

Oscar Wilde

The Canterville Ghost

Illustrated by
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Young Readers



Classic



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Mr

Mr Otis was a businessman from America. He wanted to buy Lord Canterville's house but Lord Canterville said, 'I have to tell you Mr Otis, there is a ghost in this house.' 'A ghost?' asked Mr Otis, 'But my dear Lord Canterville there are no ghosts!'





‘Well ...,’ Lord Canterville started to say, but Mr Otis said, ‘Don’t worry Lord Canterville, I will buy your house and your ... hm ... ghost,’ and Mr Otis bought the house.



Mr Otis was married and had four children,
a son called Washington, a daughter called
Virginia and two happy noisy twin boys.
Mr Otis said, 'Lord Canterville told me there was
a ghost in the house!' 'A ghost! How exciting!'
said the twins.



Mrs Otis pointed to the floor by the bookcase.
'What is that?' she asked. 'Oh!' said Mrs Umney
the housekeeper, 'That is the blood of Sir Simon
Canterville's wife. He killed her right here in 1575.'
'Oh dear Mrs Umney!' said Mr Otis, 'In 1575?
That's impossible!' 'Yes!' continued Mrs Umney,
'And ... Sir Simon disappeared soon after ... but
then he came back as the Canterville Ghost.'



Mr Otis's son, Washington, took a small black crayon from his pocket. 'Pinkerton's special cleaner will clean this,' he said ... and it did. 'Look! The blood is disappearing!'



But the next morning at breakfast THE BLOOD WAS ON THE FLOOR AGAIN! 'How did that happen?' asked Mr Otis. The boys danced and sang 'It was the ghost!' 'Don't be silly!' said Mrs Otis.





Activity Pages

1 Circle the correct words to tell the story.

- 1** Sir Simon killed his brother / wife.
- 2** The brothers / sisters of Sir Simon's wife chained him to a wall.
- 3** He died of hunger / anger.
- 4** The Otis family were / weren't afraid of the ghost.
- 5** Sir Simon was a happy / an unhappy ghost.
- 6** Virginia helped / didn't help the ghost.
- 7** Virginia went with the ghost to find the Angel of Death / Lady Canterville.
- 8** Sir Simon helped Mr Otis / Virginia to learn about love and death.

- 2** Look at the poem on page 11.
Colour the words that are in the poem.

ghost

jump

businessman

house

morning

ill

shouting

behind

years

see

wind

night

wife

find

sheet

- 3** Now use the words to fill the gaps in the poem.

I am the ghost of Canterville
I'll make you _____ or make you _____.
For 300 _____ I've been around
_____ and clanking on the ground.
So be careful and don't look _____
You never know what you could _____!