

Oscar Wilde

The Canterville Ghost

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES

The Life of Oscar Wilde

Page 6 – exercise 1

- 1 He was Irish.
- 2 When he arrived he said, 'I have nothing to declare except my genius.' When he left he said, 'I have civilised America.' The Americans probably thought he was a snob and were offended by his comment.
- 3 He was sent to prison for two years and lost all his friends. When he left prison he went to France to live. He died in 1900 at the age of 46.
- 4 Most Victorians had strong moral beliefs and were very conventional. Wilde was extremely unconventional and laughed at Victorian beliefs.

Before you read

Page 8 – exercise 1

- 1 guilty 2 invisible 3 to haunt 4 to murder 5 a stain 6 visible 7 a skeleton 8 superstitious 9 a legend 10 a chain

Page 8 – exercise 2

Open answers

Page 9 – exercise 3

- 1 legends 2 ghosts 3 haunt 4 superstitious 5 stain 6 murdered 7 guilty 8 invisible 9 visible

Page 9 – exercise 4

Possible answers:

Reasons to feel sorry for ghosts

a, d, f, g

Reasons to dislike ghosts

b, c, e, h

Think!

Page 15 – Chapter 1

Possible answers:

Mr Otis: a, c, d, f Mrs Umney: b

Page 21 – Chapter 2

Possible answers:

Washington uses Pinkerton's Champion Cleaner to clean the stain.

Mr Otis hopes the Ghost will use Rising Sun American Lubricator to oil his chains.

The twins use pillows to throw at the Ghost.

Mrs Otis wants to use the indigestion remedy to cure the Ghost's stomach-ache.

The twins and Washington use pea-shooters to shoot the Ghost. Mr Otis uses a gun to threaten the Ghost.

Page 27 – Chapter 3

Open answers

Page 32 – Chapter 4

Possible answer:

1, 4, 5, 6

Part 2: Open answer

Page 37 – Chapter 5

Possible answer:

brave, compassionate, full of pity, good, kind, unselfish

Part 2: Open answer

Page 43 – Chapter 6

Possible answers:

- 1 The twins danced with happiness. 2 'God has forgiven him,' said Virginia. 3 'You have always had that, Cecil.'

Wilde's American Adventure

Page 46 – exercise 1

- 1 tour 2 cities 3 earned 4 funny 5 nothing 6 genius 7 popular 8 students 9 silver 10 mine 11 plays 12 civilised

Page 46 – exercise 2

- 1 F 2 T 3 T 4 T 5 F 6 F 7 F 8 T

Page 47 – exercise 3

Open answers

Page 47 – exercise 4

- 1 Adam and Eve, Paradise 2 astronaut, the moon 3 Columbus, the Atlantic

- 4 the Universe 5 America

Haunted Britain

Page 50 – exercise 1

- 1 F 2 T 3 F 4 F 5 F 6 T

The text and beyond

CHAPTER 1

Page 52 – exercise 1

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 T 5 T 6 T 7 F 8 F

Page 52 – exercise 2

- a Possible answers: Mr Otis offers to pay extra for the Ghost; Washington uses 'Champion Cleaner' on the ghostly bloodstain; Mr Otis thinks people want to go to America because of the English climate
- b She recovers when she hears that Mr Otis will reduce her wages. Yes, it is humorous.

Page 53 – exercise 3

- 1 have never seen 2 came 3 wrote 4 have never performed 5 saw 6 murdered 7 Have ... ever used 8 lived 9 has haunted 10 have remained

Page 53 – exercise 4

- 1 HALL 2 LIBRARY 3 NURSERY 4 DINING ROOM 5 ATTIC 6 KITCHEN 7 CORRIDOR

Hidden word: HAUNTED

Possible answers:

The living room usually contains a sofa, chairs and a coffee table. The cellar sometimes contains bottles. The bathroom usually contains a bath, a sink and a toilet.



The library usually contains bookshelves and chairs.
The study usually contains a chair and desk.

CHAPTER 2

Page 54 – exercise 1

- 1 Yes, a strange noise woke him up.
- 2 No, he stayed absolutely calm.
- 3 Yes, said, 'That's not polite.'
- 4 No, sometimes it was purple or green.
- 5 No, the armour fell over.
- 6 No, he simply pointed it at him.
- 7 Yes, she thought that he had a bad stomach-ache.
- 8 No, he left his room to replace the blood stain.

Page 54 – exercise 2

Differences:

Mr Otis lit 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. His long grey hair was thick and dirty. He was wearing old-fashioned clothes. Heavy chains were hanging from his wrists and ankles. Mr Otis was calm.

Page 54 – exercise 3

Open answer

Page 55 – exercise 4

- a** The twins throw their pillows at the Ghost. The twins shoot at the Ghost with their peashooters. Mr Otis points a gun at the Ghost. Mrs Otis offers the Ghost medicine.
- b** and **c**: Open answers

Page 55 – exercise 5

- 1 more successful than 2 is easier ... than 3 more beautiful than 4 are richer than 5 more dangerous than/less safe than 6 more exciting than 7 more delicious than

CHAPTER 3

Page 56 – exercise 1

- 1 ... stab himself in the neck
2 ... never laughed at him
3 ... has/had never met another ghost before 4 ... haunt Canterville Chase forever 5 ... the Headless Lord 6 ... large heavy jug of water 7 ... cold and sneezed all day 8 ... up the chimney 9 ... are/were dangerous

Page 56 – exercise 2

- a** Open answer
b Because he doesn't want the twins to hear him.

Page 57 – exercise 3

- 2 happy 3 misty 4 pretty 5 risky 6 angry 7 sunny 8 funny 9 lucky 10 friendly 11 naughty 12 lazy

Possible questions:

Which season is the mistiest? Autumn. Which sport is riskier than rugby or skiing? Formula 1. Who is the friendliest person that you know? Xxxxx.

Page 57 – exercise 4

2, 5 & 9 Let's hide behind the door. Next, we'll jump out and scream in his ear. Then the ghost will be shocked.

3, 6 & 11 Let's find the ghost's hiding place. Next, we'll put butter at the top of the stairs. Then, the

ghost will fall downstairs.

4, 7 & 12 Let's come up quietly behind him. Next, we'll tie a firework to his shirt and light it. Then, he'll run away with his clothes on fire.

CHAPTER 4

Page 58 – exercise 1

- 1 He told him that the Ghost had gone away. 2 Because a branch had torn her jacket. 3 He was looking out of the window.
4 No, he wasn't. 5 She suggested that he should go to America.
6 Because he could not sleep.

Page 58 – exercise 2

Open answers

Page 59 – exercise 3

- 1 The storm began while they were driving to Canterville Chase.
- 2 While they were eating dinner, Mrs Otis noticed the bloodstain.
- 3 While the Otis family were sleeping, strange things happened.
- 4 The twins jumped out while the Ghost was looking at photographs.
- 5 While Cecil was sleeping, he dreamt about Virginia.
- 6 While Virginia was talking to the Ghost, she became angry.

Page 59 – exercise 4

- 1 Possible answers: There was no Internet or television to spread news. There were no Hollywood films. European students didn't usually go to study in America. Travel was more expensive and unusual.

- 2 Possible answers: Lord Canterville and Mr Otis have different ideas about the existence of ghosts. Mrs Umney thinks that the Americans should be afraid of the Ghost. The Otis family do not easily understand Sir Simon's history and his need to haunt the house.
- 3 Yes. He creates American characters who are determined, calm and unafraid. For example, instead of being afraid, Washington tries to clean the bloodstain. Mr Otis doesn't panic when the Ghost appears.

CHAPTER 5

Page 60 – exercise 1

- 1 The Garden of Death. 2 Love.
3 A poem about a golden girl who brings peace to Canterville.
4 'Go back! Go back!'; 'Be careful, Virginia. Be careful. We'll never see you again if you go with him'; 'You will never see her again.'
5 A wall opened and they passed through into another place. 6 Because nobody could find Virginia. 7 He decided to look for her in the park.

Page 60 – exercise 2

Possible answers:

Words to describe Virginia: angelic, brave, artistic, helpful, sweet, sympathetic, unselfish.

Words for Mrs Umney: afraid, superstitious. Words for the Twins: brave, naughty, sweet

Page 60 – exercise 3

- 1 nightingale, cold moon
2 yesterday, tomorrow 3 Death's house 4 peace, come 5 cry, cry
6 Angel of Death, forgive

Page 61 – exercise 4

Open answer

Page 61 – exercise 5

Open answer

Page 61 – exercise 6

Possible answers:

Garden of Death (first column): cold moon - darkness

Garden of Life (first column): yellow or red flowers - happy music/ dance music

Garden of Death (second column): wolves and rats

Garden of Life (fourth column): a tree with flowers or fruit - an angel of forgiveness - places to dance or run

CHAPTER 6

Page 62 – exercise 1

1 Mr Otis, Washington, Cecil, the police 2 Mrs Otis, the twins 3 a skeleton, a metal ring, a dish, a jug 4 The old black tree produced flowers/blossom. 5 Virginia put a cross of flowers on the coffin. The moon came out from the clouds and shone down. A nightingale began to sing. 6 A ruby necklace from Venice. 7 He said that the Ghost would never forgive him. He would come back to haunt him. 8 Virginia will keep her secret. Cecil will keep her heart.

Page 62 – exercise 2

A 1 midnight 2 a dish 3 a ruby 4 a skeleton 5 a funeral 6 a nightingale
B 1 noon 2 jug 3 emerald 4 skin 5 wedding 6 robin

Possible answers for similar words:

1 morning, afternoon, evening
2 plate, spoon, knife 3 diamond, sapphire, garnet 4 bones, muscles, hair 5 anniversary, party, christening 6 blackbird, starling, thrush

Page 63 – exercise 3

A 1 felt 2 hid 3 fell 4 got 5 told 6 forgave 7 threw 8 found 9 heard 10 wore

B 1 told 2 threw 3 hid 4 fell 5 found 6 felt 7 forgave 8 heard 9 got 10 wore

Page 63 – exercise 4

Open answer

Extensive listening**Page 64 – exercise 1**

- 1 The Ghost frightened Lady Mary in 1713 while she was reading.
- 2 He shouted in her ear that there was a murderer in the room.
- 3 Princess Victoria from Australia stayed in the house in 1845.
- 4 The Ghost stole the gold and money and gave them to a beggar.
- 5 In 1817, Princess Alice saw the Ghost in her mirror and screamed.
- 6 In 1880, the Duchess of Newbury saw the Ghost in her room. TRUE
- 7 The Duke also saw the Ghost and thought that he and his wife were mad.
- 8 The Ghost thinks that the American family will never leave.

Recording script

Ghost: The Americans aren't afraid of me. But I have lived in this house for three hundred years. I have frightened

many people. I have done terrible things. Listen to my stories.

In 1730, I frightened Lady Mary. In the middle of the night, I whispered in her ear while she was asleep. I said: 'If you get married, your husband will kill you.' Poor Lady Mary. She woke up and screamed. She never got married. She believed what I told her.

In 1835, Prince Victor of Austria stayed in the house. While he was sleeping, I stole all his gold and money. After that, he became a beggar.

In 1876, I frightened Princess Alice. I cut off all her hair in the middle of the night. When she woke up, she looked in the mirror and screamed.

Then, in 1880, I frightened the Duchess of Newbury. I came into her room in the middle of the day. She told the Duke, her husband. When he came to look, I disappeared. He thought she was mad and divorced her.

So you see I am a very dangerous ghost. I will soon make these Americans leave. They cannot win.

Page 64 – exercise 2

Open answers

Recording script

Narrator: Listen carefully to these questions.

Number One. If a friend tells you that he or she has seen a ghost, do you:

A: tell him or her to see a psychiatrist?

B: believe him or her immediately?

C: ask for more information?

D: telephone the newspapers and try to sell the story?

Number Two. If someone offers you fifty thousand pounds to sleep alone in a haunted house, do you:

A: agree because it is a safe way to make money?

B: refuse to do so because you are

afraid?

C: ask for time to think about it?

D: invite a TV film crew to meet you there?

Number Three. If a ghost appears in your room, do you:

A: believe it is a dream?

B: run out of the house in your pyjamas?

C: go nearer and touch it?

D: sell tickets to people who want to see it?

Number Four. If there is a TV programme about ghosts, do you:

A: watch it and laugh at it?

B: stay at home specially to watch it?

C: watch it if there is nothing better to do?

D: invent a story about seeing a ghost and ask to appear on the programme?

Now add up your points.

For each 'A', give yourself zero points.

For each 'B', give yourself ten points.

For each 'C', give yourself five points.

For each 'D', give yourself twenty points.

Page 65 – exercise 3

1 woods 2 garden 3 grass
4 stars 5 nightingale 6 moon
7 tree 8 mountain 9 lake
10 water 11 ghosts 12 fish
13 rocks 14 mist 15 desert
16 city 17 palaces 18 roses
19 music 20 dreams
21 dancers 22 Life

Recording script

The 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. It is the Garden of Death.

Far away, on the other side of the mountain, there is a deep lake. The water is cold and dark.
The swans are beautiful silent ghosts. The fish glide beneath the surface while the sun sets behind the high black rocks. The ferryman and his passengers disappear in the mist. It is the Lake of Forgetfulness.
Far away, on the other side of the desert, there is a great city. The palaces are tall and golden.
The parks are full of roses and lilies. The music goes on all night and all day while the people tell each other their dreams. The sun shines down on the dancers and the singers. It is the City of Life.

Surf the Net

Grand Houses

Page 66

1 Scotland 2 Downton Abbey
3 The gardens, including trees, a lake 4 Olive Wilson Filmer/Lady Baillie. 5 Winston Churchill
6 York 7 They have safari parks.
8 Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone 9 The Duke of Wellington 10 The Prince of Wales (Prince Charles)

Ghosts

Page 67

Open answers. The basic stories are:

- 1 a 'ghost' appeared in a photograph of the church
- 2 King Arthur and his knights ride their horses down the hill
- 3 a 'ghost' appeared in a photograph of the library
- 4 the 'ghost' of a monk has been seen climbing stairs which no longer exist

- 5 a 'ghost' was photographed behind the Irish President
- 6 a 'ghost' appeared in a photograph of the stairs
- 7 the 'ghost' of the Black Abbott has been seen frequently
- 8 a 'ghostly chicken' appears; it is connected with the death of Bacon

Trinity preparation

Page 68

1, 2, 3 & 4 Open answers

Preliminary preparation

Page 70 – exercise 1

1 f 2 g 3 b 4 a 5 d

Page 72 – exercise 2

1 b 2 d 3 c 4 b 5 a

Page 74 – exercise 3

1 c 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 d 6 b 7 a

8 a 9 d 10 b

Page 74 – exercise 4

Open answer

Let's revise the story

Page 75 – exercise 1

1 b 2 d 3 i 4 e 5 c 6 g 7 f

8 h 9 a

Possible answers:

- a Virginia prayed beside the skeleton of the Ghost in the secret room.
- b Canterville Chase was a large old house.
- c Sir Simon was frightened by the 'Otis Ghost'.
- d There was a blood stain on the floor.
- e The Twins used their pea-shooters to frighten the Ghost.
- f The Garden of Death is on the other side of the woods.

g Virginia and Cecil went riding in the park.

h Virginia came down the stairs carrying a small box.

i The Ghost sat in his room thinking about the American family.

Page 76 – exercise 2

The Ghost: 1 cooked 2 look after my clothes 3 brothers 4 food
5 Barbara 6 grandfather 7 stains
8 chains

The Otis family: 1 United States government minister
2 Mrs Lucrezia Otis 3 Washington, Virginia, Ricky and Robby (= the Twins) 4 painting/riding
5 riding/painting 6 Duchess of Cheshire

Page 77 – exercise 3

Open answer

Page 77 – exercise 4

Possible answers:

1 +5 2 -5 3 +3 4 -3 5 +5 6 +5 6 +3

Values & Feelings

Page 78 – Think!

Possible answer:

Chapter 1 = d Chapter 2 = b

Chapter 3 = a Chapter 4 = e

Chapter 5 = f Chapter 6 = c

Page 78 – The characters

Possible answers:

Ghost: not at peace, revenge, be alone, play tricks

Virginia: feel pity, be in love, courageous, imaginative, feel patriotic

The Twins: mischievous, play tricks, full of energy, imaginative
Mr Otis: in control, courageous, feel patriotic, modern

Page 79 – The story

Open answer

Page 79 – Your turn

Open answer

KEYS TO THE EXIT TEST

Exercise 1

1 B 2 A 3 C 4 B 5 A 6 C 7 A
8 B

Exercise 2

1 D 2 B 3 D 4 C 5 A 6 B 7 C
8 C 9 B 10 A

Exercise 2

1 Lord Canterville 2 Mrs Umney
3 Washington 4 Mr Otis
5 the Ghost 6 Virginia