A HOUSE OF MYSTERY

In 1884, heartbroken Sarah Winchester left her home in Connecticut on the east coast of the USA as well as the graves of her husband and only child, and travelled across the country to California where a strange obsession awaited her. Did she know that it would last for the rest of her life?

SET A

- Where was Sarah Winchester's home?

  _____

- Where did Sarah Winchester travel to in 1884?

  _____

- Find the word with the same meaning as below.

Meaning	Word
holes dug in the ground to receive a coffin or dead body	

When her husband passed away, Sarah inherited the Winchester gun and rifle company, which had made the Winchester family very wealthy. After the deaths of her child and husband, Sarah fell into a deep depression and decided to consult a medium. According to some sources, the medium explained that her family was being haunted by the ghosts of American soldiers and others killed by Winchester rifles. Supposedly the deaths of her daughter and husband had been caused by these spirits and Sarah Winchester might be the next victim. The medium said that to keep the ghosts happy, Sarah had to build a huge house for them. As long as she never stopped building the house, her life would not be in danger.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SET B

- What happened to Sarah after the deaths of her child and husband?

_____

- Who told Sarah that her family was being haunted by ghosts of American soldiers?

_____

- What did the medium tell Sarah to do to keep the ghosts happy?

_____

- Find the word with the same meaning as below.

Meaning	Word
having a lot of money or very rich	
ask for advice or to get information	

Sarah Winchester had strange habits, too. Apparently, she never slept in the same bedroom two nights in a row because she wanted to confuse any evil spirits that were waiting for her. She also used to visit the Blue Room at the centre of the house every night to communicate with the good spirits. She would ring a bell at midnight to call them and again at 2 am when it was time for them to leave. She would wear one of 13 special coloured robes and ask them for guidance on her construction plans.

SET C

- Where was the Blue Room situated in the house?

_____

- How many colours of robes did she wear?

_____

- Find the word with the same meaning as below.

Meaning	Word
put a clothe on	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A year after Sarah's death, the house was opened to the public. Since then, many people have described strange experiences there. Neighbours claimed to hear a bell ring at midnight and at 2 am. A caretaker heard the sound of a screw slowly turning, then hitting the floor. He looked everywhere, but found nothing. Tour guides have reported seeing a ghostly workman with a dark moustache in the basement of the house.

SET D

- What happened to the house a year after Sarah's death?

  _____

- When did the neighbours hear a bell ring?

  _____

- Who reportedly saw a ghostly workman in the basement?

  _____

- Find the word with the same meaning as below.

Meaning	Word
people / community	
people who live next door to each other	

LIVEWORKSHEETS