

LITTLE STAR HR. SEC. SCHOOL

English

Class 12

Novel- The Canterville Ghost

Ch 4- 7

OSCAR WILDE



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Chapter 4

- 4 weeks of excitement- ghost tired
- Decided to stop putting the blood stain
- People of such low level did not deserve it
- Made fearful voices - once a week
- Considered it his duty to appear in the corridor once a week.
- Appeared under a large window on first & third Wednesday Every month

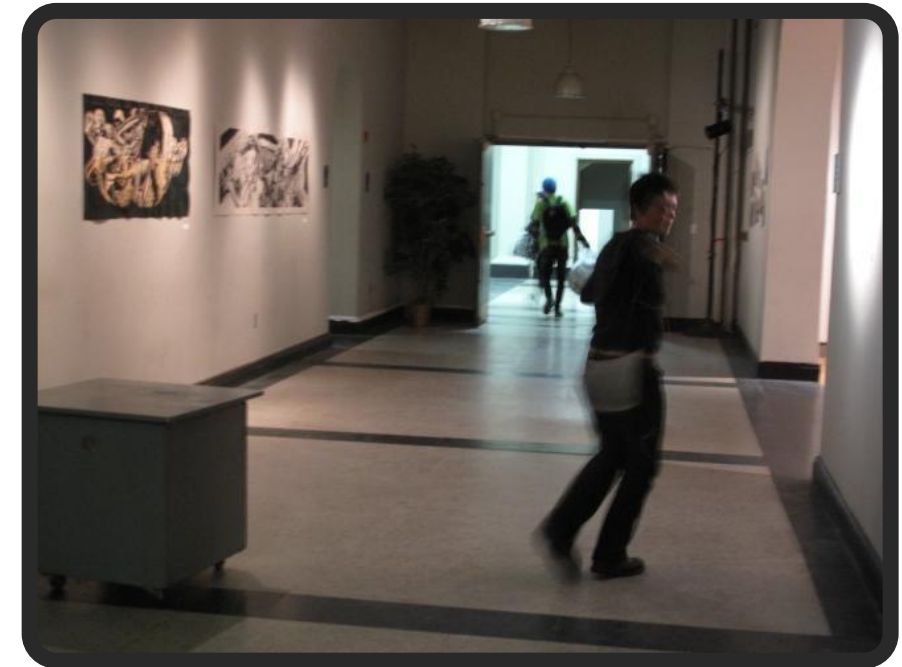


Do you see any changes in the character of the ghost?

Measures taken by the ghost to avoid the Otis Family

Avoids the **crude family**

1. Stole the lubricator
2. Used lubricator for his chains and wore soft slippers
3. Walked as quietly as possible
4. Wore a large black velvet cloak



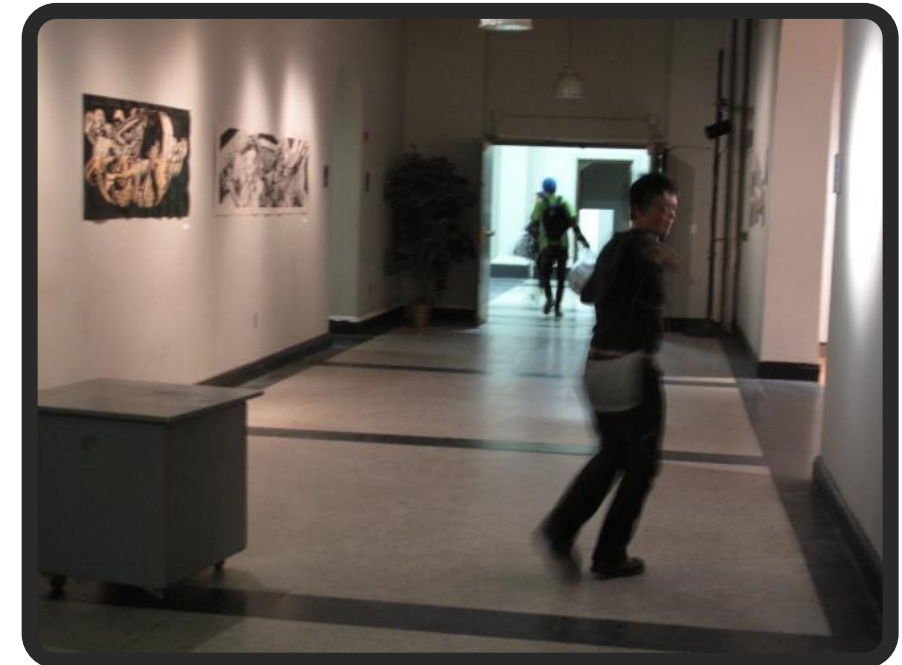
Prank played by the twins

- The ghost tripped on strings tied by twins
- Slipped on butter

The last insult enraged him



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The ghost became very angry this event then he decided to dress as 'Reckless Rupert' or the 'Headless Earl' to frighten the twins.



'Reckless Rupert'

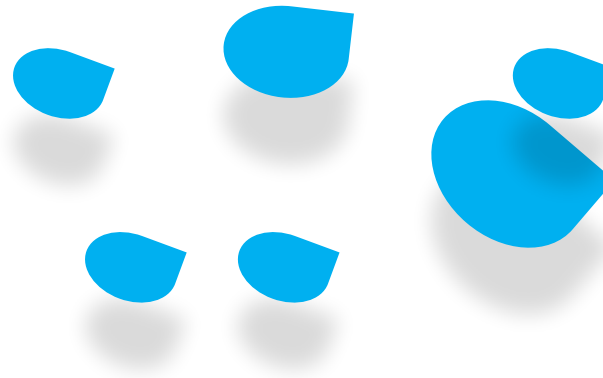
- This getup had helped a lot in past for frightening.
- He took three hours to get ready.
- Thought of his past achievement.
- Then confidently he reached the twins room
- The door was slightly opened



'Headless Earl'

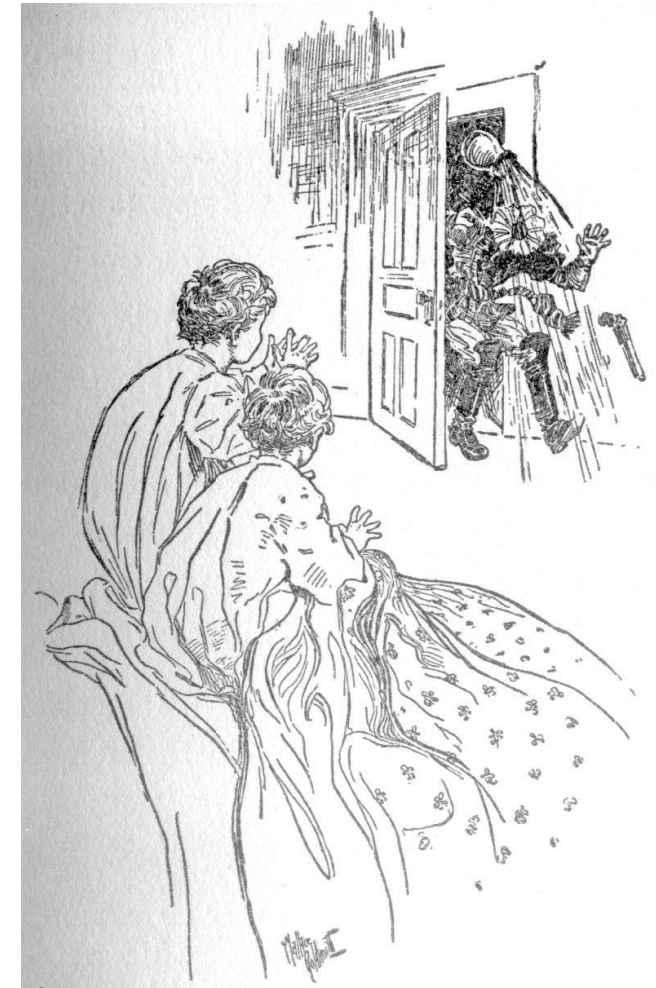
The ghost frequently thought of his past achievements.
What does this tell you about the ghost?

- There was a surprise for him
- A jug of water was already waiting for him
- Accompanied by stifled peals of laughter from the twins
- The Ghost fled
- Thought he was lucky that he had not brought his head with him otherwise results could be serious.



What do you think would have happened if the ghost had brought his head?

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- The ghost gives up all hope of frightening the Otis family.
- Walked around with soft slippers, thick muffler and a small pistol



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Prank played by the twins and Washington

On 19th September at



- The ghost was going to the library
- The twins shouted boo in his ears
- The ghost ran
- Washington was standing with a big syringe
- The Ghost escaped from chimney



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- Ghost not seen for a long time
- Otis family thought he left the house
- Duke of Cheshire comes to spend holiday at Canterville Chase
- Seeing the Duke, ghost decided to make his appearance
- But failed as he feared the twins



(Duke of Cheshire)

Chapter 5 - Meeting of Virginia and the ghost

- While riding Virginia's dress tore
- She decided to take the back stairs
- Saw the ghost sitting in a corner.



(ghost sitting sadly)

- Virginia apologetic for the behaviour of twins
- Asked ghost to behave well & live peacefully.
- The ghost was astonished by Virginia's courage.
- The ghost said it was his duty to rattle chains at night, groan through keyholes & walk at night.



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- Virginia accused the ghost of killing his wife.
- Ghost did not repent killing his wife.
- Claimed she was plain, never had his ruffs properly starched, did not know how to cook.
- Her brothers starved him to death

How did the ghost die?
Why was his body never found?
Why did he kill his wife?



- Virginia offered sandwich
- The ghost said he was never hungry
- Called her family rude and horrid
- Virginia in anger called the ghost a thief
- Accused him of stealing her paints for the blood stain



- Ghost blames Washington for removing bloodstain daily.
- Virginia advised the ghost to sleep at night and not to roam.
- The ghost said he had not slept for 300 years
- Will be able to sleep only in the '**Garden of Death**'.
- Claims that he wants to die and go to the Garden of Death
- Wants Virginia to help him
- Virginia tells him to emigrate to New York

The ghost reminded Virginia of the old prophecy on the library window.

Virginia didn't understand the meaning of prophecy.

The Ghost explained that a girl like Virginia would help the ghost. The ghost had no tears no faith but Virginia had both.

“When a golden girl can win
Prayer from out the lips of sin,
When the barren almond bears,
And a little child gives away its tears,
Then shall all the house be still
And peace come to Canterville.”

- The ghost wanted Virginia to pray to God of Death
- If Virginia had courage, she would win
- Virginia agreed
- Heard strange voice but moved ahead to the Garden of Death



(God of Death)

Chapter 6 The searching for Virginia & Virginia's Return

- Mrs Otis became worried when Virginia did not come for tea
- She waited for an hour
- Everybody starts searching.
- Mr. and Mrs. Otis searched each corner of the house.
- Suddenly Mr. Otis thought of the gypsies, camping in his park called Black fell Hollow.
- Gypsies had already left the place. Camp fire was still burning.



- Thought she was kidnapped by the gypsies
- Sends message to police station about kidnapping
- Sends Washington and two men to search the area
- Mr. Otis leaves for Ascot
- Duke of Cheshire follows him
- Mr. Otis touched by the Duke's devotion towards Virginia



(Duke)



(Mr. Otis)

- The Duke and Mr. Otis returns tired and heard broken
- Virginia was not with gypsies
- They looked for her everywhere
- The search fails



- Right after dinner
- The Otis Family hears a cry and crash
- Sounds of strange music
- Virginia comes out



- Virginia looks pale, holding a box
- Mrs Otis - Happy and angry too
- Thought Virginia played a trick on them
- Twins shouted - practical jokes to be played only on the ghost
- Virginia said she was with the ghost
- The ghost is no more
- Said the ghost was sorry for his wicked deeds
- Gave the box of jewels to Virginia



- Virginia leads the family to the secret room
- Saw a skeleton, an old fashioned jug and plates
- Virginia knelt and prayed
- One of the twins announced that the old withered almond tree has bloomed



“When a golden girl can win
Prayer from out the lips of sin,
When the barren almond bears,
And a little child gives away its tears,
Then shall all the house be still
And peace come to Canterville.”

Virginia said that God had forgiven the ghost .
A beautiful light illumined her face and young
Duke of Cheshire called her angel.



Chapter 7 - Sir Simon's Funeral

- 4 days later, funeral at 11 am
- Procession from Canterville Chase
- Ghost coffin carried by 8 black horses



- Grave at the church yard.
- Church flooded with silver lights
- Sounds of nightingale singing
- Reminds Virginia of the Garden of Death



The Box of Jewels

- Next morning, Mr Otis and Lord Canterville discusses about the jewels

- **Mr Otis** - Jewels belong to the Canterville family

Take it to London with Lord Canterville

Americans believe in simple living

Mr. Otis wanted Virginia to keep only the empty box in memory of the ghost

- **Lord Canterville** - refuses the offer

Virginia helped the ghost - his ancestor

Grateful to Virginia

The jewels are not mentioned anywhere and so not family hierloom

Wants Virginia to keep the jewels

The soul of Sir Simon will not be happy if Virginia does not keep

the jewels

- Virginia wears the jewels at her wedding - Duke of Cheshire
- Mr Otis did not like the title of the duke
- However he was very proud that Virginia married a duke.



Virginia & Cecil visits the grave of Sir Simon de Canterville after honeymoon

Duke wanted to know what happened when Virginia was alone with the ghost
Virginia said she owed a lot to the ghost
The ghost made her see what life is and what death is and why love is stronger than both
Did not tell everything she had seen or experienced



ASSESSMENT

Now look at the questions and try to answer as many as you can. (Page 32 onwards are textbook questions and the same as those in the back of the lesson)

You can check your answers in the following pages.

[Or you can go straight to the online quiz. Click Here.](#)

Summative Assessment Chapter 5-7

1. In the light of Virginia's behaviour throughout the time she had come to live at Canterville Chase, and her interactions with the ghost, write a short character sketch highlighting the key aspects of her personality.

Virginia Otis was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otis. She is said to be athletic and free-spirited, with golden hair and large blue eyes. She was a good rider who once raced and defeated Lord Bilton. Virginia was the only member of the family who showed no interest in the ghost. She doesn't bother the ghost and does not try to remove the blood stain either. This shows her unprejudiced and inclusive attitude towards others. She encountered the ghost in the fifth chapter of the novel. She was initially frightened by his sight but was soon filled with pity and talked to him. Virginia had a kind and a gentle nature girl. When the ghost told her that he was starved to death, she offered him her sandwich. During their conversation we come to know that Virginia was aware that the ghost was stealing her paints to refurbish the blood stain on the carpet. However, she didn't tell it to anyone as she was a sensitive and caring girl. Virginia had a sense of right and wrong. She censured the ghost for murdering his poor wife. She had a great regard for her family. So, she took offence when the ghost called her family 'horrid, rude, vulgar, and dishonest'. Virginia, unlike her family was initially disturbed by the thought of a ghost living in their new home. As the novel comes to an end, Virginia emerges as a confident and brave girl, who helps the ghost to enter the Garden of Death. She was helpful even when her own safety was endangered. She was also pure and innocent and so she was able to pray for the sins of the ghost and lead him to eternal sleep.

2.Trace the changes that occur in the ghost's behaviour and attitude through part 1 and 2 when he starts out being utterly confident of his ability to terrify people and ends up getting terrified by the twins.

The Canterville Ghost in the first two chapter appeared to be a confident ghost. He was vain and liked to recollect about the past and how he frightened the residents of the Canterville Chase. He would often recalls the roles that he played as a ghost and how successful he was. He considered himself to be true artist performing his ghostly roles flawlessly. He took pride in scaring people to insanity and death and he planned to scare the Otis family in a similar manner. However, the American family was different for the other inhabitants who lived in the house and he was unable to scare them. As the Otis family arrived at the Canterville Chase, they saw bloodstains on the carpet. Washington removed it with paragon detergent but Mrs. Unmey, the housekeeper told them that the bloodstains cannot be removed and that it would reappear. The bloodstains reappeared again and Washington used his detergent to remove it. The first appearance of the ghost was his encounter with Mr. Otis. Mr. Otis was not frightened by the ghost but offered him s sunrise lubricator for his chain as it was too noisy. The ghost was enraged by his practical approach to problems and smashed the bottle on the ground. Again, when Mrs. Otis encountered him, she offered him a bottle of digestive tincture for his demoniacal laughter. The ghost's confidence and morale began to drop as the family were not frightened by any of his celebrated and successful acts. The character of the ghost changed drastically when the twins tricked him with a fake ghost. He realised that all his planned were foiled and he was outwitted by the two boys. The Otis family seemed immuned to his strategies and as his plans were constantly foiled. He ended up in a state of physical illness and exhaustion. His nerves were shattered and he began to be afraid of even the slightest sounds. He stayed in his room for four days and even gave up on putting the bloodstains. Even when he roamed the corridors at night, he was careful not to make any noise and moved around quietly. Here, we see that from a confident ghost, the Canterville Ghost has become timid and weak. However, he tried one last attempt at frightening the family. So, he dressed as the Headless Earl and entered the twins' room. However, the twins were prepared for him and managed to outwit him again by making a jar of water fall on his head as soon as he opened their door. This incident was the turning point of his ghostly life and he was not seen again for a few days. His feelings were wounded and he caught a cold. He wanted to frighten the Duke of Cheshire but he did not do it as he was afraid of the twins. When Virginia encountered the ghost, the ghost looked sad and depressed. He felt weary and irrelevant and asked Virginia to take him to the Garden of Death.

3. Describe the ghost's character in detail based on your inference from Part 1 and Part 2.

The ghost in the beginning appears to be proud of his ghostly acts. He was vain and took pride on how he drove people to insanity and death. He was revengeful and wanted to seek revenge for starving him to death. He thought that some of his ghostly acts were good as he was able to punish evil man. The ghost was self righteous and believed that by frightening people, he was fulfilling his ghostly duties. He considered himself to be a true artist and liked to dress up as certain characters and scare people. He would recollect all the characters he impersonated and how it frightened the people. He had elaborate plans on how to scare the Otis family and started to unveil his acts. However, the Otis family being practical and modern, were not frightened by his impersonations and tricks. This angered him and he started to have grudges against them. He wanted to take revenge on the Otis family for not respecting him as a ghost and for offering practical solutions to the supernatural. Later, we see that the ghost was terrified of the twins and did not go out of his room for several days because he was afraid that the twins may play pranks on him. He wanted to show his influence over the family of the Duke of Cheshire but could not frighten him because of his own fear of the twins. From a proud and confident ghost, he transforms into a timid ghost. He hated the Otis family for their materialism and their American way of life. He was, however, able to see the virtuous and kind nature of Virginia and took her help to go to the Garden of Death. Even as a ghost, he thanked her with jewel.

4. Why is Virginia alone eligible to pray for the twins?

Virginia alone was eligible to pray for the ghost as she was kind and had a generous heart. She was also selfless and pure. The prophecy required that a pure and innocent girl should cry for the sins of the ghost and pray for him. The ghost knew that Virginia would be the girl in the prophecy because she was sweet, good and gentle. She never bothered the ghost and never told on him even when she knew that he was stealing her paints. He also knew that since she was pure and the wicked voices would not be able to harm her. Virginia was the only one with a pure heart. When she saw the ghost, she was filled with pity and wanted to help him. Virginia saw that the ghost was truly tired and she offered to release him into the Garden of Death and rest in peace forever. She was a brave girl and showed no fear even when the voices asked her to return. Hence, we see that Virginia was the only one who was eligible to pray for the ghost.

5. Describe the character of Mr. Otis based on your inference in Part 1 and Part 2 .

Mr. Otis was a true Republican. He was rather strict and had a practical upbringing for his family. When he first encountered the ghost, he offered him lubricating oil for his chains. His practical nature did not change even after encountering the ghost. When the ghost threw away his oil he was concerned that he and his family would be living with a noisy neighbour. Mr. Otis even defended the rights of the ghost and scolded the twins for annoying the ghost. He even tried to shoot the ghost, when he did not listen to his reasoning. In the later part of the novel, we see him as a warm and affectionate father. When Virginia was missing, he did not waste any moment in searching for her. He did not want the Duke to join the search as he was concerned about him. He is seen as a protective father who did not stop at anything to get Virginia back safely. When he learned that Virginia was offered jewels by the ghost, he tried to convince Lord Canterville to take it. This shows that he was not only a good parent but also a man with integrity.

6. The story moves from the mischievous twins pranks to the more serious meeting between Virginia and the ghost. Virginia helps the ghost by praying for him and obtaining God's forgiveness. Describe the events in the story that support this statement.

Virginia was riding out when she tore her riding costume. She decided to take the back staircase to her room. On her way, she entered a room and came face to face with the ghost. Initially very frightened, Virginia felt great pity for the ghost seeing that he was sad. She tried to comfort him. The ghost tried to justify his evil acts and Virginia scolded him for murdering his wife. The ghost finally broke down and told her about the Garden of Death and how he longed to sleep. The ghost appealed to Virginia to help him cross over to the other side, saying that she had the power of love and love was stronger than death. He reminded her of the verse on the library window and revealed the meaning to her. The ghost said that Virginia was as pure as a child will have to pray and cry for his sins. He knew that will be able to persuade the Angel of Death to have mercy on him because of her innocence. Virginia agreed to help the ghost and he took her hand and walked ahead. Virginia proved to be very brave as she did not listen to the wicked voices and moved ahead with the ghost. On her returned, she carried a box of jewels given to her by the ghost.

7. The Canterville Ghost is a simple ghost story. Would you agree with this statement. Or do you think the story had different aspects to it. Substantiate your reasons with reasons.

The Canterville Ghost is not simply a ghost story. It uses wit and humour. Humour is a powerful weapon that Wilde uses to defuse the scary atmosphere. There is the spooky element, philosophy, romance and family drama, all in one novel. The spooky elements are the rattling of chains, the bloodstains on the floor, the blowing out of candles, the terrible appearances of the ghost and his scary past experiences. However, all this is interlaced with humour. Example, the rattling of chains leads to Mr. Otis offering the ghost an oil to oil to chains so that he and family can sleep peacefully. When the ghost does his demonic laughter, Mrs. Otis offers him medicine for indigestion. The blood stains also appear to be fake as the ghost stole paints from Virginia in order to refurbish it. Then, there is the element of romance with Virginia being in the center of it. The young Duke's affection and his adoration for Virginia is mentioned in the novel. When she goes missing, he sets out to search for her with the only intention to get her back. The novel ends with the Duke, finally marrying Virginia. There is philosophy in the novel as the ghost mentions that love is greater than death. Ultimately, Virginia because of her purity and true love, was able to deliver the ghost to the Garden of Death and plead his case with the Angel of Death. The element of family drama is also present here as the Otis family try to live a full life in the Canterville Chase and deal with the ghost in their own unique way.