



## 7. The Twins' Tricks

The Otis family made the ghost upset and nervous. He stayed in his room and he jumped every time he heard a noise.

"I have to appear in the hall at night," he thought. "I have to make strange and terrible noises. I am a ghost and it's my duty. I must do it."

Sir Simon was an evil man when he was alive, but now he was dead, his ghost wanted to do his job properly. Every Saturday, he walked in the hall from midnight until three o'clock, but he tried not to let the family see or hear him. He took off his shoes, and he even took a bottle of Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator from Mr Otis' bedroom and oiled his chains. However, the family knew that he was there, and the twins played terrible tricks on him. One night, they tied a piece of string to the furniture on each side of the hall. The ghost tripped over the string in the dark and fell over. On another night, the twins put some butter at the top of the stairs. The ghost slipped on the butter and fell all the way down to the bottom of the stairs. This made the ghost very angry, so he decided to frighten the twins. The next night, he wore different clothes. He took off his head and left it in



his room. Then he went to the twins' bedroom. The door was not quite closed. The ghost pushed the door hard, and a large bucket of water fell from the top of the door and splashed all over him. The ghost was very wet, and very unhappy, but the twins laughed and laughed.

The ghost went back to his room and stayed in bed with a cold for the next two days.

"At least I didn't take my head with me," he thought, "so I'm not wet all over."

The ghost did not try to frighten the Otis family again. He still appeared in the hall once a week, and the twins still played tricks on him. Sometimes they put nutshells on the floor of the hall to hurt his feet. Once, they hid in the hall, jumped out at him and shouted "BOO!" But after a while, they did not see the ghost any more, so the family decided that the ghost was gone for ever.

The Otis family were wrong. The ghost was still in the house, but he was so frightened of the twins that he became quite ill. He spent most of his time in his room and often stayed in bed.

## Episode 7

### Before Reading

- 1 Look at the pictures. What happens to the Canterville ghost in this episode?
- 2 Which of these things can you see in the pictures?
  - shield • candelabra • bucket
  - spider • night cap • spears • puddle
  - wallpaper • pencil • portrait
  - baseball bat

### While Reading

- 3 Answer the questions.
  - 1 Why did the ghost have to appear every week?
  - 2 Why did the ghost take oil from Mr Otis' bedroom?
  - 3 What happened when the ghost tried to frighten the twins?
  - 4 Why didn't the ghost get wet all over?
  - 5 Why did the ghost stay in his room?

### After Reading

- 4 Discuss in pairs.
  - Do you think the twins' tricks are funny or unkind? Why?
  - Imagine you are the ghost. What are you going to do now?
  - Do you think the ghost will leave Canterville Chase? Why (not)?

## Episode 8

### Before Reading

- 1 Look at the first picture. Where is Virginia now? How do you think the ghost is feeling? Why?
- 2 Look at the second picture. Where do you think Virginia and the ghost are going? How do you think Virginia is feeling?

### While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and mark the sentences as *T* (true) or *F* (false).
  - 1 Virginia went walking in the woods with the Duke of Cheshire. ....
  - 2 Mrs Umney told the Otis family that the ghost killed his wife. ....
  - 3 Virginia offered the ghost a sweet. ....
  - 4 The ghost used green paint to make the stain. ....
  - 5 The ghost found it difficult to find real blood. ....
  - 6 The wall fell down in the ghost's room. ....

### After Reading

- 4 Discuss in pairs.
  - Where do you think Virginia and the ghost went?
  - What do you think is going to happen to Virginia?
  - Do you think Virginia is going to come back?
  - Do you think the ghost is good or evil? Why?

# Play

## Script and General Stage Directions

The narrator's part can be divided between two or more students, if the teacher prefers.

The narrator(s) should be dressed in black, so as not to stand out too much during the play.

The narrator(s) should always stand on the left or right of the stage, in such a way that they do not interfere with the action or obstruct the view of the audience.

**Characters:** Ghost  
Mr Otis  
Mrs Otis  
Washington  
Virginia  
Twins  
Mrs Umney  
Lord Canterville  
Duke

**Narrator(s):** At least one student, dressed in black.

### Scene 1 Part 1

**SONG:** *A Haunted House*



Something's strange at Canterville  
Something's not quite right  
With shadows moving on the walls  
And noises in the night

**CHORUS:** *Never buy a haunted house  
That's the golden rule  
If you buy a haunted house  
You must be a fool*

People live at Canterville  
But not for very long  
It only takes one ghostly laugh  
To show them something's wrong

**REPEAT CHORUS**



**Narrator:** When the American minister, Mr Hiram B Otis, bought Canterville Chase, everyone told him that he was very foolish. Even Lord Canterville, who wanted to sell the house, tried to tell Mr Otis that it was a mistake to buy it.

**Lord Canterville:** I must be honest with you, Mr Otis. There is something very strange about this house. My family and I don't stay here very often.