



The Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde (Reading Worksheet)



Chapter 1

“Don’t buy that house!” everyone told the American, Mr Hiram B. Otis. “Canterville Chase is haunted.”

Even Lord Canterville tried to warn Mr Otis. “We no longer live in the place,” he said.

“Why not?”

“Several living members of our family have seen the ghost. One night a skeleton put both his hands on the shoulders of my great aunt, the Duchess of Bolton.”

“While she was dressing for dinner,” said Lady Canterville with a shudder. “The poor woman nearly died from the shock. She has never really recovered.”

“After that none of the servants would stay with us. And Lady Canterville often got very little sleep at night. Isn’t that right?”

“I heard noises,” confirmed Lady Canterville. “They came from the corridor and the library.”

Mr Hiram B. Otis smiled. “My dear Lord,” he said. I come from a modern country. We have everything money can buy. If there were really a ghost in Europe, we would pay for him to come to us.”

“The ghost has been here since 1584,” said Lord Canterville. “It always appears before the death of any member of our family.”

“We don’t believe in ghosts,” said Mr Otis. “

“Very well,” said Lord Canterville. “But please remember that I warned you.”

Quick Check: True, False or not stated

1. Canterville Chase is a house.
2. Hiram B Otis is a ghost.
3. Lord Canterville is married to Canterville Chase.
4. They found the skeleton of the Duchess of Bolton.
5. The Duchess of Bolton died
6. The servants refused to stay in the house
7. Lady Canterville heard a ghost in the library.
8. Mr Otis believes there are ghosts in Europe.
9. Mr Otis does not believe in ghosts.
10. Lord Canterville does believe in ghosts

Vocabulary: Find words in the text to match these definitions.

- a) Visited by a ghost or ghosts.
- b) To tremble with fear or disgust.
- c) To get better after a shock or illness etc
- d) Belong to a group, club, family etc.