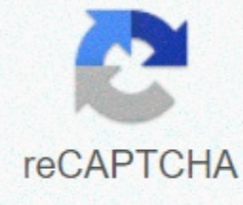




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The canterville ghost summary chapter wise questions and answers pdf

Summary Mr. Hiram Otis, a wealthy American, decides to purchase an English manor-house called Canterville Chase, despite being warned that the house is haunted. Lord Canterville is the current owner, and before finalizing the sale, he explains to Mr. Otis that the presence of the ghost has made it unpleasant to live in the house. The presence of the ghost dates back to 1584, and he is known to appear before a death takes place. Mr. Otis is not convinced that the ghost actually exists, and decides to buy the house anyway. A short time later, Mr. Otis moves into the house with his wife and their four children: Washington, Virginia, and two young twin boys known as Stars and Stripes. They are welcomed at the house by Mrs. Umney, the housekeeper. Mrs. Otis is alarmed to notice a bloodstain on the floor in the library, but Mrs. Umney explains that the stain has been there for centuries. In 1575, Lady Eleonore Canterville was murdered by her husband, Sir Simon. 8 years later, he disappeared, and his body was never found. Ever since then, the house has been haunted, and the bloodstain remains visible, marking the spot where the murder was committed. Washington Otis thinks this story is ridiculous and promptly uses a commercial cleaning product to scrub off the bloodstain. Just as he finishes doing so, a thunderstorm breaks out and Mrs. Umney faints in horror. The Otis family is dismayed by her reaction, and despite her warnings that something bad is going to happen, they reassure her that they are not afraid of ghosts and increase her salary to persuade her to stay. Analysis The opening of the story immediately sets up the contrast and playful sparring between the Old and New World, represented respectively by Lord Canterville and Mr. Otis. Lord Canterville's title makes it clear that he comes from a family that can be traced back for centuries and has been steadily passing down wealth centered on the landed estate and grand house of Canterville Chase. The fact that he is not only wealthy but also titled indicates his ties to a particular system of European social class, where it is not just one's money but one's heritage and status that establishes a social position. By contrast, Mr. Otis is identified as an "American Minister" which implies that he holds some sort of government position and that his wealth is tied to work and professional success, not inheritance. Whereas Lord Canterville's conversation includes references to a Dowager Duchess and Cambridge (an English university founded in the 1200s), Mr. Otis speaks with pride of being part of a "modern country." Despite these differences, the two men easily conclude a mutually beneficial business deal. While Lord Canterville suggests that part of the reason for selling the house is that the presence of the ghost makes it difficult to live there, most of Wilde's readers would have placed the sale in a larger context where many wealthy Americans were purchasing elements of European culture including art, property, and historical artifacts. It was not uncommon for aristocrats like Lord Canterville to find themselves in the awkward situation of trying to keep up appearances and lavish lifestyles without much ready cash on hand, and these sales were helpful in that regard. On one hand, Mr. Otis seems somewhat contemptuous of English traditions and the aristocracy; for him, ideas like inherited titles and ghosts are relics of an age that has no place in the modern world. He is also clearly very proud of American political ideals: all of his children bear names associated with America. Washington is of course named after George Washington, while Virginia's name echoes the name of the state of Virginia, one of the 13 original colonies. The nickname of the twins alludes to the American flag. The arrival of the family at Canterville Chase uses familiar Gothic tropes and imagery. As night as falling, the family arrives at an unfamiliar and isolated house. The weather becomes stormy and foreboding, and the old-fashioned décor and architecture all make the setting seem like an archetypal example of a haunted house. Within this set-up, the presence of the bloodstain and the story behind it seem perfectly in keeping with the mood. A murder, a vengeful ghost, and a body that was never laid to rest are all well-worn elements of a titillating ghost story, and Mrs. Umney seems to understand this as she fills in the Otis family. She seems to take pleasure in telling the story; for her, this heritage is part of what makes the house special and her comment about tourists coming to admire the stain indicates that most people take pride in this unique history. However, the Americans seem to consider the bloodstain merely a nuisance. It doesn't scare them, but it does annoy them, and they do not see the fact that it has been there for a long time as any reason to treat it respectfully. There had been a long tradition of mocking new-money families (both English and not) who buy historically significant things and then attempt to modernize them without appreciating the history behind them. The Americans use a modern, mass-produced product to clean the stain, and the brand-name references indicate that the detergent and stain remover are widely advertised. All of this reflects the contemporary system of capitalism that runs the risk of undermining the way that Canterville Chase has been able to remain frozen in time. The Otis family treat the house like it is a commercial product resembling the detergent, something that can simply be bought and sold and then adapted to suit the new owner's taste. While Mrs. Umney is horrified by the values of her new employers, she seems to mirror Lord Canterville in that she is also willing to trade respect for tradition for ready money. She agrees to stay on at the house, as long as her salary is increased. Horace B. Otis, a wealthy American, purchases Canterville Chase, an ancient English manor-house, despite warnings that the house is known to be haunted. He moves into the house accompanied by his wife, his eldest son Washington, his daughter Virginia, and his two younger twin sons. Immediately upon arrival, the family is confronted by a bloodstain in a sitting room. The housekeeper, Mrs. Umney, explains that the stain has been there since 1575 and is the result of Lady Eleanore de Canterville having been brutally murdered by her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville. The Otis family takes a pragmatic perspective and scrubs the stain away; they repeat the process when the stain continues to reappear every morning. The stubborn reappearance of the stain, as well as other strange occurrences around the house, leads them to consider that the rumor of the ghost may not be totally unfounded. These ideas are confirmed when one night, the sound of clanking chains wakes Mr Otis from his sleep. He gets out of bed and confronts a terrifying ghost, but responds only by recommending that the ghost oil his chains so that he does not cause so much noise when he is walking around at night. Mr. Otis is not the only family member who is not afraid of the ghost: the young twins enjoy tormenting the ghost with pranks. The ghost is very proud of his tradition of terrifying visitors for hundreds of years, and he is determined to strike fear into the American family. However, the more and more terrifying he tries to be, the more they either make fun of or ignore him. Things hit rock bottom for the Canterville Ghost when the twins actually create a fake ghost of their own to scare the real ghost. He accepts that he has lost his status and power, and he begins to become depressed and pine away. Meanwhile, Virginia's beauty has attracted the attention of the young Duke of Cheshire, who comes to stay at Canterville Chase. While he is visiting, Virginia unexpectedly comes across the secret hiding lair of the ghost. The ghost explains his sadness and suffering, telling her that he longs for the peaceful experience of death. He also tells her that because of her purity and innocence, she can help him to achieve this peace. Even though she is frightened, Virginia agrees to help; the two of them pass through a secret opening in the wall and vanish. When Virginia cannot be found, her family and the Duke become very upset. A few hours later, Virginia appears in the dark at the top of the stairs. Her only explanation of her disappearance is that she has assisted in finally bringing eternal rest to the Canterville Ghost. As a token of his thanks and affection, Sir Simon has given her a box filled with jewels. Virginia leads the family into a secret chamber, where they are greeted by the sight of his skeletal remains. Four days later, Sir Simon's body is finally laid to rest with a proper burial. Virginia subsequently marries the Duke of Cheshire. Although she never tells anyone what she experienced when she vanished with the Ghost, she always reflects affectionately on him and his memory. Hi Everyone! This article will share The Canterville Ghost Questions & Answers.This story is written by Oscar Wilde. In my previous posts, I have shared the questions & answers of How Daddy Decided What He Wanted to Be, The White Elephant and The Helpful Young Man so, you can check these posts as well. Question 1: Who are the people in the story who believe that ghosts exist?Answer: Lord Canterville, the former owner of Canterville Chase, and Mrs. Umney the housekeeper believe that the ghost exists.Question 2: Do you think Mrs. Umney really fainted? Why do you think so? Answer: It does not seem as though Mrs. Umney really fainted. She might have very frightened and her mind might have gone blank. But she recovered too quickly for it to have been an actual fainting spell. Question 3: Who are the people that don't believe it?Answer: Mr. Otis and his family – Mrs. Otis, his son Washington, daughter Virginia and the twins do not believe in the ghost.Question 4: What does Mr. Otis offer the ghost?Answer: Mr. Otis offers oil for the ghost's chains. Question 5: Read the lines and answer the questions:(a) Does Mr Otis offer the oil because he is sorry for the ghost or because he can't sleep for the noise?Answer: Mr. Otis offers the oil because he cannot sleep. The creaking of the chains disturbs him.(b) How does he think the oil will help the situation?Answer: The oil would make the rings of the chain move smoothly and so Mr. Otis would not be disturbed by its clanking sound. (c) Do you think that the chains were creaking just because they were rusty?Answer: The chains were creaking because they were rusty and old. At the same time, the ghost made sure that they clanked more, so as to frighten the Otis family and announce his arrival. Question 6: What is the plan that the twins come up with?Answer: The twins decide to camp out in the library at night and wait for the ghost. Clark would sleep by the door and Lewis would sleep on the desk so that he could jump on the ghost and trap him. Question 7: What makes the ghost swear to take his revenge?Answer: The ghost feels insulted because no one is frightened by his appearance. Mr. Otis offers him oil for his chains and the twins throw a pillow at him. This had never happened to him before. This angers the ghost and he swears revenge. Question 8: Read the lines and answer the questions:(a) Why was the ghost so angry?Answer: The ghost was angry because he felt insulted. Mr. Otis offered him oil and the twins threw a pillow at him. People had always been frightened of him. It was an exceptional situation with the Otis family because they did not believe in ghosts. (b) Why does the ghost think that the Otis family behaves this way?Answer: The ghost thinks that the Otis family is ignorant and unaware of the future that he can create. He has always created chaos with his fearful appearances. The Otis family has seen none of that. (c) How do you think the ghost was treated in the past by the Canterville family?Answer: The ghost was treated with fear and reverence by the Canterville family. No one in the Canterville mansion had ever dared mock his appearance or presence. Question 9: What is the atmosphere like when the ghost first appears before Mr. Otis and what is it like after? Why is there a change?Answer: The atmosphere is calm before the ghost arrives. The arrival of the ghost is heard along with the clanking sound of metals. The ghost casts a green light about him and fills the air with groans after he leaves. But after Mr. Otis goes back to his room, the ghost is very angry. He plans to take revenge at the end. Till now, the ghost was only trying to make his presence felt and was trying to scare the newcomers but now, in his rage, he plans to truly terrify them and disrupt their lives.Question 10: In the beginning of the play, there is a scene where we see something that happened many years ago. What do we see in that scene?Answer: The Duchess of Bolton, Lord Canterville's grand-aunt, is terrified at the Canterville Ghost's appearance. She is seen being lead to a chair by the butler and the housekeeper. They give her a drink of water. The duchess narrates that she has felt the icy touch of bony hands on herself. At first, she dismissed it as cold draught. But then she noticed a pair of skeleton hands. Question 11: Compare and contrast the reactions of the Otis family and Mrs. Umney to the bloodstain in the library.Answer: The Otis family is not frightened by the bloodstains. Mrs. Otis wants it removed because it looks ugly. Washington takes out a small stick and rubs it over the stain. On the other hand, Mrs. Umney regards the blood satin with fear and speaks about it in a hushed tone. She tells the Otis family that it is the blood of Lady Eleanore de Canterville, who was murdered by her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville. Sir Canterille disappeared for nine years and his body was never found. So, these were The Canterville Ghost Questions & Answers.

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