

Workbook Story worksheet: *The Canterville Ghost*

Before you read

- 1 Read the advertisement for the house.
Would you like to live there?
Why? Why not?

HOUSE FOR SALE

Canterville Chase is a very large, old house in the country. There are many rooms, including a library. There's a big garden. The house comes with one terrifying ghost.



- 2 The story is called *The Canterville Ghost*. How do you think you will feel when you read this story? Tick (✓) the words.

frightened sad happy excited bored
interested angry worried nervous upset

While you read

- 3 Read until 'But the others did not listen to Virginia'. How do the following people feel about the Canterville ghost? Match the beginnings with the endings of the sentences.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1) Mr Otis ... | a) ... thinks the ghost is funny. He removes the stain in the library every morning and laughs when it is different colours. |
| 2) Mrs Otis ... | b) ... feels sorry for the ghost because it has been in the house longer than the Otis family. |
| 3) Washington Otis ... | c) ... is not frightened by the ghost. He's an American and doesn't believe in them. |
| 4) the twins ... | d) ... is very frightened of the ghost and thinks the ghost will be angry with the Otis family. |
| 5) Virginia ... | e) ... like to play tricks on the ghost. |
| 6) Mrs Umney ... | f) ... is not frightened of the ghost. She wants to get rid of the stain in the library. |

- 4 The ghost wrote down all the things that the Otis family did to him. Correct the mistakes.

- a) Washington rubbed out the blood stain in the ^{library}~~kitchen~~.
- b) Mr Otis gave me some butter for my chains.
- c) The twins threw tomatoes at me.
- d) Mr Otis pointed a sword at me.
- e) Mrs Otis offered me some sandwiches.
- f) The twins frightened me with an Easter bunny.
- g) The twins poured paint on me.

5 Put the sentences in the correct order (1–8).

- a) Virginia disappears and her family is very worried.
- b) There is a funeral for Sir Simon de Canterville.
- c) Virginia sees the ghost in the library and he tells her he was murdered by his wife's brothers.
- d) Virginia shows her family the skeleton of the ghost, Sir Simon de Canterville.
- e) Virginia agrees to help the ghost by going to the Garden of Death with him.
- f) The Otises hear a terrible noise and a dreadful cry.
- g) The ghost stops trying to frighten the Otis family. 1
- h) Virginia is safe and is carrying a box of jewels.

After you read

6 Which of the characters from Exercise 3 do you agree with?

7 This is a letter that Virginia wrote to her friend in America. Complete it with the words in the box.

pillows	library	buried
sorry	country	tricks
frighten	ghost	

Dear Alicia,

22nd October 1887

Sorry I haven't written to you since we came to England, but so much has happened. Father bought us a house in the (a) country to live in. It is very big with lots of rooms and a big garden. And it came with a (b) _____ !

The ghost tried to (c) _____ us many times. He banged his chains and made loud noises and he even tried to put on a suit of armour, but it was too heavy for him. I felt very (d) _____ for him, but the rest of my family thought he was funny.

The twins are so naughty. They played many (e) _____ on the ghost. They threw (f) _____ at him and jugs of water. Eventually, I think the ghost became too sad to try and frighten us. We didn't see him for a while.

Then one day I saw him in the (g) _____. He told me how he had killed his wife and how her brothers had locked him in a room without food until he died. I helped him to find peace and now he is (h) _____ and no longer haunts the house. I think I will miss him. It is a lot quieter here now.

Write soon,

Your friend,

Virginia

8 Answer the questions.

Do you believe in ghosts?

Have you ever seen a ghost?

Do you know any ghost stories? Write it down. If you don't know any ghost stories, write your own.

Workbook Story worksheet: *The Canterville Ghost*

ANSWER KEY

Before you read

- 1 Students' own answers.
- 2 Students' own answers.

While you read

- 3 1) c 2) f 3) a 4) e 5) b 6) d
- 4 a) Washington rubbed out the stain in the library.
b) Mr Otis gave me some oil for my chains.
c) The twins threw pillows at me.
d) Mr Otis pointed a gun at me.
e) Mrs Otis offered me some medicine.
f) The twins frightened me with a Halloween pumpkin.
g) The twins poured water on me.
- 5 a) 4 b) 8 c) 2 d) 7 e) 3 f) 5 g) 1 h) 6

After you read

- 6 Students' own answers.
- 7 a) country b) ghost c) frighten d) sorry
e) tricks f) pillows g) library h) buried
- 8 Students' own answers.