Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fill in the table with details of the ghosts in Dickens's ghost stories. Give as much detail as you can.

Character	Description of ghost or supernatural situation	Haunting activities (what does the ghost do when it appears, what impact does it have on others, and/or what does it mean?)	Reason for haunting (if known)
 THE GREEN CAVALIER AND THE PALE HOUSEKEEPER			
LADY MARY AND THE CARRIAGES			
 THE TWO FRIENDS' COMPACT			
 THE DAUGHTER IN THE ELIZABETHAN HOUSE			
COUSIN HARRY FROM BOMBAY			
 THE ORPHAN BOY			

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Matching exercise

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Match each phrase from the story with an image. Draw a line to join them.

1	*We can't help peeping out over the counterpane, at the two black figures and the cavalier – that wicked-looking cavalier – in green.*	A	
2	*We say "This is very foolish, but we can't stand this; we'll pretend to be ill, and knock up somebody".*	B	
3	*Well we are just going to do it, when the locked door opens, and there comes in a young woman, deadly pale, and with long fair hair.*	C	
4	*He was false to a housekeeper once attached to that family, and famous for her beauty, who drowned herself in a pond, and whose body was discovered, after a long time, because the stags refused to drink of the water.*	D	
5	*"Do not come near me. I am dead. I am here to redeem my promise. I come from another world, but may not disclose its secrets!"*	E	
6	*"Who is that pretty forlorn-looking child who has been peeping out of that closet all night?"*	F	
7	*From fatal experience, the parents came to know that this was the Orphan Boy, and that the course of that child whom he chose for his little playmate was surely run.*	G	

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fens: (n) a low and marshy area of land

Hare: (n) a fast-running animal like a large rabbit

Fern: (n) a flowerless, leafy plant

Nobleman: (n) a man of the aristocracy

Cavalier: (n) a courtly gentleman

Baronial: (adj) in the style of a castle or great hall

Hearth: (n) the floor of the fireplace

Cleave: (v) to stick to

Girdle: (n) a belt or cord worn round the waist

Wretched: (adj) in a very unhappy or unfortunate state

Queer: (adj) strange, odd

Wings: (n) parts of a large building

Fatigued: (adj) extremely tired

Compact: (n) a formal agreement

Twain: (n) two

Bureau: (n) a writing desk

Elizabethan: (adj) relating to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I

Twilight: (n) the soft glowing light visible when the sun is below the horizon

Shied: (v) made a sudden startled movement (especially a horse)

Spurs: (n) spikes worn on a rider's heels to urge a horse forward

Faculties: (n) abilities

Heir: (n) the person entitled to inherit another's fortune

Decamp: (v) to leave a place suddenly

Closet: (n) a small private room or cupboard

Forenoon: (n) the morning

BEFORE YOU READ

What is the spookiest story you have ever been told on a winter night? What makes a place or a story feel haunted?

Many ghost stories are told at Christmas. Why do you think that is? What would a ghost want from the living?

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please choose the best option for each of the following questions.

1. What does the narrator think everybody should do at Christmas?

(a) Come home and have a rest
(b) Buy each other lots of presents
(c) Do something kind for another person
(d) Nothing – he hates Christmas

2. What does the narrator compare the watchful eyes of the animals to?

(a) Icy dewdrops on the leaves
(b) The burning of small fires in the distance
(c) Lighthouses flashing a warning

3. Who is the narrator?

(a) A wanderer
(b) A middle-aged nobleman
(c) Santa Claus
(d) The King of a distant land

4. What portrait hangs over the fireplace in the narrator's room?

(a) The half-shaded face of a fair maiden
(b) A cavalier in green
(c) An aged duke

5. What does the narrator find not agreeable about the cavalier and the black figures (even though they are not by any means superstitious)?

(a) How realistic they look in the firelight
(b) That they appear to move towards and away from him
(c) That they seem to have been taken from a nearby graveyard

6. Who comes through the locked door and sits by the fire?

(a) The cavalier, dressed in green
(b) A very pale young woman with wet clothes
(c) A ghostly figure draped in a dark and tattered robe

7. Which descriptions below describe the pale girl? Choose all that apply.

[a] Wet clothes
[b] Glowing eyes
[c] Muddy hair
[d] Dressed in the fashion of 200 years ago
[e] Wearing an opal necklace
[f] Grinding her teeth in anxiety
[g] Pale

8. What does the pale girl say to the cavalier in a low, terrible voice?

(a) "They won't open"
(b) "The prophecy is begun"
(c) "The stags know it!"

9. How did the cavalier's family discover the body of the beautiful housekeeper?

(a) She washed up drowned on the shore
(b) The dogs of a hunting party alerted them
(c) The stags refused to drink the water

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

10. Why does Lady Mary think there is a party going on while she's sleeping?

(a) She hears music and laughter

(b) She hears carriages beneath her window

(c) She dreams about a huge ball

11. Who signs to Lady Mary to say no more?

(a) Her husband

(b) Lord Archibald of Wane

(c) Charles Macdoodle of Macdoodle

(d) Her mother

12. Where is the friend staying when he sees the ghost of his old college friend?

(a) The Scottish Highlands

(b) The Yorkshire Moors

(c) A distant Scandinavian forest

(d) His grandma's house

13. Where and when does the uncle of the narrator's brother's wife come across the man in the cloak?

(a) In a field of poppies at sunrise

(b) At the centre of a narrow way at sunset

(c) Near his own house at dawn

(d) In a dark cave at midnight

14. Why didn't the sensible maiden lady ever marry?

(a) No one ever asked her

(b) Her lover died young

(c) She was mistrustful of men

(d) She wanted to keep her freedom

15. Who does the sensible maiden see peeking out of her closet during the night?

(a) A handsome young maiden girl

(b) A pretty forlorn-looking child

(c) A mouse

(d) A strange apparition

If you read it in the iClassics app

Answer these extra questions about what you discover as you read:

1. How many figures can you see in the window of the big house on page 2?

2. What animals are lurking between the trees and ferns on page 3?

3. What happens to the standing wolf on page 3 when you tap it?

4. What materializes behind the writing as the narrator learns the story behind the painting of the cavalier?

5. What flashes across the face of the girl with the withered flowers when you tap her?

6. How many children can you see beside the oak tree?

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Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer in full sentences. Support your ideas with evidence from the text.

1. Before any ghost appears, Dickens builds the mood with firelight, a portrait and two black figures. List three details that make the room feel haunted and say how each one works on the narrator.

2. The pale housekeeper says “The stags know it!”. What do the stags’ refusal to drink and the cavalier’s betrayal suggest about guilt and justice in a ghost story?

3. The Orphan Boy is not frightening in himself, but his visits are fatal. Why might a child ghost be more unsettling than a monstrous one? Compare him with another ghost in the collection.

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part 1. Create your own ghost story: fill in the table with information about your story. **Part 2.** Write your ghost story out in full. Try to imitate Dickens's style in *Christmas Ghosts*.

My ghost story	Description of ghost or supernatural situation	Haunting activities (what does the ghost do, what impact on others, what does it mean?)	Reason for haunting (if known)
TITLE:			

