While reading
The Canterville Ghost

1 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

haunted  Ambassador  skeleton  bloodstain

a Mr Otis was worried about one thing: the same ............... appeared every morning on the library floor.
b When Lord Canterville told Mr Otis that there was a ghost in the house, he did not believe the house was ............... .
c A ghost can frighten you with noises or by leaving the mark of ............... hands on your body.
d Mr Otis was in England in the name of his country. He was an ............... .

2 Is this what the Otis family think? Write right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Change the wrong sentences.

a Americans have a lot of money. When they buy a house, they also buy everything in it, even a ghost.

b In America, people like to visit places where they do not have to pay.

c American is not a very modern country.

d Americans have a solution for every problem they face. This is generally a modern product.

3 Match the words in A, B and C and make sentences about the people in the story.

A
Mrs Umney
Virginia
The Twins
Duke of Cheshire
Sir Simon

B
was kind to the ghost and helped him find peace
liked to play tricks on people
was in love with the Otis daughter
looked after the house

c disappeared mysteriously
let her keep her secret
got a raise in salary
were often punished
got valuable jewels as a present

4 Answer the following questions.

a Why did the ghost rub his knees in pain on his second appearance?

b The Ghost had never been so insulted in his 300 years of excellent haunting. What had changed?

c Where did the Canterville ghost wish to rest in peace?

d Why did Sir Simon of Canterville kill his wife?

e How did he die?

5 The Otis had a solution for everything. What did they do in each case? Match the numbers and the letters.

a When he wanted to clean the bloodstain on the floor, Washington used ...........

b The noise of the ghost’s rusty chains did not let Mr Otis sleep so he offered the Ghost ...........

c Mrs Otis heard a ghostly laugh. She thought that the ghost was not feeling well, so she gave him ...........

d When Mrs Umney was so frightened that she fainted before Mr and Mrs Otis, they wanted to ...........

1) a bottle of Smith’s Rising Sun Oil.
2) make her pay for it.
3) a black stick called Pinkerton’s Wonder Stain Cleaner.
4) a bottle of Dr Dobell’s Medicine for stomach trouble.

6 Match each person to one or more of the descriptions.

Lady Windermere
a adventurous
b always on time for appointments
c can’t live without her chiromantist
d cheerful look with a thick strong hand with a very long third finger
e forty years old and childless
f gave Mr Podgers £100
The Canterville Ghost and Other Stories

Activity worksheets  LEVEL 4

The Canterville Ghost and Other Stories

- Activity worksheets 2 of 2

Lord Arthur Saville
goes to see Lady Windermere twice a week

h had a serious illness between the ages of sixteen and eighteen

i has been married twice

j is going to marry one of the most beautiful girls in London

Mr Podgers
looks like a family doctor

married to Paisley

one of Lady Windermere’s special favourites

Sir Thomas
small and fat without much hair on his head

tall, handsome and young

tells fortunes and misfortunes

p
told fortune and had misfortune

q wanted to have his hand read

The Duchess
wears glasses

will go on a long journey soon and lose one of his relatives

will live to a great age and be very happy

7 Write why.

a Lady Windermere thought Mr Podgers wouldn't mind reading Lord Arthur’s hand.

b Mr Podgers gave Lord Arthur his card.

c Lord Arthur had to stop the marriage.

d Lord Arthur made a list of his friends and relatives.

e Lord Arthur made Lady Clem promise she would follow his advice.

8 Are these sentences right (√) or wrong (×)?

Change the wrong sentences.

a Lord Arthur and his brother spent two pleasant weeks together sailing in the English Channel.

b One day he saw a notice of Lady Clementina’s death in the Times newspaper.

c Sybil sent him sad letters.

d The old lady had died during dinner.

e Lord Arthur blamed Mr Podgers for Lady Clementina’s death.

9 Find the mistakes in this description of Lady Alroy. Correct them.

Lady Alroy was short and beautiful. She had long hair and small secretive eyes. The faint smile on the lips looked very much like the smile of the Greek Sphinx. Her hats looked very expensive. Lady Alroy was a widow: her husband had died, and she lived in a beautiful house in the most expensive part of Paris.

10 Answer the following questions.

a Why did Lord Murchison go to Norway?

b What did he read about while he was there?

c Why did he go to the house of Cumnor Street?

d Who did Lady Alroy meet at the house?

e What was Lady Alroy’s secret?

11 Are these ideas right (√) or wrong (×)?

Change the wrong sentences.

a Lord Murchison didn't want to marry because he did not understand women.

b When Lord Murchison saw Lady Alroy in Bond Street he fell in love with her.

c Lady Alroy had an office at Whitaker’s Library.

d Lord Murchison wrote her a letter asking her to be his wife.

e Lady Alroy spent her time in Cumnor Street reading books on her own.

12 Write the story.

Suppose the Canterville Ghost does not die; it moves to Sybil and Lord Arthur’s house. What happens then?
The Canterville Ghost

1 Choose the correct answer.
   a Lord Canterville did not live in Canterville Chase because …..
      1) it was too expensive to keep and his family had
         lost part of their fortune.
      2) several members of his family had been victims
         of a ghost and were afraid.
      3) Mrs Umney did not clean the house carefully.
   b Which of these is not an example of haunting work
      done by the ghost? …..
      1) The mark of two skeleton’s hands on the skin.
      2) His appearance as a headless lord.
      3) His strange soups which filled the kitchen with
         a terrible smell.
   c The Ghost was tired and unhappy because …..
      1) he tried hard but could never frighten any
         member of the Otis family.
      2) Virginia married the Duke of Cheshire and
         never talked to him again.
      3) He missed Lord Canterville.
   d The Ghost had to be careful when he walked about
      at night because …..
      1) his knees still hurt.
      2) he did not want to make noise with his chains.
      3) there were strings across passages and he might
         fall.
   e Which of these was not a trick by the Twins on the
      Ghost? …..
      1) They jumped from a corner of the library and
         shouted BOO! in his ear.
      2) They painted the bloodstain again every
         morning.
      3) They shot dried peas at him after he fell down.

2 These sentences are about the meeting between
   Virginia and the Ghost. Write True or False (T/F).
   a When she learned he had died of hunger, she
      offered him a sandwich.
   b She thought he was dishonest because he stole
      her paints to paint the bloodstain.
   c The Ghost asked her to pray for him to go to
      America one day, where everything was new
      and modern.
   d He took her hand and they walked out of the
      house through the walls.
   e She went with the Ghost near the church
      but came back quickly because her family was
      waiting for her to have tea.

Lord Arthur Saville’s Crime

3 What happened first? Put these in the right order.
   Write numbers 1–8.
   a The medicine was in fact poison and it would
      kill her when Lord Arthur was in Venice.
   b The marriage was arranged for June 7th.
   c Lord Arthur Saville knew what his duty was
      and he had no right to marry Sybil until after
      the murder.
   d Back at home, Lord Arthur promised Sybil they
      would get married soon.
   e Lady Clementina seemed the right person: she
      suffered from stomachaches and he would give
      her a perfect cure.
   f Lord Arthur felt happy again.
   g Once Lady Clem had died, Lord Arthur
      sent Sybil a message: he was coming back to
      London.
   h What he didn’t know at the beginning was who
      would have to die.

4 Correct five wrong facts in the following texts.
   Lord Arthur Saville was affected by Lady Clementina’s
   death and he blamed Lady Windermere for her death.
   Before she died, Lady Clementina made her will: she
   left her London house and all her hats to Lord Arthur.
   One day Lord Arthur and Sybil were sorting old
   papers in Lady Clem’s house when Sybil found a little
   gold box. She loved the little box and asked Arthur if
   she could have it and if she could destroy the sweet in
   the box. Arthur went white: Lady Clementina never
   ate the capsule with the aconitine liquid. She had died
   a natural death!

The Sphinx Without a Secret

5 Look at the underlined words. Who or whose are
   they?
   a ‘It went straight into my heart.’
   b ‘She looked around to see if anyone was near us.’
   c ‘It was lying on the doorstep and I picked it up and
      put it in my pocket.’
   d ‘I sent it back unopened.’
   e ‘The rent hasn’t been paid so I can let you have it.’