Leap Castle

There are lots of medieval castles in Ireland. They weren't royal palaces, as they often were in Britain. They were fortified homes for important Irish families and many of them exist today. Some are in ruins, but others are habitable. They are usually places of interest, hotels or private homes, but there's one thing that these castles have in common – many people say that there are ghosts in them.

One example is Leap Castle in central Ireland. When the castle was uninhabited, local people noticed lights in the bedroom windows at night. Then, when the new owners, the Ryans, restored the castle over ten years ago, two mysterious accidents occurred. The Ryans started to think that they weren't welcome. Today, however, they live happily with the ghosts. A few years ago, when the ghost of an old man appeared in a chair, the Ryans greeted him and continued as normal. Also, on quiet evenings, they often hear music from some of the rooms downstairs.

For those people who love history or for those who are interested in the paranormal, Ireland, and especially Leap Castle, is a good place to visit.

2 1.38 **Read again and listen. Find words 1–6 in the text and match them with their definitions a–f.**

1 royal palaces ☐
2 in ruins ☐
3 ghosts ☐
4 uninhabited ☐
5 owners ☐
6 greeted ☐

a) spirits of dead people
b) very big houses that were the homes of kings and queens
c) destroyed
d) said hello to someone
e) proprietors
f) when nobody lives in a place

3 **Circle T (true) or F (false).**

1 The castles in Ireland aren't very old. T / F
2 Important people lived in Irish castles, but not kings and queens. T / F
3 It isn't possible to live in some of the castles today. T / F
4 People think that there are ghosts in Leap Castle. T / F
5 A family lived in Leap Castle when lights were visible at night. T / F
6 Two accidents happened after the Ryans moved to Leap Castle. T / F
7 The Ryans think that the ghosts are friendly now. T / F
8 There aren't any historical places to visit in Ireland. T / F

LIVEWORKSHEETS