

**Stanford House Classics - Beginners**

# **THE HAUNTED CASTLE**

Isobel Robinson

**read • respond • interact**



Stanford House Classics • Beginners  
(Introduction)

This series of simplified Stanford House Classics readers has a vocabulary of approximately 500 head words.

They are suitable for students aged between 8 and 11. These books are particularly useful as support material for teachers of English as a second language, since they have been structured to encourage active reading: on the left-hand page there is the story, complete with explanatory notes in English, and on the right-hand page there are exercises which refer exclusively to the text opposite.

Some exercises review student's grammatical knowledge of the English language, others are just good fun. By the end of the book the student will know the story and should be able to recount it, too!

# THE HAUNTED CASTLE

**Isobel Robinson**

*When Beth and Mara read an advertisement to stay in a haunted castle for Halloween, they think it is a good idea. Their friends agree. A group of six goes to Monchester Castle for fun. It is an experience they will never forget.*



**Stanford House**

# THE HAUNTED CASTLE

Beth pointed to an advert<sup>1</sup> in the local newspaper and turned to Mara excitedly: "It says here you can spend Halloween at Monchester Castle."

"But it's haunted<sup>2</sup>!" Mara exclaimed.

"Precisely! Read here."

Do you want to do something different this Halloween? • Are you brave<sup>3</sup>, with a sense of adventure? • Never seen a real ghost before? • Go to Monchester •

Experience our castle full of Resident ghosts!



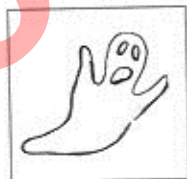
1. **advert:** (abbrev. *advertisement*) information that tells you about something to buy or sell.

2. **haunted:** visited by ghosts.

3. **brave:** courageous.

## ACTIVITY

✎ Tick the pictures you associate with Halloween.



✎ Design a poster for the advert on page 2.



**"H**ow much does it cost?" Ben asked later that evening when the friends met. "Only £25 each: bed, breakfast and ghosts!" Beth told him. "Well, it certainly sounds interesting," Tom said.

"I don't believe in ghosts," Scott objected, "but if most of you want to go..."

"Hands up who thinks it's a good idea," Ruth ordered.

Beth, Mara, Ruth, Ben and Tom all raised<sup>1</sup> their hands.

Scott did not.

"Five against one," Scott said, "Ok, you win!"



1. **raised:** (to raise) move something up.

## ACTIVITY

Put the regular **past simple** verbs in the appropriate column according to the pronunciation of "-ed".

| /d/ /t/ /ɪd/ | /d/ /t/ /ɪd/ |
|--------------|--------------|
| ordered      | replied      |
| asked        | turned       |
| objected     | decided      |
| exclaimed    | passed       |
| invited      | parked       |
| pushed       | waited       |

Answer these questions.

- How much does it cost to stay in the castle?  
.....
- When is it possible to stay in the castle?  
.....
- Who does not believe in ghosts?  
.....
- How many friends think it is a good idea?  
.....

**M**onchester Castle stands on a hill. It is surrounded<sup>1</sup> by beautiful ornamental gardens on one side and dark woods on the other. A long private road leads<sup>2</sup> to the castle. The building itself is a mixture of medieval and Tudor styles.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October the group of friends drove up to the castle. The gardens were illuminated and all the lights were on inside too. It looked welcoming and not like a haunted castle. Beth felt a little disappointed<sup>3</sup>.



1. **surrounded:** (to surround) be all around something.
2. **leads:** goes to.
3. **disappointed:** (adj) sad.

## ACTIVITY

 Find 5 differences between the drawing and the text on page 6.



.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

 The opposites for these words are in the text. Find them.

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| sit → stand    | ugly → .....  |
| light → .....  | short → ..... |
| public → ..... | off → .....   |