Chapter 2: The Red Room

Fill in the blanks

1. The young man is _____ years old and does not believe in _____.
2. To prove ghosts don't exist, he decides to spend the night in the _____ Room of _____ Castle.
3. The three old caretakers warn him about the room's history of _____ and _____.
4. The young man describes the caretakers as looking like _____ themselves.
5. In the corridor, he mistakes a _____ for shadows of people.
6. Inside the Red Room, he lights multiple _____ and checks behind the _____ for safety.
7. At _____, the candles begin blowing out _____, as if crushed by invisible hands.
8. Even the _____ extinguishes, plunging him into total darkness.
9. Overcome by terror, he _____ and falls unconscious, waking up with a _____ the next morning.
10. The fear preys on the _____ and amplifies even the simplest _____.

Choose the correct meaning for each word.

1. Gloomily

a) Sadly
b) Happily
c) Brightly
d) Loudly

2. Apprehensive

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a) Confident
b) Carefree
c) Anxious
d) Angry

3. Monotonous

a) Exciting
b) Boring
c) Musical
d) Fast

4. Crutch

a) A weapon
b) A type of chair
c) A musical instrument
d) A support for walking

5. Extinguish

a) To light up
b) To put out
c) To hide
d) To throw

6. Solitude

a) Being alone
b) Being in a crowd
c) Being lost
d) Being angry

7. Lurk

a) To sing loudly

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b) To run away
c) To sleep
d) To hide and wait

8. Abruptly

a) Slowly
b) Carefully
c) Suddenly
d) Repeatedly

9. Humid

a) Dry
b) Cold
c) Moist
d) Hot

10. Skeptical

a) Doubtful
b) Believing easily
c) Fearful
d) Excited

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why does the young man decide to spend the night in the Red Room?

a) He is sceptical about ghosts and wants to prove they don't exist.
b) He inherited the castle and must inspect the room for legal reasons.
c) He is a ghost hunter and wants to capture evidence of paranormal activity.
d) He was dared by friends and cannot back down without losing his reputation.

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2. How do the three elderly caretakers contribute to the eerie atmosphere?

a) They secretly follow him to the Red Room to play pranks and scare him.
b) They openly threaten the young man, warning him he will not survive the night.
c) They refuse to speak to him, communicating only through gestures and whispers.
d) Their aged appearance, odd behaviour, and ominous warnings make them seem ghost-like.

3. What precautions does the young man take in the Red Room to calm his nerves?

a) He invites one of the caretakers to stay with him for company.
b) He brings a weapon, locks the door, and recites prayers for protection.
c) He ignores the warnings and sleeps soundly, trusting his disbelief in ghosts.
d) He lights all the candles, checks behind curtains, and uses furniture as a barricade.

4. What phenomenon in the Red Room terrifies the young man the most?

a) A ghostly figure appears and speaks to him in an ancient language.
b) The walls bleed, and distant screams echo from the castle's history.
c) The room shrinks gradually, making him feel trapped and suffocated.
d) The candles and fireplace extinguish inexplicably, plunging him into darkness.

5. What does the young man conclude is the true horror of the Red Room?

a) Fear itself—irrational, overwhelming, and primal—haunts the room.
b) The caretakers are secretly manipulating events to drive visitors mad.
c) The room is cursed by a vengeful spirit seeking revenge for past wrongs.

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d) The castle's architecture creates optical illusions that play tricks on the mind.

6. How does the young man react when the candles begin blowing out?

a) He panics, trips over furniture, and flees the room in terror.
b) He meditates to calm himself, refusing to let fear take control.
c) He laughs, assuming it's a draft, and relights them without concern.
d) He accuses the caretakers of sabotage and demands an explanation.

7. What literary device is emphasized in the line, "Fear! It is the fear itself that is beyond reason"?

a) Metaphor, comparing fear to an unseen predator.
b) Personification, as fear is given human-like qualities.
c) Foreshadowing, as it hints at the young man's eventual fate.
d) Irony, because the man expected ghosts but found something worse.

8. Why does the young man mention the deaths of previous visitors to the Red Room?

a) To foreshadow his own impending death.
b) To mock the superstitions of the caretakers.
c) To highlight his bravery in facing a known threat.
d) To suggest the room is physically dangerous, not just haunted.

9. How does the setting (Lorraine Castle) contribute to the story's theme?

a) Its bright, modern design contrasts with the dark events that occur.
b) Its ancient, shadowy corridors amplify the sense of isolation and dread.
c) It is a well-known tourist attraction, making the haunting a public spectacle.
d) It symbolizes wealth and power, making the haunting seem like a punishment.

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10. What lesson does the young man learn by the end of the story?

a) Courage means ignoring fear rather than confronting it.
b) Elderly people possess secret knowledge about the spirit world.
c) Ghosts are real, and science cannot explain supernatural phenomena.
d) Human imagination can create terror even in the absence of real threats.

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