

黑布林英语阅读

HELBLING READERS

CLASSICS



高二年级
第1辑 ③

The Canterville Ghost

古堡守护灵

Oscar Wilde



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Oscar Wilde

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The Canterville Ghost

Oscar Wilde



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The Canterville Ghost

by Oscar Wilde

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About This Book

(1) 致读者

 根据封二信息下载本书MP3，聆听故事完整录音，并完成书中听力练习。
eminent¹ (p6) 当你看到正文中单词右上角数字时，即可在页脚Glossary处查看该单词的相关注释。

(2) 故事简介

"Right in front of him was standing a horrible spectre, still as a sculpture, and as dreadful as a madman's dream."
When an American family buy an old English mansion, they also inherit its terrible ghost. The ghost sets about frightening the new owners but the Americans don't frighten easily and the ghost is left with more than he bargained for.

(3) 高二年级句型结构

Modal verb <i>would</i>	Non-defining relative clauses
<i>I'd love to ...</i>	Present perfect continuous
Future continuous	<i>Used to / Would</i>
Future perfect	<i>Used to / Used to doing</i>
Reported speech / Verbs / Questions	Second conditional
Past perfect	Expressing wishes and regrets
Defining relative clauses	

Structures from lower levels are also included

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About the Author

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854, the son of an eminent¹ surgeon and a poet-cum-literary hostess. After reading classics at Dublin, Wilde went to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he won a poetry prize and gathered a wide circle of admirers. His first book, *Poems*, was published in 1881. In 1884 he married Constance Lloyd and he wrote the charming fairy tales that became

the highly successful *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* for their sons. Then, after two years of working as a journal editor, Wilde returned to the literary circles in which his sparkling wit² was better appreciated. His novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was published in 1890 but the low morals of its protagonist³ shocked the Victorian public. A year later, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories* was published; it contained 'The Canterville Ghost'. Wilde became famous with his plays *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895). They lampooned⁴ the morals and taboos⁵ of Victorian society, and exposed its hypocrisies⁶, with a highly successful blend of humour and sharp wit. However that same year, the Marquess of Queensberry, father of Wilde's close friend, Lord Alfred Douglas, publicly accused Wilde of seducing his son. Wilde sued Queensberry for libel⁷, but Queensberry won and Wilde was sentenced to two years in prison. Whilst in prison, he wrote *De Profundis*, published posthumously⁸, and *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* (1898) portraying the horrors of prison. After his release, he became bankrupt and he fell ill, both physically and mentally. He moved abroad and died in Paris in 1900.

Glossary

- 1 **eminent** /'emɪnənt/ *a.* well-known and respected 卓越的, 优异的
- 2 **wit** /wɪt/ *n.* clever humour 风趣
- 3 **protagonist** /prəʊ'tæɡənɪst/ *n.* the principal character in a work 主角
- 4 **lampoon** /læm'puːn/ *v.* make fun of 冷嘲热讽, 奚落
- 5 **taboo** /tə'buː/ *n.* things people find wrong or embarrassing (社会习俗等) 禁忌; 禁止

- 6 **hypocrisies** /hɪ'pɒkrɪsɪz/ *n.* insincerity by virtue of pretending to have qualities or beliefs that you do not really have 虚伪, 伪善
- 7 **sue... for libel**: take legal action because of what someone says about you 因诽谤罪而控告
- 8 **posthumously** /'pɒstjʊməslɪ/ *ad.* after someone dies 死后

The Canterville Ghost appeared in book form in 1891, in a collection of stories for adults called *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories*. It contained six new stories, plus two of his most popular children's stories ('The Happy Prince', and 'The Devoted Friend'). The story is about the Otises – an American family who buy an old house from Lord Canterville, an English aristocrat. The house has been haunted¹ by the ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville for 300 years. The Americans do not believe in the ghost at first, and when he appears they take an amused and pragmatic² view of him, refusing to be scared. This depresses the ghost, who is frustrated at not being able to do his work properly³. Eventually, the ghost is allowed to 'die' thanks to the kindness of Virginia Otis, the daughter of the family. Ghost stories were very popular in Victorian England, with many major writers producing them, including Dickens, Trollope and Collins. Wilde, however, uses the ghost-story format in an unconventional way. We feel sorry for the ghost instead of being afraid of him. Wilde also uses the story to make fun of both the British aristocracy and their traditions and conventions, and the Americans with their straightforward⁴, no-nonsense view of the world, and their sense of superiority to the British. There are many amusing comments made on this topic. The story also illustrates Wilde's ideas on beauty. The story is very sensuous, and includes some lovely detailed descriptions, and it also reflects his belief that the power of beauty can make things better, with the beautiful Virginia triumphing⁵ over the evil of the ghost. The love story between Virginia and Lord Francis Stilton, Duke of Cheshire, is a typical piece of Victorian sentimental writing, and the plot could be described as being melodramatic; however the charm and humour of the central ghost-story theme, combined with Wilde's characteristic satire, transform this short story into a powerful and evocative⁶ tale.

1 **haunt** /hɔ:nt/ *v.* when a ghost lives there 常去; 以鬼魂形式出现

2 **pragmatic** /præg'mætɪk/ *a.* practical 讲究实际的

3 **properly** /'prɒpəli/ *ad.* in a correct way 正确地

4 **straightforward** /'streɪt'fɔ:wəd/ *a.* simple and direct 直截了当的

5 **triumph** /'traɪəmf/ *v.* win 获胜; 得胜

6 **evocative** /ɪ'vɒkətɪv/ *a.* that gives a clear idea of an event or period 唤起的; 激起的

Before Reading

Ghosts and the supernatural

1 Complete the sentence in about ten words.

What is a ghost? Give your own definition.

The so-called ghost is _____.

2 Choose the best answer.

- a) Which of Oscar Wild's works shocked the Victorian public first?
A. The Canterville Ghost B. Lady Windermere's Fan
C. The Picture of Dorian Gray D. The Ballad of Reading Gad
- b) Which of the following statements about Oscar Wilde is TRUE?
A. He was born in a poet's family.
B. He had a wide circle of admirers for his wealth.
C. He was charming but hypocritical.
D. He was once put into prison for two years.
- c) Oscar Wild believes that the power of beauty can _____.
A. cause trouble B. bring disasters
C. make things worse D. make things better
- d) What kind of stories are popular in Victorian England?
A. Detective stories. B. Love stories.
C. Children's stories. D. Ghost stories.

3 Complete the sentences.

What sort of things are ghosts supposed to do? Choose a verb from the box below and complete the sentences as examples of ghost's behavior.

groan rattle shriek clank frighten haunt scare vanish

- a) To escape his enemies, he _____ into the large iron stove.
- b) The window whirled and _____ in the dark.
- c) Hearing this, it made _____ of laughter and disappeared.
- d) The prison is _____ by the ghosts of the men who died there.
- e) What he saw nearly _____ him to death.
- f) The house was in a _____ atmosphere.
- g) Some low _____ came from the wardrobe.
- h) I must _____ my chains, and groan through keyholes.

The Americans and the British

1 How different is the English spoken in Britain to that spoken in America? Tick US or UK for the words below.

	US	UK
a) candy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) elevator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) gas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) handbag	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) lift	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) pants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) pavement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) petrol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 How are some words spelt differently in British and American English? Rewrite the following words with a British English spelling. What are the rules for spelling?

- a) color _____
- b) center _____
- c) program _____
- d) traveling _____

3 What differences do you think there are between the American and the British people? Make a list. Write words you associate with each nation.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



I

When Mr Hiram B. Otis, the American Minister, bought Canterville Chase¹, everyone told him he was doing a very foolish thing, as there was no doubt at all that the place was haunted. Indeed, Lord Canterville himself, who was a man of absolute honour, had felt it his duty to mention² the fact to Mr Otis, when they came to discuss terms.

‘We have not cared to live in the place ourselves,’ said Lord Canterville, ‘since my grand aunt, the Duchess of Bolton, was frightened into a fit³ from which she never really recovered, by two skeleton hands being placed on her shoulders as she was dressing for dinner; and I feel bound⁴ to tell you, Mr Otis, that the ghost has been seen by several living members of my family, as well as by the rector⁵ of the parish, the Rev. Augustus Dampier. After the unfortunate accident to the Duchess, none of our younger servants would stay with us, and Lady Canterville often got very little sleep at night, because of the mysterious noises that came from the corridor and the library.’

Glossary

1 **Chase** /tʃeɪs/ *n.* large country house where you can hunt 狩猎地

2 **mention** /ˈmenʃən/ *v.* say 说起; 提及

3 **fit** /fɪt/ *n.* condition of shock and hysterics (病的) 发作; 痉挛

4 **bound** /baʊnd/ *a.* forced 有义务的; 不得不

5 **rector** /ˈrektə/ *n.* a priest of the church 教区牧师

'My Lord,' answered the Minister, 'I will take the furniture and the ghost at a valuation. I come from a modern country, where we have everything money can buy; and with all our young men painting Europe red¹, and carrying off² your best actresses and prima-donnas³, I reckon⁴ that if there were such a thing as a ghost in Europe, we'd have it at home in a very short time in one of our public museums, or on the road as a show.'

'I fear that the ghost exists,' said Lord Canterville, smiling, 'though it may have resisted your enterprising impresarios⁵. It has been well known for three centuries (since 1584, in fact), and always makes its appearance before the death of any member of our family.'

'Well, so does the family doctor for that matter, Lord Canterville. But there is no such thing, sir, as a ghost.'

- Which of the following statements about the Canterville chase is true?
 - ☐ Its former owner was the Duke of Bolton.
 - ☐ It's a country house built at least 300 years ago.
 - ☐ Mr Otis knew nothing about the ghost all the time.
 - ☐ Mr Otis bought it because of its low price.
- Knowing there was a ghost in the chase, why did Mr Otis still buy it?
 - ☐ Because he was rich enough to rebuild it.
 - ☐ Because his doctor persuaded him to buy it.
 - ☐ Because he didn't mind a ghost in it.
 - ☐ Because he liked to have a ghost at home.
- The underlined sentence "we have not cared ..." on Page 11 really means " ".
 - ☐ we don't mind at all
 - ☐ we don't want
 - ☐ we are not looked after
 - ☐ we are not careful

Glossary

1 **paint Europe red:** enjoy themselves in Europe 在欧洲享受

2 **carry off:** take away 携带; 搬运

3 **prima-donna:** most important female singer (歌剧中) 女主角

4 **reckon** /'rekən/ v. guess 估计

5 **enterprising impresario** /ɪmpri'sa:nəʊ/: inventive businessman 有胆量的经理人