Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Complete the profile of the Canterville Ghost. Include as many of his aliases (the characters he assumes for his haunting) as you can. Then write about how he sees himself, what his actions in the past tell us about him, and what his interactions with the Otis family tell us about him. Use examples from the story to back up each point.

Section	Your notes
ALIASES	
HOW HE SEES HIMSELF	
HIS PAST ACTIONS TELL US...	
HIS DEALINGS WITH THE OTISES TELL US...	

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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	*He flung it wide open, when a heavy jug of water fell right down on him, wetting him to the skin, and just missing his left shoulder by a couple of inches.*	A	
2	*Suddenly there leaped out at him from a dark corner two figures, who waved their arms wildly above their heads, and shrieked out "BOO!" in his ear.*	B	
3	*Accordingly, he made arrangements for appearing to Virginia's little lover in his celebrated impersonation of "the Vampire Monk, or the Bloodless Benedictine".*	C	
4	*To her immense surprise, however, it was the Canterville Ghost himself!*	D	
5	*"Well, really," said the Ghost, rather meekly, "what was I to do? It is a very difficult thing to get real blood nowadays."*	E	
6	*Then the ghost spoke again, and his voice sounded like the sighing of the wind. "Have you read the prophecy on the library window?"*	F	
7	*She opened her eyes, and saw the wall slowly fading away like a mist, and a great black cavern in front of her. A bitter cold wind swept around them, and she felt something pulling at her dress.*	G	

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Astral: (adj) relating to the stars

Arquebuse: (n) a type of portable gun

Sexton: (n) someone who looks after a church and churchyard

Flues: (n) a duct for smoke and waste gases

Clambake: (n) a social gathering outdoors

Euchre: (n) a North American card game

Guinea: (n) a coin equal to 21 shillings

En secondes noces: (phrase) as a second wife

Apoplexy: (n) unconsciousness or incapacity from a cerebral haemorrhage or stroke

Apothecary: (n) a person who prepared and sold medicines

Habit: (n) a woman's riding dress

Petulantly: (adv) childishly sulkily

Puritan: (n) a member of a group of English Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries

Ruffs: (n) a starched frill worn around the neck

Pricket: (n) a male deer in its second year with straight horns

Furbish: (v) give a fresh look to

Hemlock: (n) a poisonous European plant with small white flowers

BEFORE YOU READ

Have you ever played a prank that went wrong? How did it feel to be the target, and how would it feel to be a proud performer who is laughed at?

Can someone who has done terrible things deserve forgiveness? What would it take?

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Why doesn't the ghost stop traversing the corridor once a week and gibbering from the oriel window on the first and third Wednesdays of the month?

(a) He is determined to terrify the Otis family once and for all, despite his fatigue

(b) He is too conscientious about his supernatural obligations

(c) He needs to make sure he is getting enough exercise

(d) He is a creature of habit

2. How does the ghost avoid being detected while traversing the corridors? Select all that apply.

[a] Oiling his chains with Rising Sun Lubricator

[b] Used the powers of the fourth dimension to remain invisible

[c] Wore a black velvet cloak

[d] Shrank to a tenth of his usual size

[e] Wore a cloak of misdirection

[f] Removed his boots

3. What is the final insult that enrages the ghost into attempting to scare the twins?

(a) He trips over a wire

(b) A bucket of cold dirty water falls on his head from a doorway

(c) The twins shoot at him again with their pellet guns

(d) He falls on a butter-slide

4. How does Lady Barbara die?

(a) Of a broken heart

(b) Of terror

(c) She falls into a well

(d) Her new husband murders her in a jealous rage

5. How long does it take the ghost to assume the guise of Reckless Rupert?

(a) Three hours

(b) Ten minutes

(c) One hour in the supernatural realm, so 17 minutes in the material world

(d) 45 minutes

6. What is the name of the twins' bedroom?

(a) The Silver Sleeping Suite

(b) The Blue Bed Chamber

(c) The Red Dormitory

(d) The Cerulean Chamber

7. On what date does the ghost receive the final blow from the Otis family?

(a) 31st October

(b) 3rd October

(c) 19th of September

(d) 1st November

8. What does Canterville find at the bottom of the staircase when he flees from the two figures shouting "BOO!"?

(a) Mrs Otis standing with hands on hips

(b) Mr Otis waiting with a fire poker

(c) Virginia Otis smiling sweetly at him

(d) Washington Otis waiting with a garden-syringe

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

9. What has Mr Otis been writing a great work of history on for years?

(a) The Democratic Party
(b) The Republican Party
(c) The American continent
(d) The modern world

10. What did Lord Francis Stilton bet a hundred guineas on?

(a) That he would rid the house of the Canterville ghost
(b) That he would beat the Canterville ghost at chess
(c) That the Canterville ghost did not exist
(d) That he would play dice with the Canterville ghost

11. What did Lady Startup do after seeing the ghost's performance of the Vampire Monk? Select all that apply.

[a] Experienced a violet apoplexy
[b] Disinherited the Cantervilles
[c] Checked herself into an asylum
[d] Spent the rest of her days clawing wildly at her throat
[e] Left all her money to her apothecary
[f] Burnt all her possessions in a great fire

12. Why does Virginia decide to go up the back staircase when returning from riding on Brockley meadows?

(a) Because she had torn her clothes
(b) Because she wasn't on speaking terms with her mother
(c) Because she didn't feel like talking to anyone
(d) Because she wanted to be mysterious

13. What does Virginia do when she finds the Canterville ghost looking extremely depressed?

(a) Screams and runs to her room
(b) Sneaks off to find her brothers
(c) Tries to comfort him
(d) Rolls her eyes and keeps walking

14. What did the brothers of the ghost's wife do to him after he killed her?

(a) Shook his hand
(b) Starved him to death
(c) Had him shot by firing squad
(d) Forced ownership of all his possessions

15. What colours did the ghost finally leave Virginia with after stealing various colours to keep up the blood-stain?

(a) Indigo and Chinese white
(b) Midnight black and forest green
(c) Rose pink and indigo
(d) Emerald green and vermilion

16. What does Virginia suggest the Canterville ghost do?

(a) Move on into the afterlife
(b) Take a good, hard look at himself
(c) Replace her paints
(d) Emigrate to America

17. What does the Canterville ghost say are the "ruins and curiosities" of America?

(a) The Otis family
(b) Their navy and their manners
(c) Their sense of dress and their accent
(d) Their food and drink

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

18. How long has it been since the Canterville ghost has slept?

(a) 300 years
(b) 40 days and 40 nights
(c) Since the Otis family arrived
(d) A whole week

19. What is in the Garden of Death that the ghost describes? Select all that apply.

[a] Total blissful silence
[b] The singing of the nightingale
[c] The hemlock flower
[d] A pond full of lilies
[e] A yew-tree
[f] An oak-tree

20. What must Virginia do for the angel of death to have mercy on the ghost? Select all that apply.

[a] Weep for his sins
[b] Pray for his soul
[c] Smile for his achievements
[d] To have always been good
[e] To have never insulted death
[f] Speak the rosary

21. What do the animals on the carven chimneypiece murmur as Virginia passes with the ghost?

(a) You are passing into worlds untold
(b) The golden girl will be no more
(c) Don't listen to the ghost!
(d) We may never see you again

If you read it in the iClassics app

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

1. What does the ghost, in the guise of Reckless Rupert, do when you tap him?

_____

2. What do the broidered huntsmen on the tapestry do when you tap them?

_____

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. The ghost says he has "duties" and a long career as a haunter. How does he see himself? Find words or actions in chapters 4–5 that show whether this is pride, habit or something else.

2. The ghost has done terrible things (including killing his wife), yet Virginia pities him. Does Wilde want us to forgive him? Argue both ways using evidence from the story.

3. Chapter 5 turns from comedy to a more serious tone. Which details change the mood (the Garden of Death, the prophecy, the ghost's sleeplessness)? What effect does this have on the reader?

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

At the end of Chapter 5, the Canterville ghost takes Virginia through the wainscoting to help him move on from the world of the living. The next thing we know, she has reappeared with the casket of jewels. Trying to match the storytelling style used by Wilde, write **3 paragraphs** continuing Virginia and the ghost's story from the moment they go through the wainscoting to the moment Virginia reappears with the jewels. Explain what Virginia does to help the ghost pass on, and how the experience makes them both feel.



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