

GRADED READERS

The Canterville Ghost

OSCAR WILDE

Teacher's Book



LEVEL 3

SUGGESTED PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

It is advisable to try and get the students interested in the story and arouse their curiosity about the characters, places and themes involved before they actually start reading it. For this purpose, you will need to spend one lesson doing some pre-reading activities. You can select from the ideas presented below the ones that suit you best.

- Write the title of the story on the board. Make sure that the students understand what the word ghost means. Ask them some general questions about the title and encourage them to make hypotheses about it, e.g.
 - What do you think Canterville is?
 - Who is the Canterville Ghost?
 - Where is the Canterville Ghost?
 - What do you think happens in the story?
- Have the students look at the cover of the Reader and ask them some general questions about it, e.g.
 - Who do you think the people on the cover are?
 - What is the relationship between them?
 - How old are they?
 - Where are they?
 - What are they doing?
 - In which period of time does the story take place?
- Photocopy some of the illustrations in the Reader and remove the page numbers. Ask the students to describe them, guess what is happening and put them in the correct order. You can ask the students questions about each picture similar to the ones presented

in the previous activity in order to guide them. Once the students have decided on the order, you can stick the pictures on the notice board for future reference.

It would be more effective to have students do these activities in pairs or small groups. It is important to remember that at this stage you should not confirm or reject any of the students' hypotheses nor reveal what actually happens in the story.

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

If you decide to deal with a whole chapter in each lesson, you can follow the procedure described below. In this case, it is estimated that you will need approximately ninety minutes for each lesson. Alternatively, you can divide each chapter into smaller sections and deal with each section in a thirty to fifty minute lesson. If classroom time is scarce, you can have students do most of the reading and activities at home.

Before reading each chapter

At the beginning of each lesson revise the previous chapter. Check the exercises which you have assigned for homework, except for the prediction exercise. If you feel that certain points have not been sufficiently covered, ask the students additional questions. Then ask them to give you a summary of the chapter and/or act it out.

Ask the students to guess what will happen in the chapter they are about to read. Select from the ideas presented on the following page the ones that suit you best.

- Have the students give you their answers to the questions in the prediction exercise in the previous chapter.
- Ask the students to look at the illustration of the chapter they are going to read and describe it. You may also ask them questions in order to guide them, e.g.
 - Who are the people in this picture?
 - Where are they?
 - What are they doing?
 Afterwards, they should be encouraged to guess what will happen in the chapter.
- Give the students a few key words found in the chapter and the names of the characters that appear in it and ask them to predict what will happen.

Remember that all the students' answers and predictions should be accepted at this stage and make sure you don't reveal what actually happens in the chapter.

- 3 Ask the students to have their books closed and listen carefully to the cassette. Play the corresponding chapter on the tape. Then ask the students a few general questions about the chapter that they have just listened to, e.g.
 - Which characters appear in this chapter?
 - Where are they?
 - What are they talking about?

While reading each chapter

- Ask the students to open their books. Play the cassette again and ask them to read silently as they listen to it. At the end of each paragraph

stop the tape and ask the students some questions to make sure that they have understood the main points. Explain any new vocabulary and clarify any points which they have not understood.

After reading each chapter

When you have finished with the presentation of the chapter, it is important that the students do some activities based on it in class. For this purpose you can do the following:

- Divide the class in pairs or groups and get them to ask each other questions about the characters appearing and the events taking place in the chapter they have read.
- Do some of the exercises from the Activity Book.
- Ask the students to suggest a suitable title for the chapter.
- Ask the students some questions requiring a personal response, e.g.
 - What is your opinion about Mr Otis's behaviour?
 - How do you feel about the trick the twins played on the ghost?
 - How would you have felt if you had been in Virginia's place?

Finally, assign the rest of the exercises from the Activity Book for homework. You can also allocate roles and ask the students to be prepared to act out the chapter in the next lesson.

AFTER READING THE WHOLE STORY

After dealing with all the chapters, it is a good idea to spend at least one lesson doing some post-reading activities in class. For this purpose, a variety of exercises on the whole story have been included in the Activity