



Read the texts and choose the correct answer to each question or the correct option.

### THE CANTERVILLE GHOST *by Oscar Wilde*

When Mr. Hiram B Otis of America bought Canterville Chase, everyone told him he was doing a very foolish thing, as there was no doubt at all that the place was haunted. Indeed, Lord Canterville himself had seen it as his duty to mention the fact to Mr. Otis.

"We have not lived in the place ourselves," said Lord Canterville, "since my great-aunt, the Dowager Duchess of Bolton, was frightened into an illness from which she never really recovered by two ghostly hands being placed on her shoulders as she was dressing for dinner, and the ghost has been seen by several living members of my family, as well as by the vicar. After the unfortunate incident with the Duchess, none of our younger servants would stay with us, and my wife often got very little sleep at night because of the mysterious noises that came from the corridor and the library."

"My Lord," answered Mr. Otis, "I come from a modern country where we have everything that money can buy. I reckon that if there were such a thing as a ghost in Europe, we'd have it at home in a very short time in one of our museums, or on the road as a show,"

"I fear that the ghost exists," said Lord Canterville, smiling, "even though it has avoided your travelling entertainers. It has been well-known for three centuries. If you don't mind a ghost in the house, it is all right. Only you must remember that I warned you."

A few weeks after this, the Otis family arrived on a lovely July evening. The air on their journey from the railway station was delicate with the scent of pinewoods. As they entered the grounds of Canterville Chase, however, the sky suddenly became overcast, despite a strange stillness in the air. A big group of black birds passed silently over their heads, and before they reached the house, some large drops of rain had fallen. Standing on the steps to receive them was Mrs. Umney, the housekeeper. She said in an old-fashioned manner, "I bid you welcome to Canterville Chase."

Following her, they passed through the fine hall into the library, a long, low room of black wood. Mrs. Otis caught sight of a dull red stain on the floor just by the fireplace. She said to Mrs. Umney: "I am afraid something has been spilt there."

"Yes, madam," replied the old housekeeper in a low voice, "blood has been spilt on that spot."

"How horrid!" cried Mrs. Otis; "It must be removed at once." The old woman smiled, and answered in the same low, mysterious voice, "It is the blood of Lady Eleonore de Canterville, who was murdered on that very spot by her own husband, Sir Simon de Canterville, in 1575. Sir Simon survived her by nine years, and disappeared suddenly under very mysterious circumstances. His body has never been discovered, but his guilty spirit still haunts the house. The blood stain cannot be removed, no matter how hard you try. It has been much admired by tourists and others."

"Nonsense," cried Washington Otis, "Pinkerton's Stain Remover will clean it up in no time," and before the terrified housekeeper could interfere, he fell upon his knees and began to scrub the floor. Then a flash of lightning lit up the sombre room, a terrible roar of thunder made them all get to their feet, and Mrs. Umney fainted. Mrs. Umney came round after a few moments, but she was still extremely upset.

"I have seen things here, sir," she said, "that would make anyone's hair stand on end, and many a night have not closed my eyes in sleep for the awful things that are done here." Mr. Otis, however, and his wife warmly assured her that they were not afraid of ghosts.

- Lord Canterville believes the Dowager Duchess of Bolton\_\_\_\_
  - saw a ghost.*
  - became a ghost.*
  - died because of a ghost.*
  - scared the servants.*
- Mr. Otis tells Lord Canterville that America is\_\_\_\_
  - keen to find ghosts.*
  - full of rich people.*
  - an advanced society.*
  - interested in European culture.*
- The weather at Canterville Chase on the family's arrival is\_\_\_\_
  - windy.*
  - icy.*
  - summery.*
  - cloudy.*
- Mrs. Umney says the stain on the floor\_\_\_\_
  - was put there for visitors.*
  - shows the scene of a crime.*
  - appeared when Sir Simon de Canterville disappeared.*
  - is the result of an accident in the 16th century.*
- Mrs. Umney appears to\_\_\_\_
  - feel like sleeping.*
  - have seen a ghost.*
  - be alarmed by Mr Otis's actions.*
  - have inspected the house thoroughly.*