

12. The Canterville Ghost

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Date:

- Oscar Wilde.

- 1) Canterville -
- 2) intimidating - frightening.
- 3) try me - why don't you try telling me?
- 4) dowager - a widow of high social rank, with a title or a property derived from her late husband.
- 5) clammy - damp & cold.
- 6) draught - a rush of unpleasantly cold air blowing through a room.
- 7) guffawing - laughing loudly & heartily, especially because someone has said something silly or funny.
- 8) monstrous - horrible.
- 9) hush - to tell somebody to be quiet, to stop talking or crying.
- 10) make anyone's hair stand on end - frighten anybody.
- 11) lubricating oil - oil applied to joints in things made of metal to stop friction & sound.
- 12) matted - tangled & knotted into thick, dirty mass.
- 13) greasing - applying oil on his chains.
- 14) vengeance - revenge.
- 15) furore - a sudden angry or excited reaction to something.
- 16) gall - rude & arrogant behaviour.
- 17) nine pins - a game played with nine wooden pins.

Understanding the text

1) Why do the twins want to corner?

Ans:- The twins want to corner the Canterville Ghost.

2) Who was the Duchess? Why did she faint?

Ans:- Lord Canterville, while warning Mr. Otis of the presence of a ghost in the house, recalled what had happened to his grand aunt who was dowager Duchess of Bolton. Once, during her stay in the Canterville Mansion, she fainted out of fear on being touched by the cold bony hands of a Ghost.

3) What did Mr. Otis think of ghosts? What was his reaction to Lord Canterville's warning?

Ans:- Mr. Otis, a wealthy American, was not all disturbed by Lord Canterville's tale. He was a man with modern views & did not believe in the existence of ghost.

When Lord Canterville warned him about ghosts in the mansion he just scoffed at the story & went ahead with his plan of buying mansion.

4) How did the youngest member of the family prove that they were as brave as the older members?

Ans:- The twins, Lewis & Clark, realised that the ghost had actually visited the library in the night. But they were definitely not perturbed & waited for the ghost in the night. When they really saw one in the night, they threw the pillow at the ghost & scared the ghost away, much to its disgust.

5) Being out the humour in the appearance of the ghost in the mansion.

Ans:- Every action in the play contradicts the fear linked to ghost. While Mrs. Otis is annoyed on seeing a blood stain, Mr. Otis presents a bottle of oil to the ghost to oil his chains. The twins want to play hide & seek with ghost & chase it away instead of being scared.