

Didactic Project



1º & 2º SECONDARY EDUCATION STAGE





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SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

Activity 1: The Synopsis



Read the synopsis of THE CANTERVILLE GHOST.

Take a look! Here is a glossary of words to help you:

Put somebody on the map: To make some place famous or popular.
Lack : Deficiency or absence
Couple: Two items of the same kind; a pair.
Undertake: To attempt to; agree to start
Enchanted: Under a spell; bewitched; magical
To haunt: To visit (a person or place) in the form of a ghost
To settle down: To establish as a resident or residents
Jeopardise: Present a danger to
To stand up: To remain

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was a great irish poet and playwright. During his life he experimented with different literary genres that truly put him on the map. We can highlight his playwrights *"Salomé"* (1894) and *"The Importance of being Earnest"* (1895), *"The Tale of the Canterville Ghost "*(1888), and the *"Picture of Dorian Gray"* (1891), his only novel.

"The Canterville Ghost" is one of his most famous works. Showing a great sense of humour, **Oscar Wilde** puts face to face the practicality and the lack os roots of an american family with the traditional and deep love for the customs of the english.

Hiram and Lucrecia Otis are an American couple that decide together with their children Virgina of sixteen years old and the twins Junior and Washington of thirteen, to undertake a new life in England. Without listening to the warnings, they decide to live in the enchanted Canterville Castle, where it is said that the ghost of Sir Simon Canterville, the old owner, has haunted the place since he killed his wife Eleanor three hundred years before. Once they settle down, start to happen strange incidents that jeopardise their peace, but the Otis family, far from being frightened, decide to stand up the ghost and torment it. The sweet Virginia will be the only one that decides to help Sir Simon's ghost to be saved.



















Activity 1: What can you hear?				
HIRAM:	What?			
VIRGINIA:	Look. Here in the corner of the room.			
HIRAM:	She's right. Look! A stain! All the money I paid for this place and I get a greated stain!			
LUCRETIA:	It's funny, isn't it dear? You made your fortune from stain cleaners and not you've got a big stain!			
HIRAM:				
LUCRETIA:	Why on earth haven't you cleaned it up, Mrs. Bumbley?			
	That's the Canterville stain, Mrs. Otis.			
LUCRETIA:	Well, don't you think it's time to clean it up Mrs. Floomfley?			
MRS. UMNEY:	That stain can never be cleaned, I am afraid. For it is the blood of Lady Eleano			
	She was murdered by her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville, whose portra now looks down on his dreadful crime.			
HIRAM:	But not This! (He instantly takes a bottle from his pocket and presents it wit			
	a proud smile) This is the "Otis' Champion Stain Remover," a fine product that			
	will clean that stain in a matter of seconds.			
MRS. UMNEY:	How very American			
HIRAM:	(He cleans the stain)			
Mrs. Umney Id				
VIRGINIA:	What's the matter Mrs. Umney? Aren't you glad the stain is gone?			
MRS. UMNEY:	Actually I'm not.			
A roll of thunc	ler is heard. Black-out. A loud evil laugh is heard.			
LUCRETIA:	What the heck is going on here Mrs. Poombley?			
MRS. UMNEY:	Oh god!			
LUCRETIA:	Who?			
MRS. UMNEY:	The Ghost, madam.			
LUCRETIA:	Ghost? What Ghost?			
MRS. UMNEY:	Sir Simon de Canterville The Canterville Ghost.			
LUCRETIA:				













SESSION 3: THE ENDING		
Activity 2: The Curse		
Take a look! Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. the gaps below, you will be able to know how the curse will be b	-	
10 13 1 15 2 22 1 15 9 6 1 22 3 19 6	22 3 21 1 20	
2 10 2 Á 13 1 19 9 1 2 19 20 7 1 2 14 1 1	0 3 6 6 14 5 8 1	
9 5 14 2 15 9 1 19 21 3 6 6 1 22 13 5 20 9.		
 A meal eaten in the morning, the first of the day: 	B K F 19 1 2 2 20 9	
 A stubborn discoloured patch or dirty mark: 	20 9 2 3 15	
 A solemn appeal to a supernatural power to inflict harm on someone or something: 	U 14	
 A large building, typically of the medieval period, which is (or was formerly) fortified as a stronghold: 	14 2 20 9 6 1	
 One of two children or animals born at the same birth: 	9 10 3 15 20	
 A feeling of expectation and desire: 	13 5 7 1	
 A traditional story popularly regarded as historical but which is not authenticated: 	<u> </u>	
The main female characters of Canterville Ghost:	<u>21 3 19 22 3 15 3 2</u>	
The unlawful premeditated killing of one person by another:	U D 8 19 1 19	







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	Activity 2 : Value the Play	
	Did you enjoy THE CANTERVILLE GHOST? What did you think?	
	Theatrical criticism. To be able to analyze a show you should think about seven things:	
	- General evaluation of the show.	
	- Plot.	
	- Topic. - Message.	
	- Acting.	
	- Adaptation.	
	 Scenography. Dressing. 	
	- Atmosphere.	
	- Music.	
	Write a sentence for each:	
Ę	Use verbs such as "to like";" to love", "to enjoy".	
	Use verbs such as "to hate"; to prefer to».	
-		



After SI	ESSION 4: Express Yourself!
Α	ctivity 3: Role Plays
Her	e are three extracts from the play. Choose one to act out in groups.
Ext	tract One (Track 4) :
LUCRETIA:	I hope this place will keep the kids busy.
HIRAM:	Maybe they'll love it. We could end up buying the house.
LUCRETIA:	We could buy the whole country if we wanted to.
HIRAM:	It will be good for Virginia too. A chance to really find herself.
LUCRETIA:	Find herself?! You would need a road map and Indiana Jones!
(After a few	v moments we hear a strange noise coming from outside the door.)
LUCRETIA:	Hiram? Hiram! What's that noise?
HIRAM:	I don't know it sounds like it might be the ghost
	The Ghost? In here? In our living room? I haven't even done my hair!
(Slowly the mist.)	door creaks open. Mist begins to fill the room. The Ghost enters into the room trough
Hiram:	(Laughing hysterically.) Bravo! Bravo! So, you are the dead guy, right?
(Hiram and reaction.)	l Lucretia laugh joyously at this comment. The Ghost is completely shocked by this
G ноsт:	Thou darest laugh at me!(There is no reaction from Hiram apart from a wide smile.)
GHOST:	I'm sorry, I don't speak French. Anyway I'm Hiram Otis, the new resident of Canterville
HIRAM:	Chase. And this is my wife, Lucretia.
LUCRETIA:	Hi there!
HIRAM:	(<i>Pushing the ghost out of the room.</i>) Listen, I know it's the first time we've met and all that, I mean we are on holiday here, right? We need to sleep and relax, ok? So I've gotta insist you do something about those annoying chain noises.
G ноsт:	My what?
HIRAM:	The chains. Too loud.
LUCRETIA:	They are so uncool.
HIRAM:	But we've got the solution: This is the "Otis' Champion Chain Lubricator," a fine product







SESSION 4: Express Yourself!			
Extract	t Three (Track 12):		
(The living room. A Sunny afternoon. Lucretia is reading a British magazine.)			
1	(<i>Reading a magazine.</i>) Oh my God! Look at these people! They are so pale! The Roy		
LUCRETIA:	Family should travel to California at least once a yearThe Queen of England looks lil ghost.		
Mrs. Umney:	Please, show a little respect for the Queen of England! God Save the Queen!		
LUCRETIA:	I didn't mean to offend you, but who dresses this lady?		
Mrs. Umney:	Fortunately, not the same designer that dresses you.		
Lucretia:	This magazine is ridiculous! <i>(Talking to Hiram.)</i> Hiram! I want to read People magazir wonder what's happened to Justin Bieber this week?		
HIRAM:	Honey! I can go to the city and get it for you after my cricket match.		
LUCRETIA:	You call that a city? Three squalid little houses and a greasy pub? My God! I need to g the mall. I want to go to my beauty therapist! I mean, look at my nails Hiram! Hiram! you listening to me? I'm talking to you!		
HIRAM:	Just a second, pumpkin! I'm learning how to play cricket.		
LUCRETIA:	What? Croquet? What is all that croquet nonsense?		
MRS. UMNEY:	Cricket, Mrs. Otis, Cricket! Cricket is an English sport for gentlemen that consists of a l and a bat. It is played by two teams of eleven players each on a grass field, somewhat shaped, smaller in size to that of a football field. In the middle of the field there is a flat rectangular area called the pitch <i>(We hear the sound of broken glass.)</i> And no windows should be broken in the process.		
LUCRETIA:	Do you play cricket Mrs. Umney?		
Mrs. Umney:	Not any more, madam, not at my age.		
1	Why? Do they make you retire at 90?		
LUCRETIA:			

OTHER SHOWS

1º & 2º COURSE SECONDARY EDUCATION STAGE

Be Cool *(In English)* Les misérables *(En Français)* Entremeses Tres sombreros de copa

The Canterville Ghost

Didactic Project elaborated by Amalia Guerreiro Iglesias





Only our American family would buy an old English mansion with its very own ghost included, and what's more, a ghost who cannot bear being made a fool of. The most ingenious of Oscar Wilde's satires, adapted to your students' level. The perfect comedy for bringing a paranormal touch to your English classes. You will love the adaptation we have prepared of this universal literary classic.



Santa Leonor, 61 • Planta 4a • 28037 Madrid • Tel. 902 879 906 • 91 111 54 50 • Fax 902 879 907 • 91 111 54 60 www.recursosweb.com • info@recursosweb.com