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The Canterville Ghost

Oscar **Wilde**



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KEY KEY-style activities	28, 36, 43, 45, 58, 59, 65, 66
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T: GRADE 3, 4 Trinity-style activities (Grade 3, 4)	12, 20, 44, 50, 58
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AFTER READING	90
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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



CHAPTER ONE

Canterville Chase

Mr Hiram B. Otis was American. He was rich and important. He wanted to live in an old house in England so he decided to buy Canterville Chase. Everyone told him that he was very stupid because Canterville Chase was haunted.



track 03

Lord Canterville was the owner of Canterville Chase and said to Mr Otis, 'I don't live in this house because it's haunted. Members of my family saw the ghost many times. They were terribly frightened. My wife, Lady Canterville, can't sleep here at night because there are strange noises in the house.'

'My Lord,' said Mr Otis, 'I'll buy the house with the furniture and the ghost. I come from a modern country and we have everything that money can buy. If there are ghosts in Europe, an American will probably take one back home. He'll put it in a museum for everyone to see.'

Lord Canterville smiled and said, 'There's a ghost in this house and it always appears before someone in the family dies.'

‘Well,’ said Mr Otis, laughing, ‘in my home the *doctor* appears before someone in the family dies. But I’m an American and we don’t believe in ghosts. They’re an old European idea.’

‘If you don’t mind a ghost in the house, that’s alright,’ said Lord Canterville. ‘But please remember that I told you.’

A few weeks later Lord Canterville sold Canterville Chase to the Americans.

There were six people in the Otis family. Mr Otis was a minister¹ of the United States Government.

His wife, Mrs Lucretia Otis, was a beautiful woman. When she was a young lady in New York City, she was famous for her beauty. She was healthy and strong.

Washington was the oldest son of the family. His parents called him Washington, because the first president of the United States was called George Washington. He was tall and good-looking, and had blond hair. He liked dancing very much and liked living in Great Britain.

Virginia Otis was fifteen years old and she was lovely. She had blonde hair and big blue eyes. She loved riding her pony in the country. A young English lord, Cecil, Duke of Cheshire, liked her very much.

The youngest children were twins. They were often called ‘the Stars and Stripes’, like the name that people called the American flag. They were often naughty² but everyone liked them.

1. **minister** : An important person who works for the government of a country.

2. **naughty** : When you don’t behave well.

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UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't Say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

A B C

- 0 Mr Otis was an important man who worked for the American government. ☒ ☐ ☐
- 1 Mr Otis was tall and good-looking. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 2 Nobody told Mr Otis about the ghost at Canterville Chase. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 3 Mr Otis decided to buy the house but not the old furniture. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 4 The Canterville ghost always appeared after a family member died. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 5 Mrs Lucretia Otis came from New York City. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 6 Mrs Lucretia Otis was thirty-six years old. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 7 Washington did not like living in Great Britain. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 8 The young Duke of Cheshire was Virginia's good friend. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 9 Virginia's pony was brown and white. ☐ ☐ ☐
- 10 'The Stars and Stripes' were the youngest children of the Otis family. ☐ ☐ ☐

T: GRADE 3

2 SPEAKING – WORK

Mr Otis is a minister of the American government. Talk with your partner about the job you want to do. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What kind of job do you want to do?
- 2 Why do you want to do this job?
- 3 Is it easy, difficult, interesting, dangerous or boring?
- 4 What subjects do you need to study to do this job?
- 5 Do you know someone who does this job?

3 OPPOSITES

Match the word with its opposite.

- 1 ☐ clever
- 2 ☐ buy
- 3 ☐ old
- 4 ☐ ugly
- 5 ☐ tall

- A new
- B short
- C stupid
- D sell
- E beautiful

4 AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH

A How different is American English from British English? Take this fun quiz and find out. Mark USA or UK for the words below.

Do you know the meaning of all the words?

Then write the correct synonym in the third column. There is an example at the beginning (0).

	UK	USA	SYNONYMS
0 Elevator	☐	☒	Lift
1 Post	☐	☐	
2 Holiday	☐	☐	
3 Mail	☐	☐	
4 Petrol	☐	☐	
5 Gas	☐	☐	
6 Lift	☐	☐	
7 Vacation	☐	☐	

B There are spelling differences too. Words that end in **-re** in British English often end in **-er** in American English. And words that end in **-our** in British English often end in **-or** in American English. Look at the examples below.

Words that end in -re

UK	USA
centre	center
theatre	theater

Words that end in -our

UK	USA
colour	color
humour	humor

C Now find the 8 words from the table in part A in the word square. Circle the British words in red and the American words in blue.

C	M	S	E	J	B	D	H	G	X	A	B	M	O
O	R	W	I	A	U	T	U	M	N	I	N	P	H
M	V	E	K	G	S	U	C	L	D	C	A	E	O
A	D	E	L	O	H	O	G	A	S	H	G	T	L
I	C	T	T	E	O	F	O	T	N	E	O	R	I
L	B	S	P	Z	V	G	U	N	K	D	B	O	D
S	O	R	A	Y	P	A	E	D	N	R	Y	L	A
P	A	N	G	S	R	F	T	G	A	F	X	Z	Y
W	K	U	M	V	A	S	D	O	I	D	A	O	A
V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	F	R	U	L	L	U
F	X	P	U	L	I	F	T	I	K	S	V	R	L