

1. Przeczytaj uważnie poniższy artykuł. Na podstawie informacji zawartych w tekście zdecyduj, które zdania są zgodne z treścią tekstu (TRUE), a które nie (FALSE).

PIGEONS FIND HIDDEN SPAIN FRESCO

A Renaissance fresco hidden for 300 years has been rediscovered in Spain -thanks to nesting pigeons.

Art restorers working in Valencia's cathedral noticed the birds flying through a hole in what turned out to be a false ceiling. They wanted to see what was there so they stuck a digital camera in the gap and shot pictures that showed a well-preserved 15th-century Italian fresco. It is one of the earliest and most important examples of such Renaissance art in Spain, experts say.

The fresco, which shows four angels against a starry blue background, was painted by two Italians, Francesco Pagano and Paolo de San Leocadio, in the late 1400s. It was ordered by a papal representative, Rodrigo Borja, a Spaniard who went on to become Pope Alexander VI in 1492.

The fresco was covered up by a baroque ceiling, which was constructed — as art historians believe — around 1670, most probably because of changing artistic tastes. Normally baroque artists in covering up an existing fresco removed it first, art historian Fernando Lopez told the Associated Press. "This time they did not. They left an air pocket. That is the big surprise."

The president of Valencia's government, Francisco Camps, said the find was "one of the most important cultural discoveries in recent years" in Spain. The magnificent fresco angels can be seen again after more than 300 years and are admired by both professionals and amateurs.

- a) The Renaissance fresco in Valencia's cathedral was found by chance.
- b) Curious art restorers took a photo of the gap in the ceiling.
- c) The fresco was ordered by future Pope Alexander VI.
- d) It was a common procedure in the baroque period to paint a new fresco on top of an old one.
- e) The fresco will soon be shown to the public.

2. Przeczytaj uważnie poniższy artykuł, a następnie przy każdym pytaniu wybierz właściwą — zgodną z tekstem — odpowiedź lub zakończenie zdania.

SCHOLAR OR GHOST STORY WRITER

Montague Rhodes James was born at Goodnesstone Parsonage in Kent in 1863, where his father worked as a priest of the lowest rank. From an early age James was more likely to be found looking through old volumes in the library than playing with other children. When he was six he became ill with bronchitis and, while recovering from the illness, expressed a wish to see a seventeenth century Dutch bible, which belonged to a friend of his father's, Bishop Ryle. The book was sent to him and the boy spent hours sitting up in bed, inspecting the volume with great attention page after page.

James was first educated at Eton, where he showed a true humanistic talent, and then at King's College in Cambridge. After he had completed his university education, he became assistant in classical archaeology at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. He was elected a Fellow of King's after writing *The Apocalypse of St Peter*, and then lectured in Divinity College, becoming the Dean of the College in 1889. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1913 to 1915.

James was a remarkable medieval scholar, who published a number of bibliographical works and papers based on the study of ancient documents. He also edited several volumes for historical societies. His exceptional humanistic talent, unusually keen memory and hard work meant that he often produced pioneering studies. His translation of the Apocryphal New Testament in 1924 was one such work. His research often took him abroad, and he visited Cyprus, Denmark, Sweden and Austria. He died in 1936.

Although a great scholar of his day, James is now best remembered as a writer of ghost stories. Fascinated by the supernatural, he was an admirer of the Irish mystery writer, Le Fanu, whose ghost stories he edited. Several volumes of James's own ghost stories were published between 1904 and 1931. The stories were usually first published in magazines, such as the *Cambridge Review*, but some were written for special occasions. "Wailing Well" is one such story, composed for the gathering of the Eton College Boy Scouts in 1927.

2.1 When M.R. James was a little boy, he:

- a) did not like other children.
- b) liked books more than play.
- c) was interested in library work.
- d) was given a valuable book.

2.2 The event that happened when James was six suggests that:

- a) he showed interest in old texts very early.
- b) his family had strong church connections.
- c) he was quite a difficult little boy to look after.
- d) he learnt foreign languages at a very early age.

2.3 James's academic career:

- a) depended on his connections with the King.
- b) started when he became a humanistic teacher at Eton.
- c) was possible thanks to his early interest in archaeology.
- d) started and continued at Cambridge.

2.4 The text mentions the *Apocryphal New Testament*:

- a) as a work by James which was the first of its kind.
- b) to prove that James was a well-known translator.
- c) as a work requiring unusual editorial abilities.
- d) to suggest that James was certainly a religious man.

2.5 "Wailing Well" is one of James's ghost stories:

- a) first published in Eton.
- b) not written for a magazine.
- c) originally written for a collection.
- d) published in the *Cambridge Review*.

2.6 This text is a short:

- a) autobiography.
- b) review.
- c) report.
- d) biography.