

Stanford House Classics - Beginners

GHOST STORIES

Jerome K. Jerome

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!

Ghost Stories

Jerome K. Jerome

The writer of these two ghost stories was an Englishman called Jerome Klapka Jerome. He was born in Walsall in 1859 and died in Northampton in 1927. He wrote these two BEDTIME STORIES.

The ghost in the Blue Room always came on Christmas Eve. Nobody slept in the room that night. One Christmas two young men decided they wanted to see the ghost, so they slept in the room! In the story of the Ruined House, a man completely destroys a mill looking for the rich ghost's money!

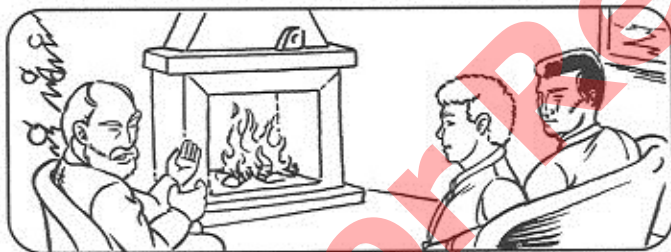


Stanford House

GHOST STORIES

THE BLUE ROOM

It was Christmas Eve¹. We sat near the fire, my uncle, James Talbot and I. "I'm very happy you and your friend are here David, said my uncle. No one comes here at Christmas because of the terrible stories" "What stories?" asked James. "There are always terrible noises² in the blue room on the 24th of December," said my uncle. "Chairs and tables move, glasses³ break and there is a terrible smell⁴ of smoke." "A ghost?" asked James.



1. **Christmas Eve:** the 24th of December.
2. **noises:** sounds.
3. **glasses:** we drink from glasses.
4. **smell:** we smell with noses.

ACTIVITY

GhoSt'S croSSword!

1. Sounds!
2. Not stand.
3. You drink in these.
4. You ... with your nose.
5. Not never
6. This is a ghost...!
7. David's friend.
8. Where there is fire, there is...
9. Chairs and...

1. S
2. S
3. S
4. S
5. S
6. S
7. S
8. S
9. S

"Yes, a criminal," answered my uncle. "One Christmas Eve he killed a carol singer¹. The singer sang Jingle Bells and Silent Night. The criminal opened the window and threw a small piece of coal² out of the window. It fell³ into the singer's mouth and killed him! Another Christmas a poor man playing a guitar came to the house and the criminal hit him on the head with the guitar and killed him too! Every Christmas he killed somebody!"



1. **carol singer:** a person who sings Christmas hymns/songs.
2. **coal:** a black stone used to make a fire in the house.
3. **fell** is the past of 'to fall'.

ACTIVITY

Find the past simple of these verbs and make sentences.

sing	<u>sit</u>	hit	fell
fall	throw	sang	<u>sat</u>
hit	threw		

James sat on the chair.

Make the sentences negative.

"No one¹ sleeps in the blue room on Christmas Eve! It was the criminal's room," continued my uncle.
 "Ha, ha, ha," laughed James, "I will sleep in the blue room. There are no ghosts! It's all imagination!"
 "No," said my uncle, "you cannot sleep there. You are from a big city. Peculiar² things happen here in Scotland."
 "I want to spend³ the night in that room," James insisted.
 "I will stay in the blue room with you," I said, "but I don't think I will sleep!"



1. **no one:** no person.
2. **peculiar:** strange.
3. **to spend:** to pass the night.

ACTIVITY

 **Look at the example and make similar sentences.**

There are no ghosts.

There aren't any ghosts.

There is no fire.

.....
 There are no chairs.

.....
 There are no people.

.....
 There is no smoke.

.....
 There are no beds.

.....
 There are no glasses.