

It all began when Peggy's daughter, Janet, heard someone walking around in her bedroom. Four loud knocks followed, and Janet saw a large chest of drawers moving across the room on its own. Then a hairbrush flew through the air, hitting Janet's brother on the head and giving him a nasty bruise.

Fright soon turned to terror when the teenage girl began to speak in a strange voice. "I could hear a voice coming from Janet, my daughter," Peggy told the police, "but it was an old man's voice. And I couldn't see her lips moving—I'm absolutely sure it wasn't her voice."

A police officer watched a chair flying through the air. "I saw the chair rising from the floor, moving sideways, and then floating back to its original position," she said. "I was so scared that I didn't dare move."

One expert brought in video equipment to record the events. She saw furniture moving and heard voices talking. But when she tried to play the video back, there was nothing there. "I could see things happening," she told a newspaper reporter, "but I couldn't record them."

A psychic investigator, Maurice Grosse, tried to communicate with the "thing". He used a code of one knock for "No" and two knocks for "Yes."

"Did you die in this house?"

Two knocks.

"How many years did you live here? Knock once for each year."

Fifty-three knocks.

Later that day Peggy called to Grosse. "Come quickly," she said. "I can hear Janet talking in an old man's voice again."

Grosse ran into the room.

"My name is Bill Hobbs," the voice was saying. "I'm 72 years old and I have come here to see my family. But they are not here now. I'm going away and won't come back."

And after this, the haunting ended.

3

AFTER READING

Choose the best answer.

- 1** The opinions of people who investigated the Hodgsons' house were
A the same. **B** different. **C** strange.
- 2** When Janet was in her bedroom, she heard someone
A knocking. **B** flying. **C** singing.
- 3** A hairbrush hurt
A Peggy.
B Peggy's daughter.
C Peggy's son.
- 4** Peggy heard Janet
A talking to an old man.
B speaking strangely.
C telling the police.
- 5** When the chair rose into the air, the police officer
A moved.
B was very frightened.
C went back to her original position.

- 6** The expert with video equipment couldn't
A see things moving.
B hear people talking.
C record what happened.
- 7** "My name is Bill Hobbs," said
A the ghost. **B** Peggy. **C** Grosse.
- 8** The ghost lived in the house for
A two years.
B seventy-two years.
C fifty-three years.