

Spooked!

A worksheet to accompany
Vienna's English Theatre's 2025/26 touring production
by Helena Hirsch

Warm-up

1. Have you ever visited a historical building (which has been turned into a museum)? Perhaps seen an exhibition there? Have you taken part in a guided tour? Think about it for a few minutes and make notes if you wish, then turn to a partner and tell each other about your visits. The following list will help you:
 - Where and when was it?
 - Why did you go there? Who with?
 - Was there anything particularly interesting, memorable or scary for you? Say why.
 - Anything you didn't like, or found boring? Explain why.
 - If a tourist asked you, would you recommend visiting this place?
2. Have you ever visited an old, spooky castle? When? Where? Who with? Write a short report about it and put it in your portfolio. Add a photograph, postcard or leaflet, if you have one. If not, find some information about it online (Google, etc.)
3. If you have been to the UK (e.g. on holiday or on a school trip), did you visit an old castle, country house or manor house?
 - What's it called and where exactly is it (show the location on a map/on Google Earth)?
 - Is it haunted, i.e. do ghosts, spirits or other mystical beings live there?
 - Why is it haunted? Who by? Do you know the legend behind it? Try to retell it (either in class, or write it up and add it to your portfolio).
 - Did you actually see the ghost(s) yourself?
 - If yes, what did he/she/they look like? Make a drawing and/or describe the ghost(s). Then find a partner and compare your descriptions/drawings.
 - If not, think what a ghost might look like. With a partner, make a drawing and/or describe *your* ghost. Compare with other pairs.
4. The story of *The Canterville Ghost* was written in the 19th century. With a partner or in small groups, do an online search and find information about the following:
 - Who is the author? Has he written any other books? Which?
 - When was it written?
 - Is there a film version of *The Canterville Ghost*? If yes, when was it filmed? Have you seen it? If not, would you like to see it some time? Say why/why not?
5. The play is set in *Canterville Hall*. Does the place really exist, do you think? What could it look like?
 - First, talk to a partner and make a drawing/sketch.
 - Next, in pairs or small groups, find information on the internet (e.g. Google Bilder) and compare it with your drawing(s). Did you get it right? Why/why not?
 - Check out the following website: <https://www.knebworthhouse.com> and find the place on a map of Britain!

- If you were to visit Knebworth House, what could you do there, apart from exploring the building? With a partner, make a list of activities. Talk to your partner: would you be interested in any of them? If yes, which? If not, why not?

Work-out

Scene 1

1. Lord Canterville had to sell his family home. Choose one of the options below. Say why you think so!

- a. Because he is single and the house is too big for him.
- b. Because he can't pay all the bills he's getting.
- c. Because he'd rather live in a modern flat in London.
- d. Because he hates living in a haunted house.

2. Look at the sentences below and circle either **T** for True or **F** for False!

Canterville Hall has been in the family for four centuries.	T	F
There are unpaid bills everywhere.	T	F
Lord Canterville tells the postman Canterville Hall is not far away.	T	F
The notice outside says 'Welcome to Canterville Castle'	T	F
Mrs Umney is very old and doesn't talk much.	T	F
The Otis family who have bought the house are waiting in the great hall.	T	F

3. Why, do you think, is Lord Canterville himself taking visitors on guided tours through his home?

- ☐ He can't afford to pay tour guides.
- ☐ He doesn't usually but this is a special group from Austria.
- ☐ He thinks he knows more about the family history.
- ☐ He doesn't have servants anymore.

Choose one of the statements above and say why you think so!

4. Up the main staircase is the picture gallery where Lord Canterville introduces us to his ancestors. The sentences below are all mixed up! Complete the names and match the letters on the left with the correct numbers on the right (draw lines):

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| a. Sir _____ the Stupid | 1. was married five times |
| b. Dame _____ Canterville | 2. loved to sing in public but was tone-deaf |
| c. Lady _____ de Canterville | 3. died tripping over a set of bagpipes |
| d. Sir _____ McCanterville | 4. thought he was a dog, fetching sticks |
| e. Lady _____ Canterville | 5. looked lovely but was a gambler and a thief |

5. How does Lord Canterville feel about his ancestors? Do you agree with him? Why/why not?
6. Why, do you think, are the ancestors calling Lord Canterville 'a loser' and 'a twit'? Do you agree with them? Why/why not?

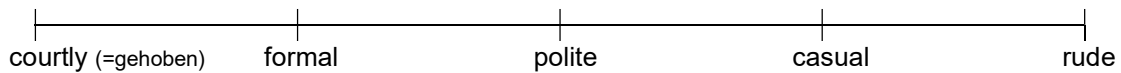
7. When Lord Canterville comes down the spiral staircase past the squeaky stair, Mrs Otis is talking business on her mobile. Have they met before or not, do you think?
Now look at the text and underline all references indicating that this could be the first time they meet. Compare with a partner.
8. Buying a big manor house in the UK does not come cheap! Look at the questions below and discuss them With a partner, or in small groups. Then compare with other pairs/groups. Do you agree? Why/why not?
- Would *you* buy a house you haven't looked at and/or without having met the people you're buying it from?
 - How much, do you think, would a historical manor house cost? With a partner, first agree on a price in € (Euro); then work out how much this would be in British currency (see below)
 - What is the British currency called? Do you know the sign for it? If you need help, check out <http://projectbritain.com/money.html>.
 - Find out what the current exchange rate is: 1 € =
9. Mrs Otis feels like being in an episode of Downton Abbey. Are you familiar with Downton Abbey? Find more information about it on the internet.
- If you haven't seen episodes of the series, watch trailers on *YouTube*.
 - Where was the series filmed? What century is the series set in? Who wrote the film script? In pairs or small groups, collect information on the story, actors and location and make a poster presentation. Talk to/compare with other pairs/groups.
10. Making introductions
- a. Introductions:** There are very formal, less formal and rather casual ways of ways of introducing people to each other. Look at the way Mrs Otis, Washington and Virginia greet Lord Canterville and complete the grids below.

	<i>Lord Canterville</i>	<i>Mrs Otis</i>
<i>words/phrases</i>	Oh, how do you do. You must be James Canterville	(talking on the phone)
<i>action/behaviour</i>	shakes hands	.....

	<i>Lord Canterville</i>	<i>Washington</i>
<i>words/phrases</i>	Pleased to meet you.	(playing a video game)
<i>action/behaviour</i>	holds out hand to shake	.....

	<i>Lord Canterville</i>	<i>Virginia</i>
<i>words/phrases</i>	I am. You don't have to curtsy, my dear.	(You're a lord?)
<i>action/behaviour</i>	.....	.....

b. Degree of formality: How would you rate the characters' behaviour when they are introduced? On the scale below, put a blue cross for Lord Canterville, a green cross for Mrs Otis, a yellow cross for Virginia and a red cross for Washington:



c. Social interaction: Work with a partner. Choose 2 of the situations below and roleplay some introductions, taking turns slipping into the respective roles. Make sure you act the part: words, behaviour, gestures, voice, pronunciation, facial expression, etc.

- ☐ King Charles – Harry Kane
- ☐ boss – new apprentice
- ☐ employer – job applicant (job interview)
- ☐ you – your best friend's new boy-/girlfriend

11. Why, do you think, is Virginia so impressed with meeting a 'real-live' lord and seeing the Canterville's coat of arms? Choose one of the options below and say why you think so!

- ☐ She would like to marry a rich British aristocrat
- ☐ She is very interested in history
- ☐ She is a spoilt, sentimental girl
- ☐ She's a romantic person who likes traditions, flowers, secrets, etc.

12. Right or wrong? Tick the respective boxes below.

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Washington tells Lord Canterville that they will take good care of the house for him. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| b. Virginia is very upset that the house is going to be demolished. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| c. Lord Canterville thinks eco-properties are a very classy thing! | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| d. Mrs Otis wants to create work in the area and make a lot of money. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| e. Washington suggests to turn the house into condos (=Eigentumswohnungen). | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| f. The walls are damp, therefore it's cheaper to pull the house down. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| g. Virginia thinks all her mother and brother are thinking about is money! | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| h. Lord Canterville didn't know about the plans for the house and is really shocked. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| i. He hands over the keys to all rooms of the house. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| j. A burglar alarm is installed on the door of the room next to the attic. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| k. The central heating in Canterville Hall isn't working properly. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| l. Washington says he is not scared – he's seen lots of horror films. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| m. The house is haunted by the ghost of Sir Donald McCanterville. | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |

13. Lord Canterville quotes *Oscar Wilde* when he tells Mrs Otis that she knows '*the price of everything and the value of nothing*'. What is he trying to point out to her?

- Check the words *price* and *value* in your dictionary. What is the difference?
- Research project: if you buy a new car for € 30,000 now, can you sell it for the same amount 5 years later?
Or – the cheapest version of the new iPhone 16 costs about € 700 right now. Will you still have to pay € 700 for it in 3 years' time?
With a partner/in groups, find more similar examples (check the internet) and make a list.
- Class discussion: if something is very expensive, does this mean it's also very valuable? Or, the other way round, does something, which is valuable to you, always have to be pricey (=expensive)?
- Think of something that is very valuable to you. Write it down on a piece of paper. Would you ever sell it? If no, say why. If yes, for how much money? Say why.

14. Washington likes horror films. How about you? Have you heard of any of the ghostly characters he's talking about? If yes, which?

.....

15. Have you seen, or would you like to see a horror film in 3D? Talk to a partner or in small groups:

- If you have seen one, which film was it?
Did you like it? Say why/why not.
- If you would like to see one, say why.
- If you are not into horror films, explain why you think so.

16. Lord Canterville is telling the Otis family about the spirit of Sir Simon, who appears every night at midnight. Put the following sentences into order, numbering them from 1-8.

- Mrs Otis thinks the red stain on the floor is tomato ketchup.
- Virginia hopes the ghost is real because she's never met one yet.
- Washington thinks murdering one's wife is rather lame.
- Even if the stain is washed away, it reappears the next day.
- Washington thinks the description of the ghost also fits Mrs Umney.
- Sir Simon's wife wore a red ruby necklace when he murdered her.
- Mrs Otis doesn't believe in ghosts.
- Lord Canterville tells Virginia she'll see the ghost if she's staying in the house.

17. Lord Canterville talks of a *hideous*, *ghastly*, *horrifying apparition*. You probably don't know these words yet. Below you'll find 2 synonyms for each of the new words. They will help you to find out the meaning! Write the German word in the right column, then compare with a partner or in class.

Word	Synonyms	German
hideous	ugly, horrible	.....
ghastly	frightful, terrible	.....
horrifying	terrifying, frightening	.....
apparition	illusion, phantom	.....

18. Do ghosts always have to be ugly, horrible or frightening? Have you ever come across stories, cartoons or films with nice, helpful, friendly ghosts? If so, fill in the details below and compare with colleagues:

Title of story/film

Name of ghost

Think of 3 adjectives to describe your 'nice' ghost:

.....

19. From the list below, choose 3 adjectives which, for you, best describe Washington's attitude. Say why.

bored – cool – fearless – calm – cheeky – casual – silly – brave – superior – big-mouthed – or what?

Scene 2

1. Virginia's and her mother's feelings about the old manor house are quite different. Compare the two by filling in the grid below, putting '+' for yes, true and a '-' for no, not true.

	Mrs Otis	Virginia
... believes in ghosts		
... thinks the house is really big		
... likes history		
... is very practical and business-like		
... loves the beautiful grounds and flowers		
... has to run a business		
... is very emotional, even romantic		
... complains about the central heating		
... thinks the bathroom is freezing		
... is curious about the locked room		
... has no time to be sentimental		
... thinks the ghost has heard them		
... wants to find out what's for dinner		

2. 'You can't afford to be sentimental in business', Mrs Otis tells Virginia. What is she saying? With a partner, look at the statements below, then tick the one you think is correct. Explain why you think so.

- ☐ It's expensive to be sentimental.
- ☐ Emotions and feelings have no place in the world of business.
- ☐ In business money is more important than people (or ghosts).
- ☐ Old things have no place in the modern world.

3. Why is it so important for Mrs Otis to be successful in business? Look at the statements below. Tick the one you agree with. Talk to a partner and say why.

- ☐ It is difficult for women to be successful in the property/estate business.
- ☐ Mrs Otis has to make sure she and the children are financially secure.
- ☐ Things have not been going well since Mrs Otis' husband died.

Scene 3

1. Look at the stage directions and the description of the attic room. What does it remind you of?

- ☐ Ghost stories you've read, either in German or in English (say which)
- ☐ Films you have seen (say which)
- ☐ Computer games you play/have played (say which)
- ☐ Dreams you have had

2. Now sit back, close your eyes and imagine yourself in the attic. The floorboards are creaking, and the door hinges squeak as the wooden door slowly opens, even though there are iron bars, you don't have a key and you haven't touched the door knob. Then you take one step into the room and look around – the beam of your torch illuminates ... what?
 - a. With a partner, continue the story. Make it really mysterious and scary, letting your imagination take over. Make some notes so you won't forget any details, then tell *your* scary story to the class. Did your colleagues like your story? Say why.
 - b. Write down *your* version of the story and put it in your portfolio. Use the following words at least once (not necessarily in the same order!). Make drawings if you wish!

*cobwebs – an old mirror in a golden frame – chains – an old, dusty book –
a wooden treasure chest with a lock – a rat (or, if you prefer, a bat)*
3. Why does Sir Simon have a bad cold? If he asked you for help, what would you recommend? Think of three things (e.g. drink lots of hot tea with honey), then talk to a partner and exchange ideas!
4. Is he proud of his great-.....grandson? Why/why not?
5. What does he think about the Otis family and Washington? What is he planning to do? Discuss Sir Simon's ideas with a partner or in small groups. What else could he do to give Washington a real scare and make the Otis family leave? Make notes, then compare with other pairs or groups.

Scene 4

1. Washington is in his room, playing a computer game. How do we know what kind of game he's playing? In the text, underline or highlight all words/phrases which describe the action going on.
2. How does his mother feel about the game? Select one of the options below and say why!
 - ☐ She thinks these games are quite funny and entertaining.
 - ☐ She is worried that these games have a bad effect on her son.
 - ☐ She doesn't mind that the game is so violent.
 - ☐ She is sure her son knows the difference between a game and real life.
3. Mrs Otis wants Washington to stop playing video games and go to sleep – which, of course, he doesn't. He puts on his earphones and keeps on playing. What happens next? Complete the sentences below:

Sir Simon comes out of the trunk _____

Washington can't hear the thunder because _____

He calls Sir Simon 'Mozart' because _____

He thinks Sir Simon's voice _____

Sir Simon is very offended because _____

Washington believes his sister _____

He doesn't want to go to sleep _____

He checks the trunk to see if _____

Sir Simon tells him that he is _____

Washington is surprised that he can't see Sir Simon _____

Sir Simon jumps and screams when _____

4. Once his mother has left the room, Washington keeps on playing. How about you? Do you sometimes go on reading/playing/watching television, even though you should try and go to sleep? Tick one of the boxes below (be honest!!!), then find at least 3 colleagues who have ticked the same box (i.e. go round in the classroom, asking as many colleagues as possible)

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> no, never | <input type="checkbox"/> well, maybe sometimes | <input type="checkbox"/> always |
| <input type="checkbox"/> only on Friday or weekends | <input type="checkbox"/> not when I have a test the next day | |

5. Look at the statements below and decide whether they are **T** = true or **F** = false. If they are false, write down the correct sentences on the dotted lines underneath:

Washington is playing online games on his notebook. **T** **F**

.....

He takes his wireless earphones out of his pocket. **T** **F**

.....

He uses his Bluetooth speakers for great sound. **T** **F**

.....

Because he's turned down the volume, he can hear the trunk creaking. **T** **F**

.....

6. Washington doesn't believe in ghosts and thinks Sir Simon is wearing fancy dress. He thinks it's a set-up. Who by? Tick the correct box below:

- ☐ his Mother (Mrs Otis)
☐ his sister Virginia
☐ Mrs Umney

7. Sir Simon disappears into the trunk, and when Washington opens it, it's empty. Complete the sentence:

Washington thinks it's

8. After showing Sir Simon *YouTube* clips of really scary horror films, Washington decides to scare his sister. What is he planning, do you think? With a partner or in small groups, make a list of costumes, actions and sounds which might frighten people. Write them down on the lines below:

costumes

actions

sounds

9. Do you go to Halloween parties or dress up at Halloween? From the activities below, choose one and do it either with a partner or on your own:
 - a. Internet research: find out about Halloween (history/background; what is it all about, etc.) and make an illustrated poster presentation (pictures/photographs/drawings)
 - b. Write a short story about a Halloween party you've been to. Describe the costumes people were wearing at the party, food and drink, etc. How many people did you manage to scare?
 - c. Are you usually going 'trick-or-treat'ing, i.e. ringing doorbells and collecting sweets? What do people give you? Do they like it? Are they angry? Talk to a partner and exchange experiences.
 - d. At Halloween people sometimes get violent and/or hurt other people or damage things. How do you feel about this? Talk about it in small groups or have a class discussion!
 - e. Make a list of typical Halloween food, colours, symbols/figures, costumes, etc. Compare with a partner or in class. Bring along pictures or things (masks, bits of decoration, etc.)

Scene 5

1. On the internet, Virginia is trying to find a spell (method) for calling ghosts. Read through the ritual, then act it out. Make it really mysterious and magic! Think of Harry Potter if you need an inspiration.
2. Do you really think calling ghosts works? Talk to a partner and exchange ideas. Would you actually want to see/meet/talk to a ghost? Explain why/why not!
3. How does Virginia react when a masked figure suddenly jumps at her? She _____
4. Imagine yourself in Virginia's place: you have just tried to call a ghost when a masked figure suddenly jumps up in front of you. Choose one of the options below and say why:
 - ☐ I'd be pleased because my spell has actually worked
 - ☐ I'd be terrified and try to get out of the room as quickly as possible
 - ☐ I'd ignore the figure or tell it to be quiet
 - ☐ I'd first try to find out who the figure behind the mask is
 - ☐ Or – what else?
5. Mrs Otis wants to help her daughter and is about to hit the figure attacking Virginia with a candlestick. Talk to a partner. Does she think the situation is funny? Why/why not?
6. Who can see the ghost of Sir Simon, who can't? Discuss the reasons for this with a partner. Compare your ideas with other pairs.

Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
Mrs Otis	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
7. What is Virginia's revenge on her brother for playing the trick with the Halloween mask on her? Tick the correct box below:
 - ☐ She tells her mother that Washington called her 'an old battleaxe'
 - ☐ She doesn't back him up (and tell Mrs Otis that Sir Simon is in the room)
 - ☐ She tells Washington and her mother that she doesn't believe that ghosts exist

8. Washington asks Sir Simon to talk to his mother. She can't hear him, though. Read through the section in the text. What is happening, and why? Choose 2 from the adjectives below. Say why you think so.

- ☐ funny
- ☐ chaotic
- ☐ stupid
- ☐ confusing
- ☐ comical
- ☐ unrealistic

9. Is it polite to tell somebody to '*shut up*'? Think of two more ways of asking someone to be quiet:

.....

.....

10. Why does Mrs Otis forbid Washington to play computer games for one month? How do you feel about this? Look at the options below, choose one and talk to a partner why you think so.

- ◆ Serves him right for playing such a silly joke on his sister!
- ◆ Unfair – it wasn't him being rude to Mrs Otis, but Sir Simon's ghost.
- ◆ No computer for one month is a bit long but it's his own fault, really.
- ◆ If his mother had been able to see the ghost, she wouldn't have been angry with him.
- ◆ It's a pity Washington is in trouble because of a ghost!
- ◆ Silly Virginia – she should have backed her brother up!

11. After making sure Virginia is alright, Mrs Otis leaves the room. Then what happens? The sentences below are all muddled up. Put them back into the right order, numbering them from 1 – 10.

When Sir Simon killed his wife, she cast a spell on him.	.....
Virginia thinks he should apologise to her mother for being rude.	.....
Sir Simon still believes it's not his fault.	.....
Virginia felt really cold and dizzy when she saw Sir Simon.	.....
The reason for this is the Canterville riddle.	.....
If the house is destroyed, Sir Simon will be trapped on earth forever.	.....
Virginia doesn't think jealousy is a reason to kill someone.	.....
Sir Simon tells Virginia that he needs all the blessing he can get.	.....
He killed her out of jealousy but claims that it was all her fault.	.....
Sir Simon's wife was a special woman.	.....

Scene 6

1. First read through Scene 6. Then choose the correct answer to the following questions:

- ❖ Why is Mrs Otis talking to the builder?
 - a. She wants to do Lord Canterville a favour.
 - b. She wants a public meeting at the local Town Hall.
 - c. She is worried Washington might stop her plans.
 - d. She wants to start demolishing Canterville Hall.

❖ Why does Virginia ask Washington to help her solve the Canterville riddle?

- a. She wants to cheer him up after last night.
- b. The riddle is written in German and he did German at school.
- c. She needs him to read the riddle above the fireplace to her.
- d. He knows all about the Hanoverian kings.

❖ How does Virginia persuade Washington to help her?

- a. She allows him to take a look at the explosives around the house.
- b. She is going to help him with his German so he doesn't fail his class.
- c. She lets him use her smartphone to play *Fortnite*.
- d. She's going to ask Mrs Otis to give Washington his tablet back.

❖ What happens to Virginia's mobile?

- a. Mrs Otis takes it out of Washington's hands and carries it away.
- b. It gets blown up along with Canterville Hall.
- c. It gets stolen by somebody from the visiting group of students.
- d. Sir Simon throws it into the fireplace.

2. Why is the *Canterville riddle* in German? Tick the correct box below:

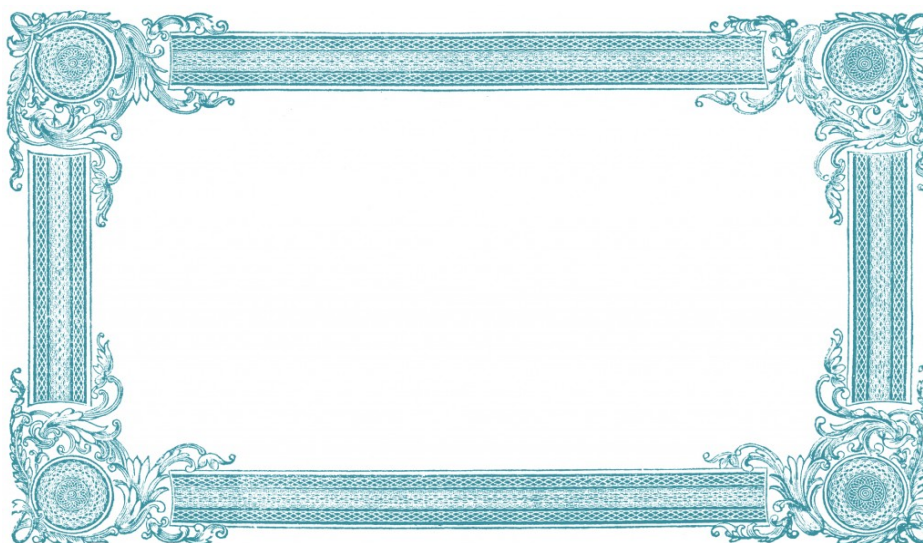
- ☐ In the 16th century royalty and aristocracy in Britain spoke no English, only German
- ☐ When Sir Simon was alive, the kings of Britain were Hanoverians
- ☐ Sir Simon's wife was Austrian

3. Washington asks a group of Austrian pupils for help translating the riddle from German into English. Talk to a partner or work in small groups and answer the following questions:

- Why does he need help translating if he has German classes at school?
- What are the Austrian students doing in England?

4. Look at the German words (in your text booklet). Then do the tasks below.

- ❖ Do *you* think they are easy to translate? Why/why not?
- ❖ Why does the riddle sound different to the 'everyday' German we speak? Tip: look at the sentence structure and the verbs!
- ❖ Imagine you are part of the Austrian students' group. Translate the German riddle into English and write it in the picture frame. When you have finished, compare with your colleagues in class.



5. Has Virginia solved the riddle, do you think? Or why does she have to stay up until midnight?

Scene 7

1. It's midnight in the UK, and 8am in Los Angeles. With the help of your atlas/computer/smartphone, look at the international time zones, find out about the different local times, and fill in the grid below:

7:36 in Vienna	..... in London	..... in Paris	..... in Dublin
16:40 in Innsbruck	..... in New York	..... in Miami	..... in San Francisco
20:45 in Rome	..... in Vancouver	..... in Edinburgh	..... in Cape Town
12:00 in Moscow	..... in Beijing	..... in Singapore	..... in Honolulu

2. Why is Mrs Otis' hot chocolate drink suddenly cold? What does she think caused this?
3. Mini-project: Virginia wants to know if Sir Simon ever had a shield. Sir Simon tells her that when he was alive, people used guns as weapons, not swords and shields. When did warriors use shields? What is this historical period called? Collect information on this period (History books, Google, etc.)

4. Look at the statements below and decide what the sentence '*There are none so blind as those who will not see*' means:

- ☐ Blind people cannot see
- ☐ People who cannot see ghosts are blind
- ☐ You have to be blind to see ghosts
- ☐ People who cannot see ghosts have no imagination

Talk to a partner. Do you agree? Why/why not?

5. Sir Simon explains that some people are too busy thinking about themselves and can, therefore, not see what's going on around them. Suddenly Virginia understands how to solve the riddle. Complete the sentence:

If my mother can _____

6. Why, do you think, does Mrs Otis want to take Washington and Virginia to a psychologist? Is this really necessary? Talk to a partner or discuss it in class.

7. Virginia is trying her best to make Mrs Otis *really* see Sir Simon. First read through the respective section in your text. Then, in groups of three, act out the scene:

- One takes the role of Sir Simon, one of Mrs Otis, and one of Virginia.
- When Virginia talks to Sir Simon, Mrs Otis is getting really confused because she thinks her daughter is talking to her.
- Your performance should be really funny and entertaining. Use lots of gestures and facial expressions. Feel free to include your own ideas, using your own words.

8. Mrs Otis is worried that Washington and Virginia want to make her look foolish by

- ☐ posting a photograph on Instagram or Snapchat
- ☐ putting a video clip on YouTube
- ☐ posting a message on X (used to be called Twitter)
- ☐ sharing a post/video on Facebook

9. How are the teens trying to help their mother getting her imagination back? Look at the statements below and circle either **T** for 'true' or **F** for 'false':

Mrs Otis can't/won't see anything that she can't count or use in some way.	T	F
Virginia tells her mother she's always been like this.	T	F
Mrs Otis isn't a creative person and has never liked make-believe.	T	F
When they were kids, Mrs Otis used to read stories to them.	T	F
Washington pretends to play basketball and throws an imaginary ball at her.	T	F
Mrs Otis instinctively catches the ball and dribbles towards the basket.	T	F
Suddenly she can hear and see Sir Simon.	T	F
She screams and runs out of the room to the airport.	T	F

10. When Mrs Otis can suddenly see Sir Simon and hear his voice, she is horrified. Why is that, do you think?

- ☐ ... because she sees a stranger dressed in Georgian costume
- ☐ ... because she is afraid of the ghostly figure
- ☐ ... because she is worried that a weird criminal is going to hurt her children
- ☐ ... because she thinks it's Mrs Umney

11. Mrs Otis comes back into the room carrying a shield and a sword. Look at the sentences below, and cross out the incorrect word/form/name. The first one has been done for you:

Washington thinks the sword ~~is~~/has a very nice blade. Sir Simon asks Mrs Otis/Virginia where she found the sword/shield. It belonged to Sir Godefroy de Canterville and was lost/damaged in battle in the 12th century. Sir Simon/Lord Canterville recognises the crest. Virginia finds a small/large key inside/at the bottom of the shield. Sir Simon can't believe/think that the key to the locked room was/has been found. Virginia tells him that he has to tell/face the truth and admit/deny that he himself/his wife was to blame for the murder. He goes to/his spirit is drawn to the room in the attic. He is very grateful/thankful to Virginia because she helped him to trust/believe again. He asks Virginia/his wife to bury his bones under the old apple/oak tree by the lake/river. Sir Simon's ghost was/has been set free.

Scene 8

1. What did Virginia find in the room in the attic? First, look at the text again. Then go through the list below and circle/highlight the things she found in the room:

cobwebs	valuable family jewels	bloodstains	an old trunk
a ruby necklace	Washington's tablet	Sir Simon's bones	money

Now compare with a partner or in class.

2. What did Lord Canterville give Virginia, and why, do you think? If you were Lord Canterville, would you have done the same? If not, why not/or what else?

3. Mrs Otis and Lord Canterville enter and shake hands. What is the deal between them? Complete the following sentences, using no more than 3 or 4 words:

Lord Canterville has _____ and is now rich again.

Thanks to the Otis family Sir Simon's spirit is no longer _____.

Mrs Otis has _____ to Lord Canterville.

Virginia is very happy to have met _____ and

_____ with a real English ghost. She wants to

_____ so her American friends will believe her.

4. How does Mrs Otis explain to Washington that she has sold Canterville Hall back to Lord Canterville and is not going to demolish it? With a partner, look at the statements below and choose the one which, for you, best describes her feelings. Say why you think so. Then compare with other pairs or discuss in class!
- She has realized that money alone doesn't make people happy.
 - She has become a successful business woman but lost her imagination/creativity.
 - Having a good relationship with her children is more important than financial success.
 - The ghost taught her to have emotions, feelings again.
 - Making a living is important, but so is caring about others and using your imagination.
 - Progress cannot be stopped but 'old', traditional things are important/useful, too.
5. Why does Washington think Virginia's friends in L.A. are not going to believe her story? Would you believe your best friend if he/she told you he/her has met/talked to a 'real' ghost? Why/why not?
6. Mrs Otis and her family live in Los Angeles. What is this American town famous for? Tipp: think about stars and actors/actresses! You will find lots of information on the internet!
7. Remember Scene 3/Activity 2 (page 7 of the worksheet)? You let your imagination take over and created *your own* 'picture' of the mysterious, locked room. Now compare with Scene 8/Activity 1. What is similar (or even the same), what is different? Talk to a partner or talk about it in class.
8. What do *you* think is Lord Canterville going to do? Is he going to make all necessary repairs to the house, or is he going to end up with pockets full of unpaid bills again? Explain why you think so.

Cool-down

1. Did you like the play? Say why/why not!
2. Which of the characters did you like best? Why?
3. Was there a character you didn't like at all? Why?
4. If you could change places with one of the characters, who would you like to be? Say why. Anyone you would not like to be? Why?
5. Which scene in the play was your personal favourite (very funny, very scary)? Write a short paragraph and

put it in your portfolio. Alternatively, talk to a partner and exchange opinions.

6. Did you take on an active role in the play (i.e. were you asked to help with the translation into English)? If yes, were you excited to become a part of the play? Write a short report about the experience and put it in your portfolio.
6. Do *you* believe in ghosts (now)? Why/why not?
7. Was the language in the play easy or difficult to understand? Mark it on the scale below:

1	2	3	4	5	6
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1 = very easy, didn't need any help
2 = easy, and the footnotes helped
3 = I understood most of it but not every word/sentence
4 = I understood what the play is about but needed to ask quite often
5 = I needed a lot of help from my teacher/colleagues
6 = too difficult – I didn't understand much and wasn't really interested

Follow-up ideas

➤ Across the curriculum: English, History (internet research), Geography, Art and Music

The Georgian Era (1714 to 1830) and the Hanoverian Kings:

Situation in England/Scotland, Culture and Fashion (dress, wigs, etc.)
What was going on in the British Colony of America at the same time?

Looking at Austrian History in the 18th century:

Who ruled the Austrian Empire at that time?
When was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart born?

Important historical events: French Revolution

Literature and Art: When was Johann Wolfgang von Goethe born and when did he die?
What do *you* imagine Sir Simon looked like? Make a colourful drawing.

Geography: Time zones

➤ Ghosts

British and American ghosts

Ghost traps – catching a ghost: e.g. '*Ghost Busters*'?

Austrian ghostly figures/characters (traditions, festivals; e.g. *Perchten*, etc.)

Halloween – History, cultural background; parties/fancy dress, trick-or-treat

➤ America – Business and Make-believe

Big American companies and successful business people

Hollywood - film industry and star cult, making a lot of money with make-believe