



Educational Drama



THE
CANTERVILLE
GHOST

Based on Oscar Wilde's short story.

❖ Activities & Songs ❖



Educational Drama

We are very pleased to announce our 2013 productions:

"SINBAD, the Sailor"

and

"THE CANTERVILLE GHOST"



We would like to present these two well-known stories as we believe that students must always be exposed to "the classics" which are essential for their general knowledge and cultural background. As educators we have the responsibility of showing new generations the great value these stories have.



The Company's version:

We bring you this Oscar Wilde's long remembered and recreated story, which has been a delight for several generations of readers, theatre and film spectators.

Our theatrical adaptation of "The Canterville Ghost" will not only make you laugh but also show you the importance of love.

We hope you and your students will enjoy working on this play!





⇒ TEACHER'S GUIDE

⇒ THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

Sir Simon de Canterville is an old ghost who has lived in the Canterville Castle in England for three hundred years. He enjoys haunting around the house and scaring all the people who move into the castle. But everything changes when a new modern family from America moves in. Their way of life is very different from that of Europe. Simon gets very angry with the Otis family because they don't respect him and do not fear him. Finally, after many attempts to scare them, Sir Simon gets tired and wants to find peace and be free, but he needs help to do so. According to a mysterious curse, Virginia Otis, who is the youngest and most sensible daughter of the family, is the only one who can help him...

But, what will Sir Simon do in order to scare the Otis family? What is this mysterious curse? Will Virginia help him to find peace and be free?

This hilarious theatrical adaptation of Oscar Wilde's famous short story will not only make you laugh a lot but also remind you of the importance of love.

⇒ AMERICAN VS. BRITISH SOCIETY

Wilde compares the behaviour of the American Otises with that of the British upper classes. He shows the differences between the English, with their ghosts and their history, and the practical Americans, with their commercial remedies to all problems, even the supernatural, and the money that they have to buy whatever they want in Europe.



⇒ TEACHER'S GUIDE

BEFORE THE PLAY

⇒ Activity 1: *The story*

Show the poster of the play. Questions: What do you think the story is about? Do you know other stories about ghosts? Which ones?

Answer the questions.

Key:

- 1) Oscar Wilde.
- 2) Sir Simon de Canterville.
- 3) In England.
- 4) Otis.
- 5) No, because they don't believe in ghosts.
- 6) Creepy tricks, draws a stain, walks around dragging chains, gives scary cries.
- 7) He has to pay rent.
- 8) Indiana and Virginia.
- 9) The housekeeper.
- 10) Virginia helps the ghost to be free

⇒ Activity 2: *Meet the author*

Key:

- B.1) Dublin, Ireland
B.2) November 30th, 1900

⇒ Activity 3: *Meet the characters*

True or False

- | | | |
|-------|-------|------|
| 1) T | 2) F | 3) T |
| 4) F | 5) F | 6) T |
| 7) T | 8) F | 9) T |
| 10) F | 11) T | |

⇒ Activity 4: *British weather - match*

Key:

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| 1) C | 2) D | 3) B |
| 4) E | 5) G | 6) A |
| 7) F | | |

⇒ Activity 5: *Listen and find them - Verbs*

Key:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| 1) make | 2) go | 3) live |
| 4) stay | 5) stop | 6) know |
| 7) discovers | | |

⇒ Activity 6: *Text type and rhyming words*

Key:

- | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1) poem | 2) you - too / still - Canterville |
|---------|------------------------------------|

⇒ Activity 7: *Vocabulary - American way of life*

CD Track 8 - Song: American way of life

AFTER THE PLAY

⇒ Activity 1: *Character description*

⇒ Activity 2: *Underline the correct ending for each sentence.*

Key:

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1) b | 2) c | 3) a |
| 4) c | 5) c | 6) b |
| 7) c | 8) a | 9) c |
| 10) c | 11) b | 12) a |

⇒ Activity 3: *Put the following events in the correct order.*

Key:

- | | | |
|-------|------|------|
| a) 2 | b) 5 | c) 1 |
| d) 10 | e) 8 | f) 7 |
| g) 9 | h) 3 | i) 4 |
| j) 6 | | |

⇒ Activity 4: *Write a paragraph*

⇒ Activity 5: *Role play*

Suggestions:

- ⇒ Go over the glossary with your students
- ⇒ In order to make a more memorable and enjoyable experience for your students we strongly recommend that they listen and sing all the songs before and after seeing the play!



GLOSSARY

Antique: a decorative object, piece of furniture, or other work of art created in the past, which is collected and valued for its beauty, workmanship, and age

Blood: a reddish fluid in vertebrates that is pumped by the heart through the arteries and veins

Chain: a flexible length of metal links

Clanking: a hard metallic sound

Curse: something that brings or causes great trouble or harm

Ghost: the spirit of a dead person that haunts the living

Haunted: visited by ghosts

Modern: involving the present or recent time

Oil: viscous liquid used as lubricant

Ruins: destroyed or decayed buildings or towns

Stain: a spot, mark

Still: tranquil; silent and calm



NAME DATE

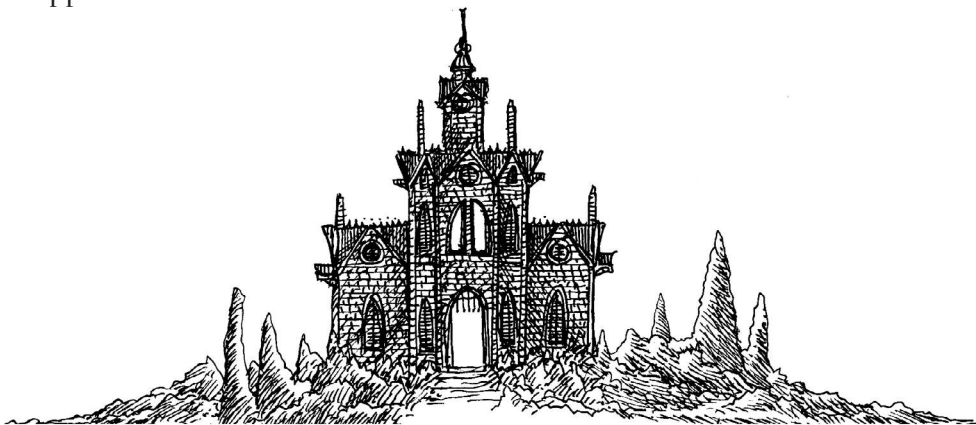
Before the play - ACTIVITY 1

"The Canterville Ghost" by Oscar Wilde

The Canterville Ghost is a very famous story about a mysterious ghost named Sir Simon de Canterville who has lived in the Canterville castle in England for 300 years. He likes to scare the people that moves in to the castle. But one day, when the Otis family from America comes to live in the castle, everything changes. The Otises aren't scared of him because they don't believe in ghosts. Sir Simon plays a lot of his famous creepy tricks on the new family. He draws a stain on the library floor for them to think that it's a bloodstain. He always walks around dragging chains that make a lot of noise and sometimes gives scary cries. But the Otis family laughs at him. The father, Mr. Otis, tells the ghost that if he wants to stay in the castle he must pay rent! Indiana Otis, her older daughter, is naughty and makes fun of Sir Simon. But, Virginia Otis, the youngest of the family, is very nice to the ghost and worries for him. The only person who is really afraid of the ghost is Mrs. Umney, the old housekeeper of the Canterville Castle. Finally, the ghost gets tired of trying to scare the Otises. In the end, the sweet Virginia will help him to be free so he won't have to be around the castle any longer.

Now that you know a bit more about "The Canterville Ghost", answer these questions:

1. Who wrote the story?
2. What's the complete name of the ghost?
3. Where does the story take place?
4. What's the name of the family that moves into the castle?
5. Is this family scared of the ghost? Why?
6. What does the ghost do to scare the family?
7. What does the father tell the ghost?
8. What are the names of Mr. Otis's daughters?
9. Who is Mrs. Umney?
10. What happens in the end?





NAME DATE

Before the play - ACTIVITY 2

MEET THE AUTHOR

Oscar Wilde wrote 'The Canterville Ghost'. He is a very famous artist worldwide.
Look for more information about him

A) Check this website:

www.wilde-online.info

B) Now answer:



1. Where was he born?

2. When did he die?

3. Name at least three of his theatre plays.

4. Name at least three of his short stories.

NAME DATE

Before the play - ACTIVITY 3

MEET THE CHARACTERS!



Sir Simon de Canterville:

He is the ghost who has lived in Canterville Castle for three hundred years. He likes haunting the house and scaring every family that moves in. He is old, with grey hair; he wears ragged clothes and drags clanking chains. He tries to scare the Otis family but he fails everytime.

Mr Otis:

He is the father of the Otis family. He buys the Canterville castle. He is an American minister and a huge fan of his country, USA. He is very practical and likes making money. Mr. Otis thinks that the commercial products from his country are the best and can fix anything. He believes that the ghost doesn't exist but when he meets him, he tries to charge him rent!



Indiana:

Named after the state of Indiana in the USA. She is the eldest daughter. She is an intrepid explorer and loves playing with firecrackers. She is a spoiled girl. She always plays tricks on the ghost and makes him depressed and desperate. She makes a fake ghost to scare Sir Simon.

Virginia:

Named after the state of Virginia in the USA. She is the youngest and most sensible daughter. She is an excellent artist. She has a box of paints that the ghost uses to refresh his bloodstain. She is the only one who really listens to the ghost and feels sorry for him.



Mrs Umney:

She is the old housekeeper of the Canterville family and now works for the Otises. She is terrified of the ghost and tries to warn the family. She blames the ghost for all the tragedies that had happened in the castle.

Lord Canterville:

He is a descendent of the Canterville family who were the owners of the Canterville Castle. He wanted to leave the castle since her great grand aunt, the Duchess of Bolton, felt two hands on her shoulders when she was alone in her room. He says the place is haunted and that many members of his family have seen the ghost over the last three hundred years.





NAME DATE

Before the play - ACTIVITY 3

Now, write if these statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. The ghost likes haunting and scaring all the people that move in. ____
2. Sir Simon de Canterville wears new clothes. ____
3. The Otis family doesn't believe in ghosts. ____
4. Mr. Otis is a huge fan of England. ____
5. Sir Simon de Canterville buys the castle. ____
6. Indiana makes the ghost feel depressed and desperate. ____
7. Virginia cares for the ghost. ____
8. The ghost has a box of paints. ____
9. Mrs. Umney is really scared of the ghost. ____
10. Indiana blames the ghost for all the tragedies that had happened
in the castle. ____
11. Lord Canterville was the owner of the castle. ____



NAME DATE

Before the play - ACTIVITY 4

THE BRITISH WEATHER

In the play, the Otis family is always complaining about the English weather because it changes every time and it is usually cloudy with rainstorm, but why is that?

The British weather is often described as variable because, as an island, the weather is affected by the temperature of the surrounding seas. It is also influenced by the European land mass. Another contributor to the ever changing British weather is the Gulf Stream that brings warm water across the Atlantic Ocean.

Discuss:

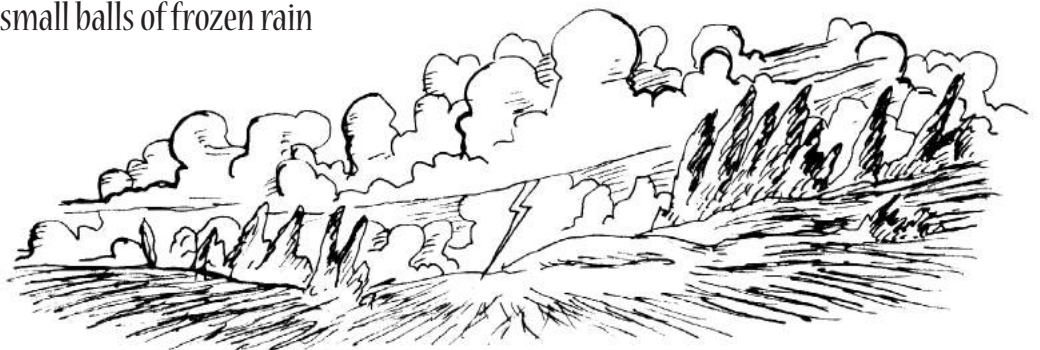
How would you describe the weather in Uruguay?

What's your favourite kind of weather? Why?

Is the British weather like the Uruguayan weather? What are the differences?

Match the type of weather with its definition

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1) A tornado | A) a storm with strong winds and heavy snow |
| 2) Lightning | B) a large amount of water that covers a place |
| 3) A flood | C) a very strong circular wind |
| 4) Thunder | D) electrical energy that flashes in the sky during a storm |
| 5) Hail | E) loud bangs and crashes that you hear in the sky during a storm |
| 6) A snow storm | F) a period of extremely hot weather |
| 7) A heat wave | G) small balls of frozen rain |





NAME DATE

Before the play - ACTIVITY 5

SOME OF THE VERBS THAT ARE MENTIONED IN THIS SONG ARE MISSING!

LISTEN AND FIND THEM

Emerald green blood, blue blood
Is there any yellow blood too?
In this castle of Canterville
You may be surprised by anything
Chains that (1) _____ noise
I suggest Tommany Sunshine Oil
Stains that won't (2) _____
Pinkerton's cleaner will wipe it off!

Well, Sir Simon de Canterville
You may be a ghost, but to (3) _____ in here
You must pay rent if you wanna (4) _____
And (5) _____ making noise with those clanking chains!

Emerald green blood, blue blood
Is there any yellow blood too?
Maybe ghosts have colorful blood
May it be purple, orange or white?
We only (6) _____ there's a ghost in here
And we've prepared this surprise for him
Will he be scared?
Will he get mad?
Let's see what happens
When he (7) _____
What a ghost really looks like!



NAME DATE

Before the play - ACTIVITY 6

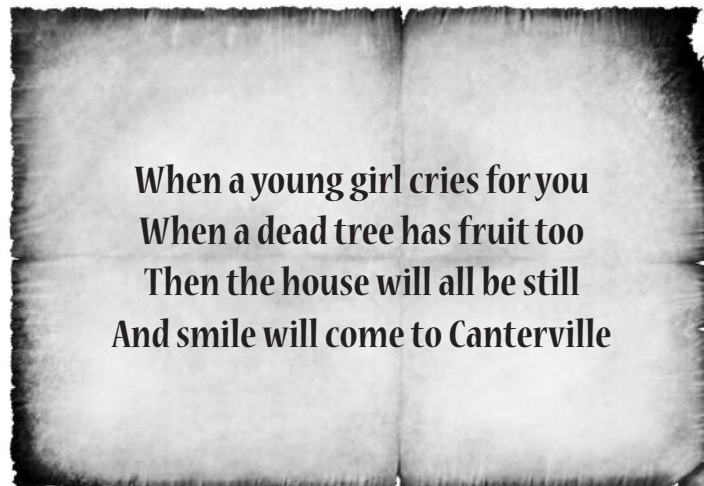
TEXTTYPE AND RHYMING WORDS

The text below is mentioned during the play.

1) What type of text is it?

- a) instructions b) poem c) letter

2) Find the rhyming words at the end of each line and group them accordingly.



3) Discuss the meaning of this text. What does it talk about?



NAME DATE

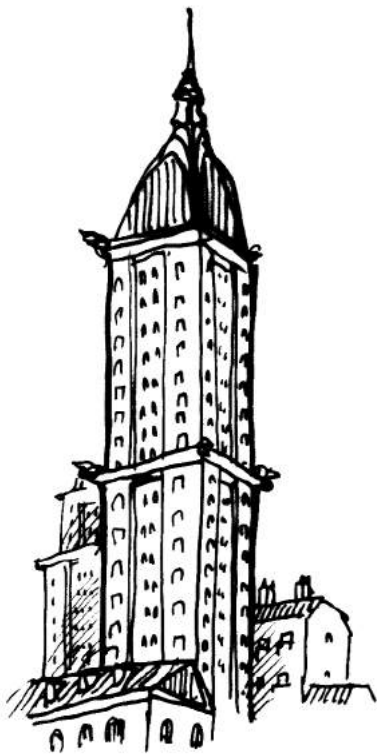
Before the play - ACTIVITY 7

VOCABULARY

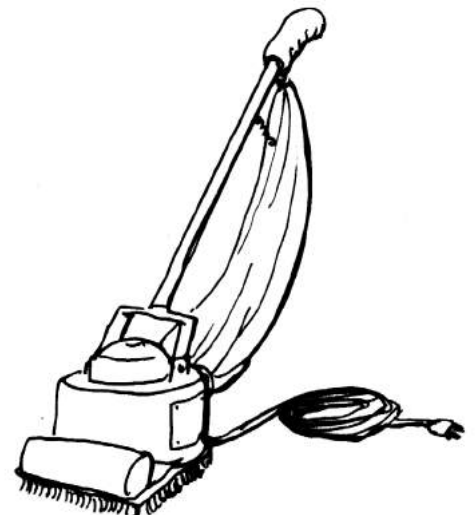
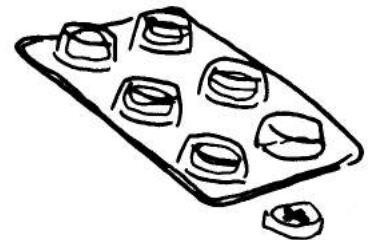
Do you know the meaning of the underlined words?

- 1) Listen to the song
- 2) Try to guess the meanings that you don't know.
- 3) Look up the words in a dictionary

"AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE"



Wow! Look at that stain!
 Pinkerton's fast cleaner will wipe it away.
 Sweetie, you have a headache?
 An aspirin or two will make you feel great!
 If there is dust, use vacuum cleaner
 Don't keep used stuff, just throw it away
 If you find ghosts inside your house
 Simply call the ghost-busters at once
 Too many people over to eat?
 Please do not worry, call delivery
 there is nothing you can't achieve
 In the land of modernity!
 But you will surely miss antiques
 No homemade food, no five o'clock tea
Skyscrapers here, skyscrapers there
 No magnificent castles anywhere
 Two ways of life
 Two different styles
 But both speak English...
 There's no doubt about that!



* According to this song, how would you describe the American way of life?



NAME DATE

Before the play - ACTIVITY 7

DEFINITIONS

Stain: _____

Wipe: _____

Headache: _____

Dust: _____

Vacuum cleaner: _____

Stuff: _____

Achieve: _____

Antiques: _____

Homemade: _____

Skyscrapers: _____

4) Choose three words and make sentences.



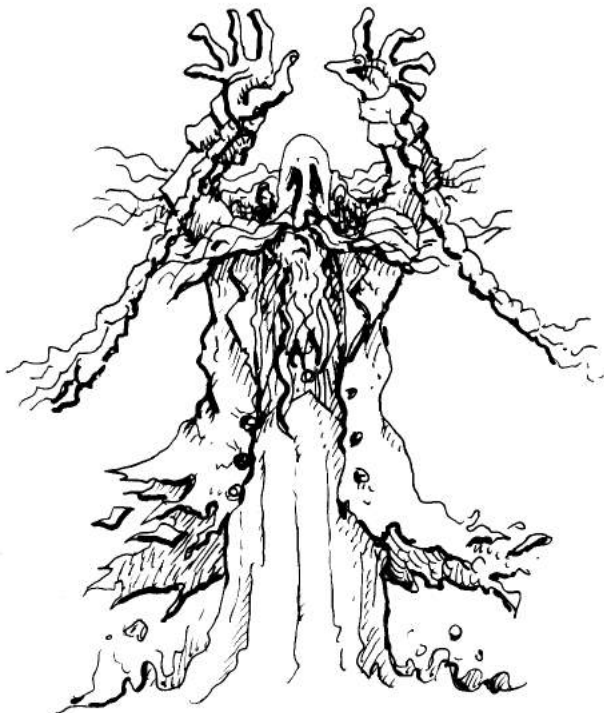
NAME

DATE

After the play - ACTIVITY 1

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Write a description of the characters. You may mention: physical appearance, personality, likes and dislikes, etc.



SIMON DE CANTERVILLE

MR. OTIS





NAME

DATE

After the play - ACTIVITY 1

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Write a description of the characters. You may mention: physical appearance, personality, likes and dislikes, etc.



VIRGINIA OTIS

INDIANA OTIS





NAME

DATE

After the play - ACTIVITY 1

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Write a description of the characters. You may mention: physical appearance, personality, likes and dislikes, etc.



MRS. UMNEY

LORD CANTERVILLE





NAME DATE

After the play - ACTIVITY 2

CIRCLE THE CORRECT ENDING FOR EACH SENTENCE

1. The Otis family was from

- a) England
- b) America
- c) France

7. Indiana's surprise for the ghost was

- a) a cake
- b) a party
- c) a fake ghost

2. The bloodstain was on the library's

- a) desk
- b) wall
- c) floor

8. Mr. Otis wanted the ghost to be famous in

- a) America
- b) London
- c) France

3. Lady Eleanore de Canterville was the ghost's

- a) wife
- b) sister
- c) mother

9. The ghost hadn't slept for

- a) 3 days
- b) 3 months
- c) 300 years

4. The ghost had killed his

- a) sister
- b) friend
- c) wife

10. The ghost gave Virginia a box of

- a) paints
- b) chocolate
- c) jewels

5. The ghost made a lot of noise with

- a) his feet
- b) his clothes
- c) his chains

11. Virginia helped the ghost to

- a) go on scaring people
- b) be free
- c) go to America

6. Mrs. Umney was

- a) the children's nanny
- b) the housekeeper of the castle
- c) Mr. Otis's wife

12. In order to be free the ghost needs

- a) love
- b) money
- c) blood



NAME DATE

After the play - ACTIVITY 3

PUT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS OF THE PLAY IN THE RIGHT ORDER.

NUMBER THEM 1-10.

- a) _____ The family meets Mrs Umney, the housekeeper of the castle.
- b) _____ Sir Simon appears dragging his chains for the first time.
- c) _____ Lord Canterville sells the castle to Mr. Otis.
- d) _____ Lord Canterville sends a letter to thank Virginia for what she has done.
- e) _____ Sir Simon asks Virginia for help.
- f) _____ Sir Simon gets angry when he meets the 'Otis ghost'.
- g) _____ Virginia and Sir Simon go together to the other side of the woods.
- h) _____ The family sees the bloodstain on the library's floor for the first time.
- i) _____ They clean the bloodstain with Pinkerton's Fast Cleaner for the first time.
- j) _____ Indiana Otis throws pillows at the ghost.



NAME

DATE

After the play - ACTIVITY 4

Did you like THE CANTERVILLE GHOST? Why?

Write a paragraph about the play, take into account:

- Plot
- Acting
- Scenery
- Costumes
- Music
- Moral



NAME DATE

After the play - ACTIVITY 5

ROLE PLAY

Now, you can act! Work in groups

(Mr Otis is reading in the library. Indiana enters)

INDIANA: Hi dad!

MR. OTIS: Hello, sweetie.

INDIANA: Look dad! The bloodstain is back!

MR. OTIS: What? *(Stops reading)*

INDIANA: The bloodstain is back! Pinkerton's always works. It was the ghost again!

(Virginia enters furiously with a box of paints)

VIRGINIA: Indiana, where's my red paint?

INDIANA: I don't know.

VIRGINIA: Give it back to me!

INDIANA: I don't have it.

VIRGINIA: Dad, tell Indiana to give me back my paint!

INDIANA: I said I don't have it! Why does it always have to be me?

VIRGINIA: Because it's ALWAYS you!

(Indiana and Virginia start to shout at each other)

MR. OTIS: Oh, stop it! Stop it!

(The girls calm down)

MR. OTIS: Virginia, you can say hello to your dad, you know.

VIRGINIA: I'm sorry. Hi dad.

MR. OTIS: Hello, sweetheart. Now, what's happening here?

VIRGINIA: She took my red paint!

INDIANA: I didn't!

VIRGINIA: Yes, you did!

MR. OTIS: All right, stop. Indiana did you take her paint?

INDIANA: No. *(Mr. Otis looks at her angrily)* Absolutely not, not this time.

VIRGINIA: All right, then, who did it?

INDIANA: I don't know.

MR. OTIS: I'll find out, let's go now!

(They all leave)



⇒ SONGS

⇒ AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE ⇐

Wow! Look at that stain!
Pinkerton's fast cleaner will wipe it away.
Sweetie, you have a headache?
An aspirin or two will make you feel great!
If there is dust, use vacuum cleaner
Don't keep used stuff, just throw it away
If you find ghosts inside your house
Simply call the ghost-busters at once
Too many people over to eat?
Please do not worry, call delivery
There is nothing you can't achieve
In the land of modernity!

But you will surely miss antiques
No homemade food, no five o'clock tea
Skyscrapers here, skyscrapers there
No magnificent castles anywhere

Two ways of life
Two different styles
But both speak English...
There's no doubt about that!

Two ways of life
Two different styles
But both speak English...
There's no doubt about that!

Two ways of life
Two different styles
Two ways of life
Two different styles



⇒ SIMON DE CANTERVILLE ⇐

What can be, but you cannot see?
What can make you chatter your teeth?
What can exist and yet not exist?
A ghost is the answer!
And that is me!

Simon de Canterville
The oldest ghost you'll ever meet
I've got blue blood
And famous I am
Because they wrote my own story:
"The Ghost of Canterville".

I love the sound of my chains
And haunting all over the place
But nobody cares
Because I don't scare
Nobody believes in me...
But I certainly do exist!

Simon de Canterville
The oldest ghost you'll ever meet
I've got blue blood
And famous I am
Because they wrote my own story:
"The Ghost of Canterville".
"The Ghost of Canterville".
"The Ghost of Canterville".
"The Ghost, the ghost, the ghost, the ghost
The Ghost of Canterville".





⇒ TO GET RID OF A GHOST ⇒

Emerald green blood, blue blood...
Is there any yellow blood too?
In this castle of Canterville
You may be surprised by anything
Chains that make noise
I suggest Tommany Sunshine Oil
Stains that won't go
Pinkerton's cleaner will wipe it off!

Well, Sir Simon de Canterville
You may be a ghost, but to live in here
You must pay rent if you wanna stay
And stop making noise with those clanking chains!

Emerald green blood, blue blood...
Is there any yellow blood too?
Maybe ghosts have colourful blood
May it be purple, orange or white?
We only know there's a ghost in here
And we've prepared this surprise for him
Will he be scared?
Will he get mad?
Let's see what happens
When he discovers
What a ghost really looks like!

*

⇒ A CRY FOR HELP ⇒

When a young girl cries for you
When a dead tree has fruit too
Then the house will all be still
And smile will come to Canterville.

So cry for me, sweet Virginia
Because I'm all out of tears
And love me as your friend, Virginia
Because love will overcome death.

I need to find peace
So I'll be set free
Help me as a friend
And this curse will end.
Now cry for me, sweet Virginia
Because I'm all out of tears

When a young girl cries for you
When a dead tree has fruit too
Then the house will all be still
And smile will come to Canterville.

*



⇒ SONGS

⇒ FINALLY FREE ⇐

Young or old, alive or a ghost
what everybody needs is love.
With only a hug, a talk or a smile
You can make a change
In somebody's life.

Now Sir Simon is finally free
And he is absolutely in peace
The curse is finished
And he is forgiven
Trees have fruit
House is still
Smile has come back
For the Ghost of Canterville

Young or old, alive or a ghost
What everybody needs is love.
With only a hug, a talk or a smile
You can make a change
In somebody's life.

Now Sir Simon is finally free
And he is absolutely in peace
The curse is finished
And he is forgiven
Trees have fruit
House is still
Smile has come back
Has come back
For the Ghost of Canterville
You know that
Smile has come back
Has come back
For the Ghost of Canterville
That is me!

