Character Analysis

Name: _____

Date: _____

Choose three different characters from the story and fill in the table: the most important things they do in the story, how those actions change the story, and what those actions tell us about them.

	Character name	Key actions in the story	How the actions change the story	What the actions say about them
1				
2				
3				

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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	*After riding all over the common, they turned their horses' heads homewards, and reached the Chase about eleven o'clock, dead-tired and almost heart-broken.*	A 
2	*Just as they were passing out of the dining-room, midnight began to boom from the clock tower, and when the last stroke sounded they heard a crash and a sudden shrill cry.*	B 
3	*A panel at the top of the staircase flew back with a loud noise, and out on the landing, looking very pale and white, with a little casket in her hand, stepped Virginia.*	C 
4	*When Virginia touched it, it swung back on its heavy hinges, and they found themselves in a little low room, with a vaulted ceiling, and one tiny grated window.*	D 
5	*As the coffin was being lowered into the grave, Virginia stepped forward, and laid on it a large cross made of white and pink almond-blossoms.*	E 
6	*They were perfectly magnificent, especially a certain ruby necklace with old Venetian setting, which was really a superb specimen of sixteenth-century work…*	F 
7	*…it had finally been decided to engrave on it the initials of the old gentleman's name, and the verse from the library window.*	G 
8	*"You can have your secret as long as I have your heart," he murmured.*	H 

Glossary

Name: _____

Date: _____

Scapegrace: (n) a mischievous person

Casket: (n) a small ornamental box

Vaulted: (adj) with an arched roof

Trencher: (n) a wooden plate for food

Ewer: (n) a large jug

Hearse: (n) a vehicle for conveying a coffin

Pall: (n) a cloth spread over a coffin

Mortmain: (n) the status of lands or tenements

Appurtenances: (n) an accessory or other item associated with a particular lifestyle

Mediævalism: (n) variant on medievalism

BEFORE YOU READ

How would you want to be remembered? What would make a funeral truly peaceful?

If someone gave you a priceless gift for helping them, would you keep it? Why or why not?

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Why isn't Mrs Otis initially alarmed when the footman tells her he can't find Virginia?

(a) Virginia is always late for dinner

(b) Virginia often collects flowers for the dinner table

(c) She assumes that Virginia is out with the Duke of Cheshire

(d) She's too hungry to care

2. What have the gypsies left behind at Blackfell Hollow?

(a) A burning fire and some plates

(b) Virginia's dead body

(c) Two horses tied to a tree

(d) A message in a bottle

3. Who gallops up behind Mr Otis on the road to Ascot?

(a) Washington

(b) The Duke of Cheshire

(c) The Canterville ghost

(d) Virginia

4. Where does Mr Otis go after the railway station to search for Virginia?

(a) Bexley

(b) Dartford

(c) Chislehurst

(d) Bromley

5. How do the gypsies explain their sudden departure?

(a) They were disturbed by a ghostly apparition

(b) They mistook the date of Chorton Fair

(c) They misjudged the distance to Dunstable

(d) They had kidnapped Virginia

6. What does Mr Otis do when he sees Mrs Otis lying on the sofa?

(a) Shouts at her for being useless

(b) Breaks down in tears

(c) Insists that she eats something

(d) Turns and leaves the room without a word

7. What did the Canterville ghost give Virginia before he died?

(a) All his haunting costumes

(b) The key to all the secrets of the house

(c) A box of beautiful jewels

(d) A special silken cloak

8. What is chained to the wall in the little room behind the great oak door?

(a) A skeleton

(b) A huge dog

(c) A figure encased in a suit of armour

(d) A dragon

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

9. How many black horses draw the hearse in the funeral procession?

(a) Ten
(b) Eight
(c) Four
(d) Two

10. Who comes to the ghost's funeral? Select all that apply.

[a] Lord Canterville
[b] Lady Canterville
[c] The Otis family
[d] Mrs Umney
[e] Lady Barbara Modish
[f] Sir William Gull

11. Where is the ghost's grave dug?

(a) Under an old yew-tree
(b) Under an old oak-tree
(c) Under a rose bush
(d) Under the almond tree

12. What happens when Virginia lays the cross of almond-blossoms on the coffin?

(a) The lid of the coffin stirs
(b) The wind seems to whisper a heartfelt "thankyou"
(c) The moon comes out and a nightingale begins to sing
(d) The churchyard is bathed in a phosphorescent light

13. Why does Mr Otis have a meeting with Lord Canterville the morning after the funeral?

(a) He felt bad accepting the jewels the ghost gave to Virginia
(b) He wanted to sell the house back
(c) He wanted to make sure Lord Canterville didn't now want the house back
(d) He wanted to make sure Lord Canterville wasn't going to demand the jewels back

14. What does Virginia want to keep as a memento of the ghost?

(a) The ruby necklace
(b) A small pearl brooch
(c) A gold ring
(d) The box the jewels were in

15. What does Lord Canterville say about the jewels?

(a) That he will take them back as heirlooms, but Virginia can keep the box
(b) That he wants them all back, including the box
(c) That they should sell them and split the proceeds
(d) That Virginia should keep them

16. Why isn't Mr Otis pleased about Virginia's marriage to the Duke of Cheshire?

(a) He likes the Duke but doesn't think he is good enough for his daughter
(b) He thinks his daughter is too young
(c) He thinks overexposure to the aristocracy threatens the principles of Republican simplicity
(d) He doesn't approve of the patriarchal construct of marriage

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Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

If you read it in the iClassics app

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

1. What falls off the wall behind Virginia when she appears at the top of the stairs?

2. What happens when you tap the almond tree outside the window?

3. What happens when you tap Sir Simon's grave?

Think like a detective

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

1. Mr Otis is uneasy about letting Virginia keep the jewels, yet he still lets her. What does this show about him and about the values of the Otis family?

2. Compare the funeral with the ghost's earlier hauntings. How does Wilde change the mood, and which details (the almond-blossoms, the nightingale, the moon) carry that change?

3. The story ends with Virginia's marriage and Mr Otis's worries about the aristocracy. Is this a happy ending, a joke, or both? Use evidence from the text.

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Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pretend you are the **Chair of the Council of British Ghosts and Ghouls**, a body that oversees the haunting activities of all the ghosts in Britain. You have just heard that the Canterville ghost has passed on into death. Write a **eulogy** about him to publish in *The Haunted Herald* (the most popular ghost newspaper in Britain). In the eulogy, describe the Canterville ghost, describe some of his most notable past achievements, and explain why and how he passed on into death.

