

#### Section 4

The person I've chosen to talk about is the French writer Victor Hugo – many people have heard of him because his novel, *Les Misérables*, which he wrote in 1862, is famous around the world. It became (1) ..... in the 1980s, and (2) ..... was also released in 2012. So, some of us, I'm sure, have a pretty general idea of the plot, but we know much less about the author. Today, I'm going to provide (3) ..... this talented man and I'm going to talk particularly about the home he had on the island of Guernsey in the British Channel Islands.

But first, his early career ... as I've said, he was a writer, he was (4) ..... in Paris and he was very highly regarded by his colleagues. As far as literature was concerned, he was the leading figure of (5) ..... However, as well as being (6) ....., he also gave many speeches about issues like (7) ..... in his society. He felt very strongly about this and about other areas where change was needed, like education. (8) ..... was not well liked by the rulers of France and, eventually, the emperor – Napoleon III – told Victor Hugo to (9) .....; in other words, (10) .....

So Victor Hugo was forced to reside in other parts of Europe. Guernsey was actually his third place of exile and he landed there in 1855. He produced a lot while on Guernsey – including *Les Misérables* – and to do this, he had to spend a great deal of time in the home that he had there. This was a property that he bought using the money he'd made in France from (11) ..... a collection of his poetry. It was (12) ....., and he was very proud of it.

The property Victor Hugo bought on Guernsey was a large, (13) ..... in the capital town of St Peter Port and he lived there for 15 years, returning to France in 1870 when (14) ..... He decorated and furnished each level, or floor, of the house in (15) ....., and many people consider the inside of the house to be a 'work of art'. Today it's a museum that attracts 200,000 visitors a year.

He lived in the house with his family ... and portraits of its members still hang in rooms (16) ....., along with drawings that he did during his travels that he felt were important to him. In other ground-floor rooms, (17) ..... that he

would have designed and loved. The walls are covered in (18) ..... that Victor Hugo created himself using wooden furniture that he bought in the market. The items were relatively inexpensive, and he used them to (19) ..... They gave an atmosphere on the lower level that was (20) .....

On the next level of the house there are (21) ....., where he entertained his guests. One lounge has entirely red furnishings, such as (22) ....., and the other blue. There's a strong Chinese influence in these areas in things like (23) ..... – which he would have made himself by copying original versions.

His library, where he left many of his favourite books, forms the hallway to the third floor and was a comfortable area where he could (24) ..... his afternoons. And then, at the very top of the house, there's a room called the Lookout – called that because it looks out over the harbour. In contrast to (25) ....., it's full of light and was like (26) ..... where he would write until lunchtime - often at his desk.

So, Victor Hugo was (27) ....., but he was also true to his values. While living in his house on Guernsey, he entertained many other famous writers, but he also invited a large group of local children from (28) ..... to dinner once a week. What's more, he served them their food, which was (29) ..... for the time period.

In 1927, the house was owned by his relatives, and they decided to donate it to the city of Paris. It has since been restored using photographs from the period and, as I mentioned earlier, is now a museum that is (30) .....