



The Canterville Ghost

Oscar Wilde



free Audiobook



The Canterville Ghost

Oscar **Wilde**



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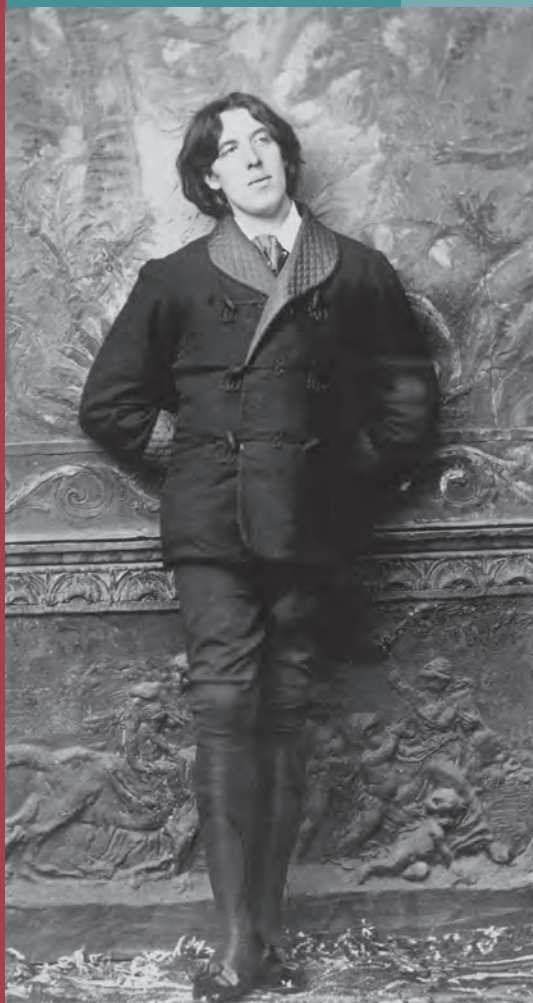
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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 16 October 1854. His father, William, was an important doctor and his mother, Jane, was a poet. Oscar's parents invited many interesting and important people to their home in Dublin. Oscar was a young boy and he liked listening to them.



track 02

When he completed his education in Ireland, he studied at Oxford University in England. He was an excellent student and won prizes for his poetry. He was funny and clever, and people liked listening to him. He liked to be the centre of attention and had unusual ideas

about art and life. He loved beautiful things and wore unusual clothes. In 1879 Oscar Wilde went to live in London and he began writing. In 1882 he went to the United States of America to talk to audiences in different cities about his writing. Many Americans went to listen to him. In 1884 he married Constance Lloyd and had two sons.

He wrote his most famous children's story, 'The Happy Prince', for his sons. He wrote poems, short stories, plays for the theatre and one novel. He was very popular and everyone invited him to their dinner parties.

Wilde published *The Canterville Ghost* in 1887.

Two of his most famous works are his novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and his play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Oscar Wilde died in 1900.

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- 1 Oscar Wilde was born in Oxford, England.
- 2 Oscar's parents were important people.
- 3 He was a clever man but not a good student.
- 4 Americans were not interested in Oscar Wilde.
- 5 In London he became a famous writer.
- 6 "The Happy Prince" was a story for his two sons.

T F

☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

2 DISCUSSION

In your country, is there any artist – writer, poet, musician, painter - who is unusual and interesting? Why is this person unusual and interesting?

3 WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GHOSTS?

A Take this quiz and find out! For each sentence choose either true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Ghosts can move through walls.
- 2 You can never see ghosts because they're invisible.
- 3 Some ghosts are bad.
- 4 Ghosts only live in haunted¹ houses.
- 5 When you see a ghost your watch stops.
- 6 Ghosts always carry their heads in their hands.
- 7 Ghosts can't talk.

T F

☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

B Now answer these questions.

- 1 Work with your partner and describe a ghost.
- 2 Now draw a picture of a ghost.
- 3 Compare your answers and pictures with your classmates.

1. **haunted** : a place with ghosts.





From left to right: Mr Hiram Otis, Mrs Lucretia Otis, Washington Otis, Virginia Otis, Mrs Umney, the Otis twins, Cecil, Lord Canterville, the Canterville Ghost.

BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

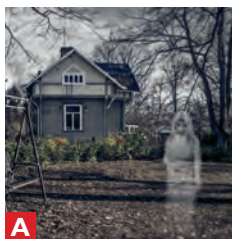
Match the words with their meaning. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1 ☐ haunted

2 ☐ frightened

3 ☐ twins

4 ☐ the Stars and Stripes



2 LISTENING



Listen to Chapter One and choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

track 03

1 Mr Otis was an American

A ☐ who wanted to buy Canterville Chase.

B ☐ who wanted to sell Canterville Chase to an English lord.

C ☐ who wanted to go back to America.

2 The Canterville family

A ☐ lived in London.

B ☐ was going to America.

C ☐ didn't want to live in a haunted house.

3 Mrs Otis

A ☐ was a minister of the United States Government.

B ☐ had four children.

C ☐ was afraid of ghosts.

4 'The Stars and Stripes'

A ☐ were twins.

B ☐ liked dancing.

C ☐ liked riding their pony in the country.



CHAPTER ONE

Canterville Chase

Mr Hiram B. Otis was American. He was rich and important. He wanted to live in an old house in England so he decided to buy Canterville Chase. Everyone told him that he was very stupid because Canterville Chase was haunted.



track 03

Lord Canterville was the owner of Canterville Chase and said to Mr Otis, 'I don't live in this house because it's haunted. Members of my family saw the ghost many times. They were terribly frightened. My wife, Lady Canterville, can't sleep here at night because there are strange noises in the house.'

'My Lord,' said Mr Otis, 'I'll buy the house with the furniture and the ghost. I come from a modern country and we have everything that money can buy. If there are ghosts in Europe, an American will probably take one back home. He'll put it in a museum for everyone to see.'

Lord Canterville smiled and said, 'There's a ghost in this house and it always appears before someone in the family dies.'



‘Well,’ said Mr Otis, laughing, ‘in my home the *doctor* appears before someone in the family dies. But I’m an American and we don’t believe in ghosts. They’re an old European idea.’

‘If you don’t mind a ghost in the house, that’s alright,’ said Lord Canterville. ‘But please remember that I told you.’

A few weeks later Lord Canterville sold Canterville Chase to the Americans.

There were six people in the Otis family. Mr Otis was a minister¹ of the United States Government.

His wife, Mrs Lucretia Otis, was a beautiful woman. When she was a young lady in New York City, she was famous for her beauty. She was healthy and strong.

Washington was the oldest son of the family. His parents called him Washington, because the first president of the United States was called George Washington. He was tall and good-looking, and had blond hair. He liked dancing very much and liked living in Great Britain.

Virginia Otis was fifteen years old and she was lovely. She had blonde hair and big blue eyes. She loved riding her pony in the country. A young English lord, Cecil, Duke of Cheshire, liked her very much.

The youngest children were twins. They were often called ‘the Stars and Stripes’, like the name that people called the American flag. They were often naughty² but everyone liked them.

1. **minister** : An important person who works for the government of a country.

2. **naughty** : When you don’t behave well.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't Say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

A B C

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | Mr Otis was an important man who worked for the American government. | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 1 | Mr Otis was tall and good-looking. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 | Nobody told Mr Otis about the ghost at Canterville Chase. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 | Mr Otis decided to buy the house but not the old furniture. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 | The Canterville ghost always appeared after a family member died. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 | Mrs Lucretia Otis came from New York City. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 | Mrs Lucretia Otis was thirty-six years old. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7 | Washington did not like living in Great Britain. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 8 | The young Duke of Cheshire was Virginia's good friend. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 9 | Virginia's pony was brown and white. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10 | 'The Stars and Stripes' were the youngest children of the Otis family. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

T: GRADE 3

2 SPEAKING – WORK

Mr Otis is a minister of the American government. Talk with your partner about the job you want to do. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What kind of job do you want to do?
- 2 Why do you want to do this job?
- 3 Is it easy, difficult, interesting, dangerous or boring?
- 4 What subjects do you need to study to do this job?
- 5 Do you know someone who does this job?

3 OPPOSITES

Match the word with its opposite.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 ☐ clever | A new |
| 2 ☐ buy | B short |
| 3 ☐ old | C stupid |
| 4 ☐ ugly | D sell |
| 5 ☐ tall | E beautiful |

4 AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH

A How different is American English from British English? Take this fun quiz and find out. Mark USA or UK for the words below.

Do you know the meaning of all the words?

Then write the correct synonym in the third column. There is an example at the beginning (0).

		UK	USA	SYNONYMS
0	Elevator	☐	☒	Lift
1	Post	☐	☐	
2	Holiday	☐	☐	
3	Mail	☐	☐	
4	Petrol	☐	☐	
5	Gas	☐	☐	
6	Lift	☐	☐	
7	Vacation	☐	☐	

B There are spelling differences too. Words that end in -re in British English often end in -er in American English. And words that end in -our in British English often end in -or in American English. Look at the examples below.

Words that end in -re

UK	USA
centre	center
theatre	theater

Words that end in -our

UK	USA
colour	color
humour	humor

C Now find the 8 words from the table in part A in the word square. Circle the British words in red and the American words in blue.

C	M	S	E	J	B	D	H	G	X	A	B	M	O
O	R	W	I	A	U	T	U	M	N	I	N	P	H
M	V	E	K	G	S	U	C	L	D	C	A	E	O
A	D	E	L	O	H	O	G	A	S	H	G	T	L
I	C	T	T	E	O	F	O	T	N	E	O	R	I
L	B	S	P	Z	V	G	U	N	K	D	B	O	D
S	O	R	A	Y	P	A	E	D	N	R	Y	L	A
P	A	N	G	S	R	F	T	G	A	F	X	Z	Y
W	K	U	M	V	A	S	D	O	I	D	A	O	A
V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	F	R	U	L	L	U
F	X	P	U	L	I	F	T	I	K	S	V	R	L

SHE LOVED RIDING HER PONY IN THE COUNTRY.

We form the Past Simple of regular verbs by adding **-ed** to the verb.

work - worked help - helped talk - talked

When the verb already ends in -e, add only **-d** to the verb.

love - loved hate - hated complete - completed

Some verbs end in a **consonant + y**. We remove the 'y' and add **-ied**.

study - studied carry - carried hurry - hurried

But if verbs end in a **vowel + y**, the 'y' does not change.

play - played stay - stayed enjoy - enjoyed

5 THE PAST SIMPLE – REGULAR VERBS

A Complete the following sentences with the Past Simple of the verbs given.

appear work stay like want study play hurry

- 1 Mr Otis to live in an old English house.
- 2 Washington and Virginia French at school.
- 3 The twins in the garden after school.
- 4 The ghost at midnight.
- 5 They home because it was very late.
- 6 Washington dancing.
- 7 Mr Otis for the American Government.
- 8 The children home because it was raining.

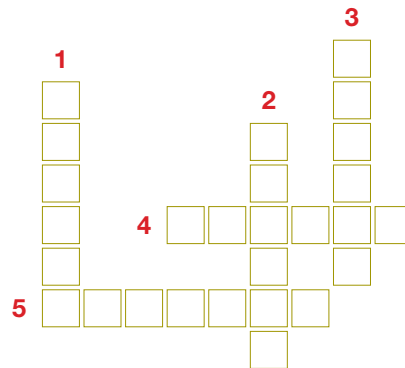
B Unscramble the verbs below and then put them in the crossword in the Past Simple form.

Down

- 1 okol
2 phle
3 msile

Across

- 4 altk
5 cdeied



6 DISCUSSION

Work with your partner and make two lists. Then present them to the class.

- 1 What British and American foods do you know?
- 2 What American and British singers and bands do you know?

BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

A Match each word with the right picture.

1 ☐ Hall

3 ☐ Stain

5 ☐ Flash of lightning

2 ☐ Fireplace

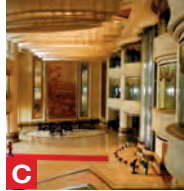
4 ☐ Carriage



A



B



C



D



E

B Match each word with the right definition.

1 ☐ Housekeeper

A Very terrible.

2 ☐ Blood

B A person who looks after the house.

3 ☐ Horrible

C A loud noise in the sky when there is a storm.

4 ☐ Thunder

D Red liquid that flows around our body.



track 04

2 LISTENING

Listen to Chapter Two and choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

1 The Otis family arrived at Canterville Chase

A ☐ in June.

B ☐ in July.

C ☐ in January.

2 The weather at Canterville Chase was

A ☐ rainy and cloudy.

B ☐ very windy.

C ☐ lovely.

3 Mrs Umney was

A ☐ the owner of Canterville Chase.

B ☐ the ghost of Canterville Chase.

C ☐ the housekeeper at Canterville Chase.

4 There was a bloodstain

A ☐ on the floor of the library.

B ☐ on the floor of the hall.

C ☐ in Mrs Otis's bedroom.