** Read this summary of the article. Fill each gap with ONE word from the text.

There are many <sup>1</sup>..... about ghosts in Britain. They haunt all kinds of buildings from old castles to modern <sup>2</sup>..... . Some of the ghosts are visible but in other cases, the <sup>3</sup>..... only hear or <sup>4</sup>..... the ghosts. The evidence for ghosts includes <sup>5</sup>....., descriptions and recordings. But even the <sup>6</sup>..... which they took in Dover <sup>7</sup>..... does not prove that ghosts <sup>8</sup>..... .

People say that the ghost of one of Henry VIII's <sup>9</sup>..... haunts Hampton Court Palace. She asked the king to <sup>10</sup>..... her but he executed her, so now she haunts a corridor in the palace. Shakespeare, Wilde and <sup>11</sup>..... have all written about ghosts. Some ghosts come from a long time ago while others are from <sup>12</sup>..... times. But nobody really knows if ghosts are real.



## PART FIVE

# The Garden of Death



Virginia's beautiful blue eyes opened in wonder.<sup>1</sup> Her lips trembled with emotion. She knelt at his side and looked up into his tired old face.

'Poor, poor Ghost,' she whispered. 'Haven't you got a place where you can sleep?'

'Far away, on the other side of the woods,' he answered in a low dreamy<sup>2</sup> voice, 'there is a little garden. The grass is long and deep. The flowers are great white stars. The nightingale<sup>3</sup> sings all night long while the cold moon looks down. The old tree spreads<sup>4</sup> its branches over the sleepers.'

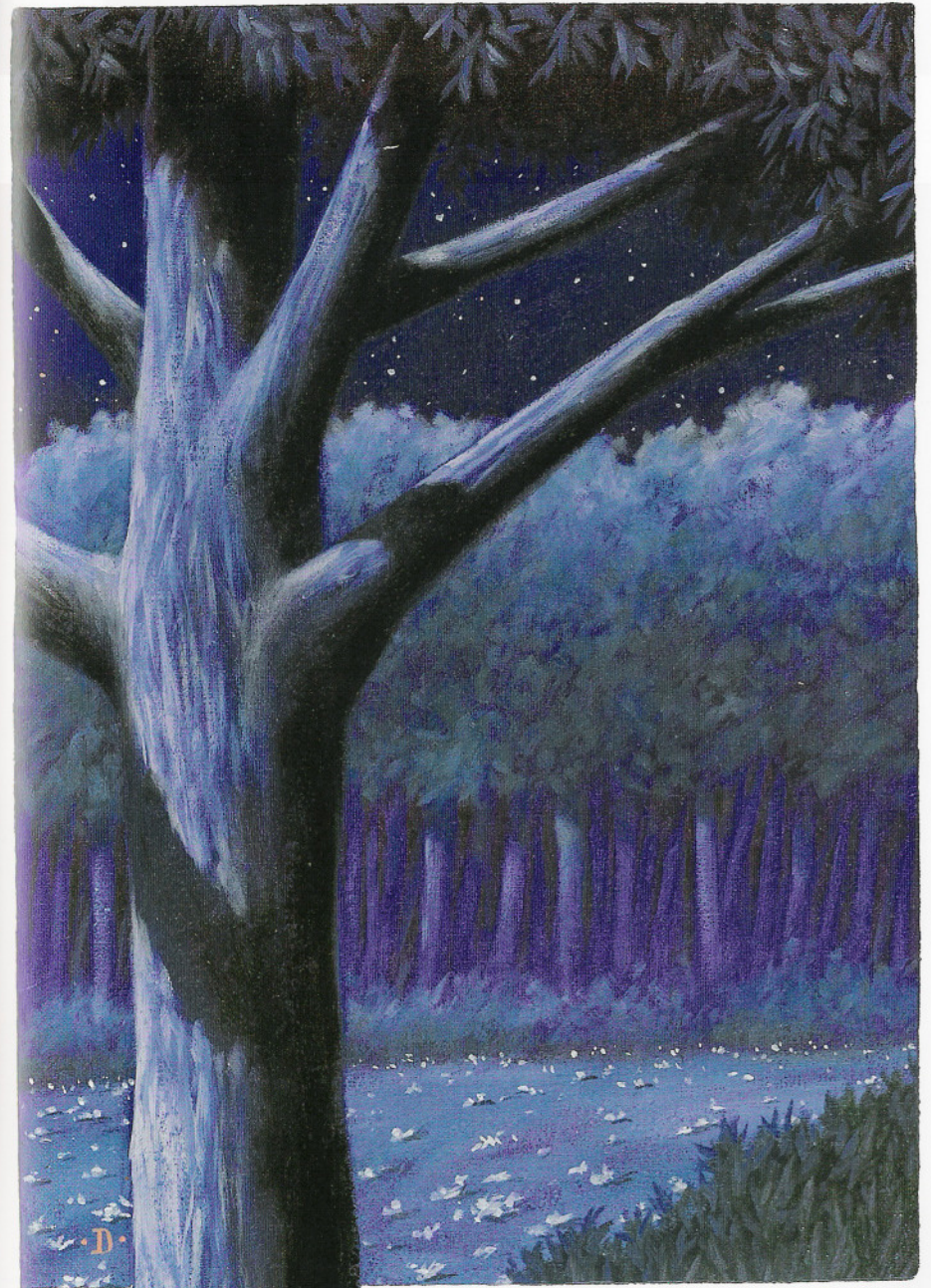
Virginia began to cry.

'You mean the Garden of Death.'

'Yes, Death. Death must be so beautiful. I want to lie in the soft brown earth<sup>5</sup> with the grass above my head. I want to listen to silence. There is no yesterday and no tomorrow. I can forget time, I can forgive life, I can be at peace.'

He looked into Virginia's blue eyes.

1. **wonder** : deep feeling of surprise.
2. **dreamy** : distant, like a dream.
3. **nightingale** : bird which is famous for singing beautifully at night.
4. **spreads** : extends.
5. **earth** : the ground, soil.





## THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

'You can help me. You can open the doors of Death's house for me. You have Love. Love is stronger than Death.'

Virginia trembled. She suddenly felt very cold. For a few moments there was silence. It seemed like a terrible dream.

Then the Ghost spoke again.

'Have you seen the old writing on the library window?'

'Often,' said Virginia. 'I know it well. There are six lines. They say that a golden girl will help you to pray. <sup>1</sup> The black tree will have flowers. A child will cry...'

Then the house will all be still <sup>2</sup>

And peace will come to Canterville.

'But what does it mean?'

'It means,' he said sadly, 'that you must cry for me because I cannot cry. You must pray for me because I have no words. If you have always been sweet and good and kind, the Angel of Death will forgive me. You will see terrible things... Devils will haunt you. Bad voices will whisper in your ears. But nobody can hurt you because you are so good.'

Virginia was silent for a few minutes. The Ghost was very sad. She was looking down at the floor. He could see her golden hair but not her beautiful blue eyes. Perhaps she would not help him. Then she stood up with a strange light in her eyes.

'I am not afraid. Take me to the Garden of Death. I will ask the Angel of Death to forgive you.'

1. **pray** : speak to God.

2. **still** : quiet and calm.



The Ghost stood up. His eyes were happy. He took her hand and kissed it. His lips were as cold as ice and his fingers were as hot as fire.

Bravely, <sup>1</sup> Virginia followed him across the dark room. Voices said, 'Go back! Go back!' The Ghost held her hand tightly <sup>2</sup> and she closed her eyes. Horrible animals looked at her from the darkness.

'Be careful, Virginia. Be careful. We'll never see you again if you go with him,' they said.

The Ghost went more quickly. Virginia did not listen to the voices. At the end of the room, he stopped and said some strange words. The wall opened. In front of her, it was

1. **bravely** : courageously.

2. **tightly** : firmly.



# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

completely black. A cold wind blew. Invisible hands pulled at her dress.

'Quickly, quickly,' cried the Ghost, 'or it will be too late.'  
The wall closed behind them. The room was empty.

'Go upstairs and find Miss Virginia,' said Mrs Otis to one of the servants. 'It's tea-time.'

The servant returned. 'I cannot find your daughter anywhere, Madam.'

The twins and Washington looked for her in the garden. Mr and Mrs Otis searched <sup>1</sup> every room. Nobody was able to find her.

'Perhaps the gypsies <sup>2</sup> have taken her,' said Mr Otis. 'There is a group of gypsies camping in the park. I'll go to look for her there.'

'Please let me go with you,' said the young Duke of Cheshire.

'No, Cecil, you're too young. Stay in the house with my wife and children.'

Mr Otis got on his horse and went to look for her.

'You will never see her again,' whispered the bad voices in the empty room.

1. **searched** : looked in.

2. **gypsies** : special type of people who travel from place to place.

## What happened in Part Five?

### 1 Answer the following questions.

- Where does the Ghost want to go so that he can sleep?
- What is stronger than death?
- What is written on the library window?
- What did the voices say?
- How did Virginia and the Ghost leave the room?
- Why were Mr and Mrs Otis upset?

## What do you think?

### 2 What will happen in the Garden of Death? Will Virginia be able to return?

## Grammar

### The Past Perfect

Look at these pairs of sentences. One action happened before the other:

Mr Otis (*buy*) Canterville Chase. (earlier action)

**after**

The family (*come*) to live there. (later action)

After Mr Otis **had bought** Canterville Chase, the family came to live there.

Cecil (*ask*) Virginia to marry him.

**because**

He (*fall*) in love with her.

Cecil asked Virginia to marry him because he **had fallen** in love with her.

3 Now make similar sentences from the ideas below. Put the verbs in the Past Perfect (for the earlier action) or the Past Simple.

- a. **although** Mr Otis (*lock*) the door at night.  
The stain (*be*) there again in the morning.
- b. **because** The Ghost (*be*) very angry.  
The twins (*throw*) pillows at him.
- c. **because** Mrs Otis (*give*) Sir Simon some medicine.  
He (*laugh*) horribly.
- d. **because** Virginia (*return*) to the house.  
She (*tear*) her jacket.
- e. **although** The Ghost (*steal*) her paints.  
Virginia (*feel*) sorry for him.
- f. **because** Sir Simon (*kill*) her.  
She (*be*) a bad wife.
- g. **because** The brothers (*kill*) Sir Simon.  
He (*murder*) their sister.
- h. **after** The twins (*put*) the Otis Ghost in the corridor.  
They (*wait*) for Sir Simon to come.
- i. **when** The Ghost (*explain*) his problem.  
Virginia (*decide*) to help him.
- j. **because** Mrs Otis (*be*) very worried.  
Virginia (*disappear*).

## Similes


4 A simile is a piece of language which compares two things. There are two examples near the end of Part Five.

His lips were as cold as ice.  
His fingers were as hot as fire.

Look at these similes and fill the gaps with a suitable word from the box.

fast green mischievous<sup>1</sup> pretty quiet  
slow strong stubborn<sup>2</sup> sweet wise

- a. as ..... as a horse
- b. as ..... as an owl
- c. as ..... as the grass
- d. as ..... as sugar
- e. as ..... as a picture
- f. as ..... as a mouse
- g. as ..... as the wind
- h. as ..... as a monkey
- i. as ..... as a mule<sup>3</sup>
- j. as ..... as a snail<sup>4</sup>

1. **mischievous** : naughty, badly behaved.
2. **stubborn** : determined not to change your mind, obstinate.
3. **mule** : cross between a donkey and a horse.
4. **snail** : 

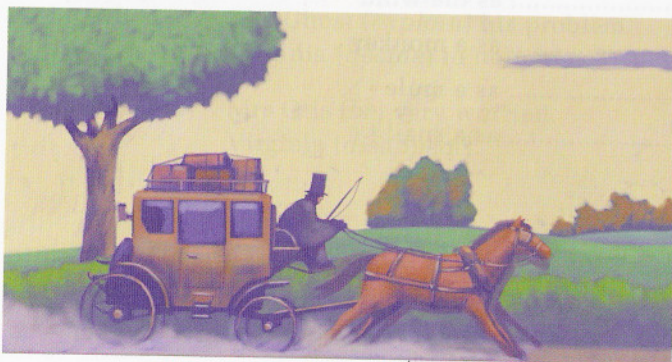
## Writing a summary

- 5 Look at the pictures below. They tell the story of Parts One to Five of 'The Canterville Ghost'. Use the pictures to help you write a summary of the story. You can begin:

Mr Otis bought Canterville Chase from Lord Canterville...



... bought ...

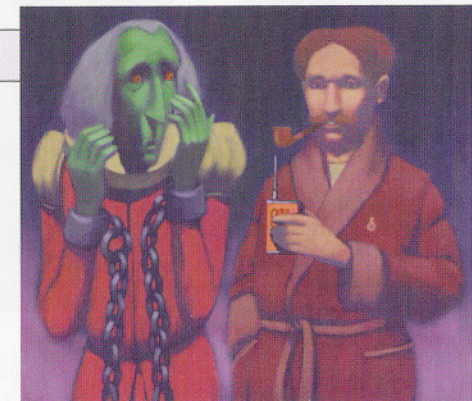


... drove ...



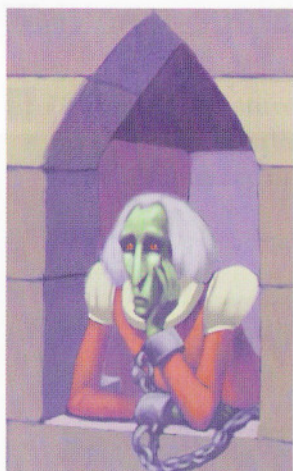
... told ...

... appeared ...



... ran away ...





... stayed ...



... found ... talked ...



... followed ...

**Listening**

- 6** You will hear a poem based on the story of 'The Canterville Ghost'. Listen carefully and fill in the gaps with words from the box.

black   dancers   Death   desert   disappear  
flowers   Forgetfulness   golden   Life   moon  
mountain   night   silent   spreads   woods

Far away, on the other side of the <sup>1</sup>.....,  
there is a little garden.  
The grass is long and deep.  
The <sup>2</sup>..... are great white stars.  
The nightingale sings all night long  
while the cold <sup>3</sup>..... looks down.  
The old tree <sup>4</sup>..... its branches over the sleepers.  
It is the Garden of <sup>5</sup>..... .  
Far away, on the other side of the <sup>6</sup>.....,  
there is a deep lake.  
The water is cold and dark.  
The swans are beautiful <sup>7</sup>..... ghosts.  
The fish glide beneath the surface  
while the sun sets behind the high <sup>8</sup>..... rocks.  
The ferryman and his passengers <sup>9</sup>..... in the mist.  
It is the Lake of <sup>10</sup>..... .  
Far away, on the other side of the <sup>11</sup>.....,  
there is a great city.  
The palaces are tall and <sup>12</sup>.....  
The parks are full of roses and lilies.  
The music goes on all <sup>13</sup>..... and all day  
while the people tell each other their dreams.  
The sun shines down on the <sup>14</sup>..... and the singers.  
It is the City of <sup>15</sup>..... .

## Weather forecast

- PET 7** Read the text and questions below. For each question, write A, B, C or D in the space for answers.

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR CANTERVILLE AREA: MONDAY – FRIDAY

Today, the weather will remain calm with below-average temperatures. However, tonight there is a strong possibility of thunderstorms and high winds in the Canterbury area. This violent weather will continue until midday tomorrow. For the rest of the day, there will be scattered showers with occasional sunshine.

The following day will be bright and sunny after early morning mist has cleared. The temperature will rise above average and it will be ideal weather for open-air activities. The mist is unlikely to return and we expect a clear night with a full moon.

On the next day, there will be unchanged weather to the north of Canterbury for the whole day. However, a band of rain will pass over the southern area from midday onwards. The weather will follow the same pattern for the following day also. The long-term forecast for the next month is that the weather will be settled with very little rain and average temperatures for this time of year. Those planning trips abroad can find an international forecast for next month on page 23, with details of expected stormy conditions over the Atlantic.

- The hottest weather for the whole area will be on
  - ☐ Monday
  - ☐ Tuesday
  - ☐ Wednesday
  - ☐ Thursday

- On Monday night,
  - ☐ it will definitely be stormy
  - ☐ bad weather will probably develop and continue into Tuesday
  - ☐ it will be calm and warm
  - ☐ the weather will get better
- The writer expects the weather
  - ☐ to be the same in the south and the north on Thursday
  - ☐ to be the same on Wednesday and Thursday
  - ☐ to be different on Friday from the previous day
  - ☐ to get worse in the south during Thursday
- This is a
  - ☐ local forecast
  - ☐ national forecast
  - ☐ short-term forecast only
  - ☐ local and international forecast
- The weather for the next month will be
  - ☐ excellent
  - ☐ colder than on Monday
  - ☐ warmer than on Monday
  - ☐ good for travelling on the Atlantic

## Emotions

- 8** Emotions are very important in the story:

Virginia feels sorry for the Ghost.  
 Cecil loves Virginia.  
 The Ghost hates the Americans.  
 Sir Simon was very angry with his wife.  
 The Ghost is afraid of the twins.

Here is a list of feelings:

love sympathy envy jealousy hatred pity anger  
fear ambition shyness disgust guilt boredom  
enthusiasm shame pride disappointment surprise

Which of these have you felt during your life? In which situation?

Here are some lines about two of these feelings:

I love... my room.  
I love my room.  
I love to be alone there.  
I love lazy Sunday mornings when I lie in bed.  
I love the music on the radio.  
I love the photographs next to my bed.  
I love the moonlight when it shines between my curtains.  
I love the sunlight when it wakes me up.  
I love to look around at everything that is mine.


I am afraid... in the night.  
I am afraid in the middle of the night.  
I am afraid of spiders.  
I am afraid of ghosts.  
I am afraid of the darkness.  
I am afraid of bad dreams that wake me.  
I am afraid of noises in the night.  
I am afraid of silence.  
But when the morning comes, I am not afraid of anything.

What do you love? What do you hate? What are you afraid of?  
Write some lines about your feelings.



## PART SIX

# The Flowering Tree

 The gypsies had gone. Mr Otis sent telegrams to the police, asking them to look for a young girl. Then he rode away to look for her himself. Cecil followed him on his pony. 'I must go with you, Mr Otis. I love her. Don't send me back.'

Mr Otis smiled kindly. 'Well, come with me then.'

They went first to the railway station.

'Have you seen Miss Virginia?'

'No,' said the station master.<sup>1</sup>

They soon found the gypsies but Virginia was not with them.

'We are very sorry that she is lost,' said the gypsy leader. 'Let us help you to look for her.'

The police looked in the lake. They searched every corner of Canterville Chase. Mrs Otis was terribly unhappy.

'I'll telephone Scotland Yard,' said Mr Otis. 'They must send me their best detectives.'

At midnight, everyone was still awake. It was impossible

1. station master : manager of the station.



# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

to sleep. There was a great crash of thunder. Strange music floated <sup>1</sup> through the air. Suddenly the wall opened and Virginia appeared. She came down the stairs. Her face was very white. She was carrying a small box.

Mrs Otis put her arms around her. The Duke kissed her. The twins danced with happiness.

'Where have you been?' asked Mr Otis angrily. <sup>2</sup>

'Thank God we have found you,' said his wife softly. <sup>3</sup>

'Papa,' explained Virginia, 'I have been with the Ghost. He is dead. You must come and see him. He had been very bad but he was really sorry. He gave me this box of jewels <sup>4</sup> before he died.'



The family stared <sup>5</sup> at her in surprise. She took them through the opening in the wall and down a secret corridor.

They came to a great door. What was on the other side?

Virginia opened the door. Washington held his candle up. They saw a small low room like a prison cell. A skeleton was chained <sup>6</sup> to an iron <sup>7</sup> ring in the wall. It tried to reach a

1. **floated** : moved (like something on water).

2. **angrily** : in an angry, upset way.

3. **softly** : quietly.

4. **jewels** : valuable stones, such as diamonds and emeralds.

5. **stared** : looked directly.

6. **chained** : attached with chains.

7. **iron** : metal.





## THE CANTERVILLE Ghost

dish and a jug on the floor. Virginia knelt down next to the skeleton and began to pray.

'It must be the skeleton of Sir Simon de Canterville,' whispered Mrs Otis.

'Hey!' called one of the twins. 'Look out of the window.

The old black tree has got flowers on it. I can see the blossom <sup>1</sup> in the moonlight.'

'God has forgiven him,' said Virginia. There was a beautiful light around her face.

'You are an angel,' said the young Duke and kissed her warmly. <sup>2</sup>

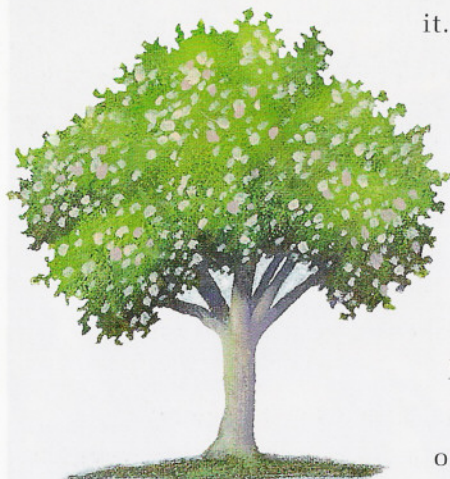
Four days later, at eleven o'clock at night, a funeral started from Canterville Chase.

There were eight black horses pulling a carriage with black ostrich plumes <sup>3</sup> on their heads. Servants walked with burning torches. Lord Canterville was there. He sat with Virginia in the first carriage. Her parents were in the next carriage, then Washington and the twins. Mrs Umney was in the last carriage.

1. **blossom** : flowers on a tree.

2. **warmly** : with a lot of emotion.

3. **ostrich plumes** : feathers from an ostrich, an African bird.



## THE FLOWERING TREE



They buried <sup>1</sup> the coffin with the bones <sup>2</sup> of Sir Simon de Canterville in the old churchyard. <sup>3</sup> As they put the coffin in the ground, Virginia put a cross of blossom from the tree on it. The moon came out from the clouds and shone down. <sup>4</sup>

A nightingale began to sing.

Virginia remembered the Ghost's story of the Garden of Death. She cried silently. She did not speak as they all drove <sup>5</sup> home to Canterville Chase.

Next morning, Lord Canterville said goodbye to the Otis family.

'You must take the jewels which the Ghost gave my daughter,' Mr Otis told him. 'They are your family's jewels.'

The jewels were very beautiful. There was a very valuable <sup>6</sup> ruby <sup>7</sup> necklace from Venice and many other wonderful things.



1. **buried** : placed into the ground.

2. **bones** : parts of the skeleton.



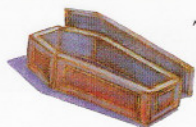
3. **churchyard** : area around a church.

4. **shone down** : gave out light (to shine-shone-shone).

5. **drove** : went in a carriage or car (to drive-drove-driven).

6. **valuable** : expensive, of great value.

7. **ruby** : red jewel.



# THE CANTERVILLE

Ghost

'No,' said Lord Canterville, 'Virginia must keep them. She has helped Sir Simon. The jewels belong to her.'



Mr Otis was not happy about this. 'My daughter is only a child. She does not need these jewels. Americans are very simple democratic people. We don't believe in lords and ladies. We don't want their fine <sup>1</sup> jewels.'

'My dear sir, the jewels are hers. If I take them from her, Sir Simon will never forgive me. He will come back and haunt me. Please, let her keep them.'

Some time later, Virginia married Cecil, the young Duke of Cheshire. At her wedding, she was wearing the Canterville jewels.

After the honeymoon, <sup>2</sup> Virginia and her new husband visited Canterville Chase. They walked together through the woods to Sir Simon's grave. <sup>3</sup> Virginia put roses there. Then they sat silently, thinking about the past.

'Virginia,' said the Duke, 'a wife must have no secrets from her husband.'

'But darling, I have no secrets from you.'

'Yes. You have never told me the truth about you and the

1. **fine** : of very good quality.

2. **honeymoon** : holiday for a married couple after the wedding.

3. **grave** : place where a dead person is put.

# THE FLOWERING TREE



Ghost. What happened? Where did you go with him?'

'I have never told anyone.'

'You may tell me.'

'Please don't ask me. I cannot tell you. Poor Sir Simon. He made me see what Life is and what Death is, and why Love is stronger than both.'

The Duke kissed her lovingly.

'Keep your secret,' he said. 'I will keep your heart.'

'You have always had that, Cecil.'

'But you will tell your secret to our children one day, won't you?'

'Children?' Virginia blushed. <sup>1</sup>



1. **blushed** : became red in the face.

What happened in Part Six?

**PET 1** Look at the statements below about the events and characters in Part Six. Reread Part Six to decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A as your answer. If it is not correct, write B as your answer.

1. Mr Otis and Cecil rode to the station to ask about Virginia.
2. The Otis family were all angry with Virginia when she returned.
3. The box of jewels was a gift from the Ghost to Virginia.
4. Washington and the others found the skeleton of Sir Simon's wife.
5. At the funeral, a bird sang as the moon began to shine.
6. Mr Otis wanted to refuse the gift of the jewels.
7. Lord Canterville sold the jewels and gave Virginia the money.
8. The bride of the Duke of Cheshire wore the jewels at the wedding.
9. Virginia told Cecil the details of her meeting with the Ghost.
10. Cecil and Virginia already had children when they re-visited Canterville Chase.

**ANSWER HERE:**

1. .... 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. .... 6. .... 7. .... 8. .... 9. .... 10. ....

What do you think?

**2** Did Virginia deserve the jewels? Should she tell Cecil her secret?

The weather

**3** The weather is important in the story. Can you complete these sentences with words from the box?

blew frost frozen heavily lightning  
poured shining snowed storm thunder

- a. When the Otis family drove to Canterville Chase, the sun was .....
- b. When they approached the house, it began to rain .....
- c. When Washington removed the stain, there was a flash of ..... and a boom of .....
- d. At night, there was a great ..... The wind ..... and the rain ..... down.
- e. On the night that Sir Simon killed his wife, perhaps it ..... The lake was ..... and the ..... killed the tree.

## Irregular past verbs

- 4** Here are some verbs which have irregular past forms. Write the Past Simple form of each verb in the correct gap.

Example: buy .....bought.....

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. feel .....    | 6. fall .....  |
| 2. forgive ..... | 7. find .....  |
| 3. give .....    | 8. get .....   |
| 4. hide .....    | 9. hear .....  |
| 5. throw .....   | 10. tell ..... |
|                  | 11. wear ..... |

Now put the correct Past Simple form of a verb from above in each gap below. The first one is done for you.

- Mr Otis .....bought..... Canterbury Chase from Lord Canterbury.
- Mrs Umney ..... them about the murder.
- Mr Otis ..... a strange noise at night.
- The twins ..... pillows at the Ghost.
- Sir Simon ..... in his secret room.
- A jug of water ..... on his head.
- She ..... the Ghost's secret room by accident.
- She ..... sorry for Sir Simon.
- The Angel of Death ..... Sir Simon.
- The Ghost ..... her a box of jewels.
- Cecil and Virginia ..... married to each other.
- Virginia ..... the jewels at her wedding.

## Ghost stories

- 5** Here are the beginnings of three ghost stories:

- It was a moonlit night. The wind was howling round the towers of the old castle. Stella woke up and heard a strange noise. There were footsteps on the stairs outside her room. She got up quietly and walked to the door...
  - It was a foggy night. Ben was walking home from the disco through the empty streets. He went down the narrow road next to the old church. People said that the churchyard was haunted but Ben didn't believe it. Suddenly, a hand touched him on the shoulder. He turned and looked into the sad face of a beautiful woman all in white. There was blood on her lips...
  - The sun was shining. Anna and Tom were lying on the golden sand under a beach umbrella. They could hear the soft sound of the sea. Anna watched a bird high up in the sky above her. Suddenly, Tom held her tightly by the arm. 'Look,' he said, 'there's someone walking on the sea...'
- Which beginning is more frightening?
  - Write the next sentence for each story.
  - Then write the beginning of your own ghost story.

## Speaking

- 6** Find a partner (another student or a friend). One of you takes the part of Virginia and the other the part of a reporter.  
**The reporter:** ask Virginia questions about her experience with the Ghost.  
**Virginia:** answer the questions and give information about the Ghost.

You could begin:

**Reporter:** How did you find the Ghost's secret room?

**Virginia:** I came back from riding my pony. I...

 **Listening**

- 7** You will hear the opening of a television programme. Virginia's great grand-daughter, also called Virginia, is giving an interview.

Bob Roberts is the interviewer. His questions are written below. Can you repeat Virginia's answers?

**Bob:** Welcome to *Strange but True*, a weekly programme about the supernatural. Tonight, we have a very special guest in the studio.

**Virginia:** <sup>1</sup> .....

**Bob:** Hello, Virginia. Those are very beautiful jewels you are wearing.

**Virginia:** <sup>2</sup> .....

**Bob:** That's interesting. Was she an English aristocrat?

**Virginia:** <sup>3</sup> .....

**Bob:** I see. Did the Duke give her the jewels?

**Virginia:** <sup>4</sup> .....

**Bob:** A ghost? Do you really believe that?

**Virginia:** <sup>5</sup> .....

**Bob:** And where did she meet the ghost?

**Virginia:** <sup>6</sup> .....

**Bob:** What kind of strange things?...

Now continue the interview. Make some more questions and answers.

- PET 1** Read the summary of Parts One – Three below and choose the correct answer for each space. Write the correct letter – A, B, C or D – in the space.

Hiram B. Otis, an (0) .....<sup>A</sup>..... millionaire, bought Canterville Chase from Lord Canterville. When the family came (1) ..... in the house, they already knew that there was (2) ..... because Lord Canterville had warned them. The housekeeper, Mrs Umney, showed them a bloodstain (3) ..... the floor in the library but Washington soon cleaned it away. At that moment there was a flash of (4) ..... 'The Ghost is angry,' cried Mrs Umney.

(5) ..... one o'clock in the middle of the night, Sir Simon appeared but Hiram simply told it to (6) ..... less noise. In fact, the Ghost became ill when he found that the Americans were not afraid (7) ..... him. Sir Simon planned to get his revenge but the twins (8) ..... him so many times that he was afraid (9) ..... his room. The Americans (10) ..... respect him, except sweet Virginia who was sympathetic towards him.

- |                 |             |             |             |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0. A American   | B America   | C British   | D America's |
| 1. A for living | B to living | C for live  | D to live   |
| 2. A ghost      | B a ghost   | C ghosts    | D one ghost |
| 3. A in         | B at        | C into      | D on        |
| 4. A noise      | B thunder   | C lightning | D sunshine  |
| 5. A At         | B In        | C On        | D By        |
| 6. A do         | B make      | C be        | D have      |
| 7. A from       | B for       | C of        | D by        |
| 8. A played     | B planned   | C tricked   | D did       |
| 9. A leave      | B to leave  | C leaving   | D leaves    |
| 10. A didn't    | B weren't   | C hadn't    | D did       |

- 2** Look at the form and fill in each numbered section. Write your answers in the gaps.

THE GHOST OF CANTERVILLE CHASE'S NAME:

(0) ..... *Sir Simon de Canterville* .....

DATE OF WIFE'S MURDER: (1) .....

REASON FOR MURDER:

'My wife was ugly.

She (2) ..... badly.

She didn't (3) .....

EXACT PLACE OF MURDER:

(4) .....

CAUSE OF SIR SIMON'S DEATH:

(5) His wife's ..... locked him a cell without any

(6) ..... until he died.

PREVIOUS VICTIMS OF HAUNTING:

Lord Canterville's grand-aunt

young Lady (7) .....

Cecil's (8) .....

SIGNS OF GHOST'S PRESENCE IN THE HOUSE:

(9) ..... in the library

the rattling of (10) ..... in the middle of the night.

- 3** Look at the form and fill in each numbered section. Write your answers in the gaps.

THE OTIS FAMILY FATHER'S NAME:

(0) ..... *Hiram B. Otis* .....

FATHER'S JOB:

(1) .....

FATHER'S WRITING PROJECT:

A history of (2) .....

MOTHER'S NAME:

(3) .....

THEIR CHILDREN'S NAMES:

(4) .....

AMERICAN PRODUCTS USED AGAINST THE GHOST:

(5) ..... (6) .....

THE TWINS' SCHOOL IN ENGLAND:

(7) .....

MISS OTIS'S HOBBIES:

(8) .....

(9) .....

VIRGINIA'S TITLE AFTER HER MARRIAGE:

(10) the ..... of .....

## The Canterville Ghost

- 4** The story

Did you enjoy this story?

Was it exciting?

Was it funny?

Was it surprising?

Write two or three more sentences to complete the summary which you wrote in Part Five.

5 A The characters

Which words from the box would you use to describe each character? Write the number(s) next to each name.

Virginia .....	Mrs Otis .....
Sir Simon .....	Hiram B. Otis .....
Cecil .....	Mrs Umney .....
The gypsies .....	The twins .....
Washington .....	Lord Canterville .....

- |                 |                   |                |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. amusing      | 11. realistic     | 21. grateful   |
| 2. bad-tempered | 12. romantic      | 22. helpful    |
| 3. lucky        | 13. energetic     | 23. unfriendly |
| 4. lonely       | 14. evil          | 24. unlikeable |
| 5. calm         | 15. selfish       | 25. innocent   |
| 6. clever       | 16. superstitious | 26. inventive  |
| 7. naughty      | 17. generous      | 27. unlucky    |
| 8. proud        | 18. gentle        | 28. wise       |
| 9. dangerous    | 19. sweet         |                |
| 10. emotional   | 20. thoughtful    |                |

B Which are the most interesting characters? Why? Do some of the characters change during the story?

6 Ideas

How important are these ideas in the story?

- Ghosts really exist.
- Love is stronger than Death.
- Americans are uncivilised.
- The English are old-fashioned.
- Americans and the English can learn from each other.
- Everyone can be forgiven.
- It is good to help others.

One day, perhaps, you will read other stories by Oscar Wilde or see his plays. Enjoy them.

- p. 103 - 1  
1. D - 2. B - 3. D - 4. C - 5. A - 6. B - 7. C - 8. C - 9. B - 10. A
- p. 104 - 2  
1. 1575  
2. cooked  
3. look after his clothes  
4. in the library where the blood stain is  
5. bothers  
6. food  
7. Canterville  
8. grandfather, the old Duke of Cheshire  
9. a bloodstain  
10. chains
- p. 104 - 3  
1. United States government minister  
2. the American Democratic Party  
3. Luciezia Otis  
4. Washington, Virginia, the twins  
5. Pinkerton's Champion Cleaner  
6. Rising Sun American Lubricator  
7. Elton  
8. riding her pony  
9. painting  
10. the Duchess of Cheshire
- p. 105 - 4  
Open answers.  
Possible. Mr Otis searched the grounds of Canterville Chase. / Before the Ghost died he gave Virginia a box of jewels. / Mr Otis wanted to give the jewels to Lord Canterville. / Virginia and Cecil got married and were very happy.
- p. 106 - 5 A  
Possible.  
Virginia: gentle, generous, sweet, thoughtful, lucky, helpful, innocent, wise.  
Sir Simon: lonely, selfish, unfriendly, unlikeable, inventive. Cecil: emotional, romantic. The gypsies: helpful. Washington: clever, realistic, energetic, helpful, inventive. Mrs Otis: calm, proud, wise. Hiram B. Otis: clever, realistic, inventive, wise. Mrs Umney: proud, superstitious. The twins: amusing, clever, naughty, dangerous, energetic, sweet, inventive.  
Lord Canterville: calm, proud, superstitious, grateful, helpful, wise.
- B Possible:  
Virginia. The story is centred around Virginia. The Ghost likes her more than any other member of the Otis family and she becomes more and more important as the story develops. At first, she is introduced as just another member of the family but by the end she has become the focus and in fact marries Cecil and becomes the Duchess of Cheshire. This effectively displays the integration of the Americans into British society and she is thus the vehicle of the story.
- p. 106 - 6  
Open answers.

## PLAYSCRIPT

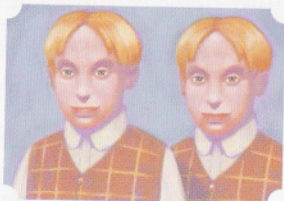
# THE CANTERVILLE Ghost



Mr Hiram B. Otis



Mrs Lucrezia Otis



Ricky and Robby



Virginia



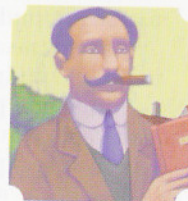
Washington



Mrs Umney



Ghost



Lord Canterville

## ACT I

### The Stain

Voice: 'Scene One.'

**NARRATOR:** Mr Hiram B. Otis was American. He was very rich and very important. He wanted to live in an old house in England, so he decided to buy Canterville Chase, the home of Lord Canterville.

**MR OTIS:** Good morning, Lord Canterville.

**CANTERVILLE:** Good morning, Mr Otis.

**MR OTIS:** How much do you want for your house, Lord Canterville? A hundred thousand dollars? Two hundred thousand dollars?

**CANTERVILLE:** But Mr Otis, are you sure that you want to buy Canterville Chase? There is a ghost in the house.

**MR OTIS:** Thank you for warning me, Lord Canterville. But I don't believe it. Only the English believe in ghosts.

**CANTERVILLE:** Many members of my family have seen the Ghost.

**MR OTIS:** Ha ha. I think you're joking.

**CANTERVILLE:** My wife, Lady Canterville, cannot sleep at night because of the mysterious noises in the house.

**MR OTIS:** My Lord, I will pay you extra for the ghost. Ha ha.

**CANTERVILLE:** Don't laugh. The Ghost really exists. People have seen it many times in the last three hundred years, since 1584 in fact. It always appears before the death of any members of my family.

**MR OTIS:** In my home, the *doctor* appears before the death of any members of my family. I am an American. Americans don't believe in ghosts. They are an old-fashioned European idea.

**CANTERVILLE:** If you don't mind having a ghost in the house, that's all right. But please remember that I have warned you.

**MR OTIS:** Thank you, Lord Canterville.

**Voice: 'Scene Two.'**

**MR OTIS:** Now, let me introduce my family. Lord Canterville, this is my wife, Mrs Lucrezia Otis.

**MRS OTIS:** I'm pleased to meet you, Lord Canterville. This is a lovely old house.

**CANTERVILLE:** I hope you enjoy living here.

**MRS OTIS:** I'm sure I will. I don't believe in ghosts. And I sleep very well at night.

**MR OTIS:** This is my eldest son, Washington.

**WASHINGTON:** I'm pleased to meet you, Lord Canterville. Are there many parties in England? I like dancing very much.

**CANTERVILLE:** Yes, there are lots of parties. You're a handsome young man. The English girls will enjoy dancing with you.

**MR OTIS:** This is my daughter, Virginia.

**VIRGINIA:** I'm pleased to meet you, Lord Canterville.

**CANTERVILLE:** Do you like dancing too?

**VIRGINIA:** No, but I like riding very much. I want to ride my pony at Canterville Chase.

**CANTERVILLE:** You are a lovely young lady. The English boys will enjoy going riding with you.

**MR OTIS:** And these are the twins.

**RICKY:** Hi, Lord Canterville. I've never met an English lord before.

**ROBBY:** Hey, Lord Canterville, is there really a ghost here?

**MRS OTIS:** Be polite, boys.

**CANTERVILLE:** I'm pleased to meet you, boys. You have a very nice family, Mr Otis.

**MR OTIS:** So, will you sell us the house?

**CANTERVILLE:** Yes, Mr Otis. When do you want to move in?

**MRS OTIS:** As soon as possible. The children are really looking forward to living in a real English haunted house.

**Voice: 'Scene Three.'**

**NARRATOR:** So the Otis family came to live at Canterville Chase. They drove through the woods in a carriage on a lovely July evening.

**VIRGINIA:** Listen, the birds are singing.

**RICKY:** Look, there are some squirrels.

**ROBBY:** I can see some rabbits.

**WASHINGTON:** But the weather's changing. Look at those dark clouds.

**VIRGINIA:** Look at those big black birds.

**RICKY:** Yes, it's beginning to rain.

**ROBBY:** I don't like this English weather. American weather is much better.

**MRS OTIS:** It's all right. The house is very near.

**WASHINGTON:** Who is that lady waiting at the door? She looks very old and strange.

**RICKY:** She's very ugly.

**MRS OTIS:** Be polite, boys.

**ROBBY:** Is she a witch?

**MR OTIS:** It's Mrs Umney. She's the housekeeper.

**MRS OTIS:** Here we are. Let's all get out of the carriage.

**Voice: 'Scene Four.'**

**MRS UMNEY:** Welcome to Canterville Chase. Come inside. Dinner is waiting for you.

**MRS OTIS:** Thank you.

**MRS UMNEY:** This is the hall. And this is the library. Here's your dinner.

**MRS OTIS:** Thank you. But what's that stain on the floor?

**MRS UMNEY:** It's blood, Mrs Otis.

**MRS OTIS:** How horrible. I don't like bloodstains in the sitting room. Remove it.

**MRS UMNEY:** It is the blood of Lady Eleanore de Canterville. Her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville, murdered her on that exact spot in 1575.

**MRS OTIS:** What happened after that?

**MRS UMNEY:** Sir Simon disappeared nine years later. Nobody has ever found his body. But his guilty spirit still haunts Canterville Chase. And nobody can remove the stain.

**WASHINGTON:** Nonsense. 'Pinkerton's Champion Cleaner' will clean it away. It's the latest American technology.

**RICKY:** Look, the stain's going.

**ROBBY:** Now it's gone.

**WASHINGTON:** I knew 'Pinkerton's' would do it.

*The sound of thunder*

**MRS UMNEY:** The ghost is angry. Aaaaagh.

**MR OTIS:** *(very calmly)* The English climate is really terrible. I'm not surprised that everyone wants to leave the country.

**MRS OTIS:** Look at Mrs Umney. She's fainted. What a useless housekeeper.

**MR OTIS:** We'll reduce her wages.

**MRS UMNEY:** I'm all right now, sir. But don't laugh at the Ghost, sir. I have seen terrible things in this house.

**MR OTIS:** We are Americans. We're not afraid of ghosts.

**MRS OTIS:** You are safe with us. Now let's all go to bed.

**ACT II**

*The Ghost Appears*

**Voice: 'Scene One.'**

*Noise of storm*

**NARRATOR:** There was a terrible storm that night. During the next few days, strange things happened in the house...

**MRS OTIS:** Look, the stain is there again.

**WASHINGTON:** Yes, I don't understand it. 'Pinkerton's Champion Cleaner' always works.

**RICKY:** Every day, Washington removes the stain.

**ROBBY:** And every morning the stain is there again.

**WASHINGTON:** Father locked the library door. But the stain was there again in the morning.

**RICKY:** And every day, the stain is a different colour. One day, it's red.

**ROBBY:** Next day, it's purple.

**WASHINGTON:** Next day, it's green.

**MRS OTIS:** I've heard of blue blood. But I've never heard of *green* blood.

**WASHINGTON:** What's the matter, Virginia?

**MRS OTIS:** Why are you looking unhappy?

**VIRGINIA:** It's nothing. Don't worry.

**MR OTIS:** This is interesting, perhaps there really *is* a ghost.

**MRS OTIS:** I'm going to tell my friend in New York.

**WASHINGTON:** And I'm going to write to the newspapers about it. We will be famous in America. We live in a haunted house.

**TWINS:** Yippee!

**Voice: 'Scene Two.'**

**MR OTIS:** Well, children, do you enjoy living in Europe?

**VIRGINIA:** I'm not sure. Things are very strange here.

**MRS OTIS:** Yes, life in America is much better.

**MR OTIS:** American actresses are much better than European ones.

**MRS OTIS:** American food is much better than English food.

**WASHINGTON:** Boston is more important than Rome.

**VIRGINIA:** New Yorkers speak much more sweetly than Londoners.

**RICKY:** But I like living in England.

**ROBBY:** Yes, I want to see the Ghost tonight.

**RICKY:** I don't want to go to bed. I want to see the Ghost too.

**ROBBY:** We don't have ghosts in America.

**MRS OTIS:** No, boys. You must go to bed now. It's very late.

**Voice: 'Scene Three.'**

**NARRATOR:** That night, at one o'clock, Mr Otis woke up. There was a strange noise in the corridor.

*Noise of creaking floor, clanking chains*

**MR OTIS:** Who's there?

**GHOST:** Wooooooooo. Woooooooooooo.

**MR OTIS:** Who are you? Stop making that terrible noise. Nobody can sleep.

**GHOST:** I am the Ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville. This is *my* house. Go away and never come back.

**MR OTIS:** Look, take this bottle of 'Rising Sun American Lubricator'. Put it on your chains to stop them making a noise. Goodnight, sir.

**GHOST:** What? Aren't you afraid of me?

**RICKY:** Look, there's the Ghost.

**ROBBY:** Yippee. Let's throw our pillows at him.

**RICKY:** I hit him on the nose.

**ROBBY:** He's running away.

**MRS OTIS:** Go back to bed, boys.

**TWINS:** We hit him with our pillows.

**MR OTIS:** That's not polite. That poor ghost has lived in this house for centuries. We should respect him.

**VIRGINIA:** Poor ghost. I am sorry for him.

**MR OTIS:** But we must take his chains away from him. It is impossible to sleep with so much noise.

**Voice: 'Scene Four.'**

**NARRATOR:** The Ghost was very angry. He made plans.

**GHOST:**

For three hundred years, I have lived in this house. Everyone was afraid of me. After all that, these Americans have come to live here. They have no respect. I will climb inside the old suit of armour in the hall. They will be afraid when they see the armour moving.

*Loud crash*

**GHOST:**

Ow... I've hurt my knees and elbows.

**RICKY:**

What was that noise?

**ROBBY:**

It's the Ghost. Look, there.

**RICKY:**

Let's get our peashooters. We'll teach him a lesson.

**GHOST:**

Ow! Stop. Please stop. Ow! Ow!

**MR OTIS:**

Well done, boys. I've got my gun. Hold up your hands.

**GHOST:**

*(screaming with anger)* I am the Ghost of Canterville Chase. I have lived here for hundreds of years. Listen to my terrible laughter. Your hair will turn white when you hear it. Haaaa. Haaaa. Haaaa.

**MRS OTIS:**

Are you all right? You must have a bad stomach-ache. Take this medicine. It is made in America. It's the best in the world.

**GHOST:**

These Americans are stupid. But I will do terrible things. They will never come back to this house.

## ACT III

### *The Terrible Twins*

**Voice: 'Scene One.'**

**NARRATOR:**

The twins made plans in the middle of the night.

**RICKY:**

Let's have some fun with the Ghost.

**ROBBY:**

Yes, let's make a ghost. The Otis Ghost.

**RICKY:**

That's a good idea. Here's an old sheet.

**ROBBY:**

And here's a turnip.

**RICKY:**

Here's a knife from the kitchen.

**ROBBY:**

And here's a candle. Let's put them all together to make a ghost.

**RICKY:**

There. That's really good. Now let's write a notice.

**ROBBY:**

Let's hang it around our ghost's neck.

**RICKY:**

Now let's put the candle inside the ghost's head.

**ROBBY:**

That's good. I'll light the candle.

**RICKY:**

Excellent. Now let's go to our room and wait for Sir Simon.

**ROBBY:**

Yes. I think I can hear him coming.

**Voice: 'Scene Two.'**

**GHOST:**

Three hundred years ago I murdered my wife. Now I will do another terrible thing. I'm going to frighten everybody in the family. First of all, I'll go into Washington's bedroom. Then I'll go into Mr and Mrs Otis's bedroom. Then I'll frighten the twins. Haa haa haa. By the end of the night,

they will all be mad. But I won't hurt pretty Miss Virginia. She is the only one of the family who has not laughed at me.

**NARRATOR:** The Ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville crept along the corridor in the darkness. A dog howled in the night. The storm clouds passed over the moon.

**GHOST:** But what's this? Aaaaaaah... It's a ghost. Help! Help! Help!

**RICKY:** Yippee! We frightened him.

**ROBBY:** He's a stupid old English ghost.

**RICKY:** Our American ghost is much too frightening for him.

**ROBBY:** Hurrah for the Otis Ghost.

**RICKY:** Quiet. He's coming back.

**GHOST:** I'll go to look at the other ghost again. Perhaps it's a friend. We can work together to frighten the Americans. Where is it? This is a curtain. This is a turnip. And this is a kitchen knife. What does this notice say? 'Ye Otis Ghoste'. Now I understand. I'm a fool. The twins have tricked me. I will murder them.

**Voice: 'Scene Three.'**

**NARRATOR:** The Ghost did not know what to do. He was afraid of the twins.

**GHOST:** The Otis family come from a modern country with no history and no soul. It is impossible to live with them in the same house. They've changed everything. The hall is full of photographs of Mr Otis. Where are the old

paintings of all the Lord Cantervilles? These Americans are so uncivilised.

**RICKY:** (*whispering*) Look, there's the Ghost. He hasn't seen us.

**ROBBY:** Let's jump out and frighten him.

**RICKY:** Yes, we'll shout in his ear.

**TWINS:** BOOOOOO...

**GHOST:** Help! Help!

**WASHINGTON:** Stop there, Sir Simon. If you don't stop, I'll spray you with water from this syringe.

**GHOST:** Help! Help! What can I do?

**RICKY:** Look, he's gone up the chimney.

**ROBBY:** He'll never come back. He's afraid of us. We've won.

**WASHINGTON:** Well done, boys. That was a good plan.

**MR OTIS:** What's the matter? What's all this noise in the middle of the night?

**MRS OTIS:** You've woken me up. You're very naughty boys.

**RICKY:** We've frightened the Ghost, Mom and Pop.

**ROBBY:** We put butter on the stairs.

**RICKY:** We tied string across the corridors.

**ROBBY:** We put water on top of the door.

**RICKY:** We jumped out at him.

**ROBBY:** That's the end of the Ghost.

**MR OTIS:** I'll write and tell Lord Canterville. The Ghost has gone.

**MRS OTIS:** Good. Can I go back to bed now, boys?

**WASHINGTON:** Yes, it's goodbye, Sir Simon.

ACT IV

Virginia Meets  
the Ghost

Voice: 'Scene One.'

**NARRATOR:** One day, Virginia came back alone to Canterville Chase. The door of one of the rooms at the back of the house was open. There was someone inside.

**VIRGINIA:** Who's that? Perhaps it's a servant.

**NARRATOR:** She went inside the room quietly. To her surprise, she saw the Canterville Ghost sitting by the window. He was sadly looking at the red and golden autumn leaves.

**VIRGINIA:** It's Sir Simon. He's all alone. What shall I do? Shall I speak to him? Excuse me, Sir Simon.

**GHOST:** Go away. I don't want to talk to you. I hate Americans.

**VIRGINIA:** I am so sorry for you. My twin brothers are going away to Eton tomorrow. After that, if you are good, nobody will upset you.

**GHOST:** Don't ask me to be good. I am a ghost. I *must* make noise with my chains. I *must* frighten people. I *must* walk about at night. It is my job.

**VIRGINIA:** I know you have been very bad. Mrs Umney said that you murdered your wife.

**GHOST:** Yes, that's true. But it was a family matter. It isn't your business.

**VIRGINIA:** It is wrong to kill anyone.

**GHOST:** (*angry*) My wife was ugly. She cooked badly. She didn't look after my clothes. And after she died, her brothers took revenge. Do you know what they did?

**VIRGINIA:** No.

**GHOST:** They shut me in a room without any food until I died.

**VIRGINIA:** Oh, Mr Ghost – I mean, Sir Simon – are you hungry. I have a sandwich here. Would you like it?

**GHOST:** No thank you. Ghosts don't eat anything. But it is very kind of you. You are much nicer than the rest of your horrible, rude, vulgar, dishonest family.

**NARRATOR:** Virginia was very angry with the Ghost.

**VIRGINIA:** Stop. *You* are rude and dishonest. You stole my paints and used them to replace the bloodstain. I love painting but you took all my colours – red and green and purple.

**GHOST:** I'm sorry. It is very difficult to get real blood these days. Your horrible brother removed the stain every day. It was *necessary* to use your paints. You Americans don't understand anything.

**VIRGINIA:** (*very angry*) You know nothing about it. You must come to America. Then you will understand. My father will get you a free ticket. You will be a great success in New York. The people will pay a hundred thousand dollars for a ticket to see you.

**GHOST:** I don't like America. You have no history. All you have is money and bad manners.

**VIRGINIA:** (*angry*) Goodbye. I will go and get the twins.

**GHOST:** Please don't go, Miss Virginia. I'm sorry. I am so lonely and unhappy. I don't know what to do. I want to go to sleep but I cannot.

**VIRGINIA:** That's ridiculous. Just go to bed, blow out your candle and close your eyes. It's not at all difficult to fall asleep. I do it very easily in church on Sundays. Even babies know how to sleep.

**GHOST:** I have not slept for three hundred years. I am so tired.

## ACT V

### The Garden of Death

#### Voice: 'Scene One.'

**VIRGINIA:** Poor, poor Ghost, haven't you got a place where you can sleep?

**GHOST:** Far away, on the other side of the woods, there is a little garden. The grass is long and deep. The flowers are great white stars. The nightingale sings all night long while the cold moon looks down. The old tree spreads its branches over the sleepers.

**VIRGINIA:** *(crying)* You mean the Garden of Death.

**GHOST:** Yes, Death. Death must be so beautiful. I want to lie in the soft brown earth with the grass above my head. I want to listen to silence. There is no

yesterday and no tomorrow. I can forget time, I can forgive life, I can be at peace. You can help me. You can open the doors of Death's house for me. You have Love. Love is stronger than Death.

**VIRGINIA:** Give me time. I must think.

**GHOST:** Have you seen the old writing on the library window?

**VIRGINIA:** Often. I know it well. There are six lines. They say that a golden girl will help you to pray. The black tree will have flowers. A child will cry...  
'Then the house will all be still  
And peace will come to Canterville.'  
But what does it mean?

**GHOST:** It means that you must cry for me because *I* cannot cry. You must pray for me because *I* have no words. If you have always been sweet and good and kind, the Angel of Death will forgive me. You will see terrible things... Devils will haunt you. Bad voices will whisper in your ears but nobody can hurt you because you are so good.

**VIRGINIA:** I am not afraid. Take me to the Garden of Death. I will ask the Angel of Death to forgive you.

**GHOST:** Follow me. Hold my hand. Be brave.

**VOICES:** *(hissing)* Go back. Go back.

**VIRGINIA:** I'm frightened. There are horrible faces looking at me.

**VOICES:** Be careful, Virginia. Be careful. We will never see you again if you go with him.

**GHOST:** Don't be afraid. Look, the wall is opening. Follow me.

**VIRGINIA:** I'm frightened. There's a cold wind.  
Hands are pulling at my clothes.

**GHOST:** Quickly, quickly, or it will be too late.

**NARRATOR:** The wall closed behind them. The room was empty.

**Voice: 'Scene Two.'**

**MRS OTIS:** Go upstairs and find Miss Virginia. It's tea-time.

**SERVANT:** But I cannot find your daughter anywhere, Madam.

**RICKY:** Let's look in the garden. She must be there.

**ROBBY:** I'll look in the wood. You look near the lake.

**WASHINGTON:** I can't see her.

**MR OTIS:** Perhaps the gypsies have taken her. There is a group of gypsies camping in the park. I will go to look for her there.

**CECIL:** Please let me go with you. I love her.

**MR OTIS:** No, Cecil, you're too young. Stay in the house with my wife and children.

**VOICES:** You will never see her again.

**ACT VI**

*The Flowering Tree*

**Voice: 'Scene One.'**

**NARRATOR:** At midnight, everyone was still awake. It was impossible to sleep.

**MRS OTIS:** Poor Virginia. Where is she?

**WASHINGTON:** I don't know, Mom. The police have searched the lake.

**CECIL:** They've looked in every corner of the garden.

**MR OTIS:** We've looked for her at the station.

**CECIL:** We've looked for her at the gypsy camp.

**MR OTIS:** I've asked Scotland Yard to send their best detectives.

**MRS OTIS:** Oh, my poor baby. That horrible Ghost has taken her.

**NARRATOR:** There was a great crash of thunder. Strange music floated through the air. Suddenly the wall opened and Virginia appeared.

**MRS OTIS:** Darling, you're safe.

**CECIL:** Sweetheart, I'm so glad to see you.

**TWINS:** Yippee! Virginia's back.

**MR OTIS:** *(angry)* Where have you been?

**MRS OTIS:** *(softly)* Thank God we have found you.

**VIRGINIA:** Papa, I have been with the Ghost. He is dead. You must come and see him. He had been very bad but he was really sorry.

**RICKY:** What's in the box?  
**ROBBY:** Yes, show us, Virginia.  
**VIRGINIA:** It's a box of jewels. The ghost gave it to me before he died. Now follow me.  
**MRS OTIS:** It's a secret corridor.  
**MR OTIS:** It's very dark here.  
**MRS OTIS:** Look, there's a door.  
**RICKY:** What's on the other side?  
**ROBBY:** Open it, Virginia.

**Voice: 'Scene Two.'**

*Sound of door creaking*

**CECIL:** It's a secret room.  
**MRS OTIS:** I don't like it here. It's like a prison cell.  
**MR OTIS:** Don't be afraid.  
**RICKY:** Wow! Look, there's a skeleton.  
**ROBBY:** Gee. It's chained to the wall.  
**RICKY:** There's a dish and a jug on the floor.  
**ROBBY:** But there's no food and no water.  
**MRS OTIS:** It must be the skeleton of Sir Simon de Canterville.  
**RICKY:** Hey! Look out of the window.  
**ROBBY:** The old black tree has got flowers on it. I can see the flowers in the moonlight.  
**VIRGINIA:** God has forgiven him.  
**CECIL:** You are an angel.

**Voice: 'Scene Three.'**

**NARRATOR:** Four days later, at eleven o'clock at night, a funeral started from Canterville Chase. There

were eight black horses pulling a carriage with black ostrich plumes on their heads. Servants walked with burning torches. Lord Canterville was there. He sat with Virginia in the first carriage. Her parents were in the next carriage, then Washington and the twins. Mrs Umney was in the last carriage. They buried the coffin with the bones of Sir Simon de Canterville in the old churchyard. As they put the coffin in the ground, Virginia put a cross of flowers from the tree on it. The moon came out from the clouds and shone down. A nightingale began to sing.

**Voice: 'Scene Four.'**

**NARRATOR:** Next morning, Lord Canterville said goodbye to the Otis family.  
**MR OTIS:** You must take the jewels which the Ghost gave my daughter. They are your family's jewels.  
**MRS OTIS:** Yes, they are very beautiful. There is a ruby necklace from Venice and many other wonderful things. Take them, Lord Canterville.  
**CANTERVILLE:** No. Virginia must keep them. She has helped Sir Simon. The jewels belong to her.  
**MR OTIS:** My daughter is only a child. She does not need these jewels. Americans are very simple democratic people. We don't believe in lords and ladies. We don't want their fine jewels.  
**CANTERVILLE:** My dear sir, the jewels are hers. If I take them from her, Sir Simon will never forgive me. He will come back and haunt me. Please, let her keep them.

**Voice: 'Scene Five.'**

**NARRATOR:** Some time later, Virginia and Cecil got married. At her wedding, she was wearing the Canterville jewels. After the honeymoon, Virginia and her husband visited Canterville Chase. They walked together through the woods to Sir Simon's grave. Virginia put roses there.

**CECIL:** Virginia, a wife must have no secrets from her husband.

**VIRGINIA:** But darling, I have no secrets from you.

**CECIL:** Yes. You have never told me the truth about you and the Ghost. What happened? Where did you go with him?

**VIRGINIA:** I have never told anyone.

**CECIL:** You may tell me.

**VIRGINIA:** Please don't ask me. I cannot tell you. Poor Sir Simon. He made me see what Life is and what Death is, and why Love is stronger than both.

**CECIL:** Keep your secret. I will keep your heart.

**VIRGINIA:** You have always had it, Cecil.

**CECIL:** But you will tell your secret to our children one day, won't you?

**VIRGINIA:** Children?

**NARRATOR:** Virginia blushed.

