

LITTLE STAR HR. SEC. SCHOOL

English

Class 12

Novel- The Canterville Ghost - Ch 1

OSCAR WILDE



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Do you like listening to ghost stories?

This novel is the story about a ghost.

This ghost is unlike any ghost you have ever heard or read about.

[As you read the novel, listen to the audio recording here. Click here.](#)

[Click here for link to the text incase you haven't bought a copy of the novel](#)



Characters



- Lord Canterville - Owner of Canterville Chase
- Mr. And Mrs. Otis - New Owners of Canterville Chase
- Virginia - Daughter
- Washington - Son
- Twins - Stars and Stripes
- Mrs. Umney House Keeper
- Late Lady Eleanor De Canterville (Wife of Simon de Canterville)
- Sir Simon de Canterville (Ghost)
- Duke of Cheshire (Virginia's Lover)



Chapter 1

1. England -16th century house.
2. Lord Canterville - owner.
3. Canterville Family stopped living there years ago.
4. The Grand-aunt “The Duchess Of Bolton” felt the ghost on her shoulders.

Other members of family also complained of ghostly experiences.



Chapter 1

- American minister Mr. Hiram Otis buys the house from Lord Canterville.
- Lord Canterville tells him about the ghost in the house.
- Mr. Otis says he does not believe in ghost and is willing to buy both ghost and the furniture.

Do you think Lord Canterville is an honest man? Give reason for your answer.



- Lovely July evening when the Otis family reached the Canterville Chase. Weather was lovely, pigeons were cooing & rabbits were playing.
- As they entered the house the weather was just opposite, the sky suddenly became dark full of clouds.
 - Rushed indoors as it started raining heavily.

Notice how the weather changes suddenly. Does this tell us something about what is going to happen? Perhaps some dark ghostly events are awaiting the family.



The Famous Bloodstain

- Mrs. Umney the housekeeper welcomed them.
- Mrs. Otis noticed a stain on the floor.
- Mrs. Umney said it was the FAMOUS blood stain.
- She told that it was blood of Lady Eleanor Canterville murdered by her husband Sir Simon Canterville in the year 1575.

Note the use of the title 'Sir' for the ghost!



- Washington called it non-sense. He took out Pinkerton's stain remover and removed the stain keenly.

What does this say about Washington's personality/character?



Suddenly - flash of lightning , loud noise of thunder.

Mrs. Umney fainted. Mr Otis wanted to charge/impose fine for fainting.

Mrs Umney - “It was the start of unhappy events which are going to come.” (Foretelling)

Otis family was calm & Mrs. Otis replied that they did not believe in ghost.



Foretelling

- In this novel the author gives a lot of hints about what is going to happen in the next chapters.
- In Chapter 1 Mr. Umney predicts that unhappy events are going to come.
 - This prepares the reading for some ghostly events.
 - The weather in the beginning of the chapter is also a prediction of the upcoming events.



ASSESSMENT

Online quiz. [Click Here](#).