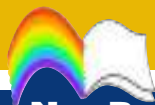


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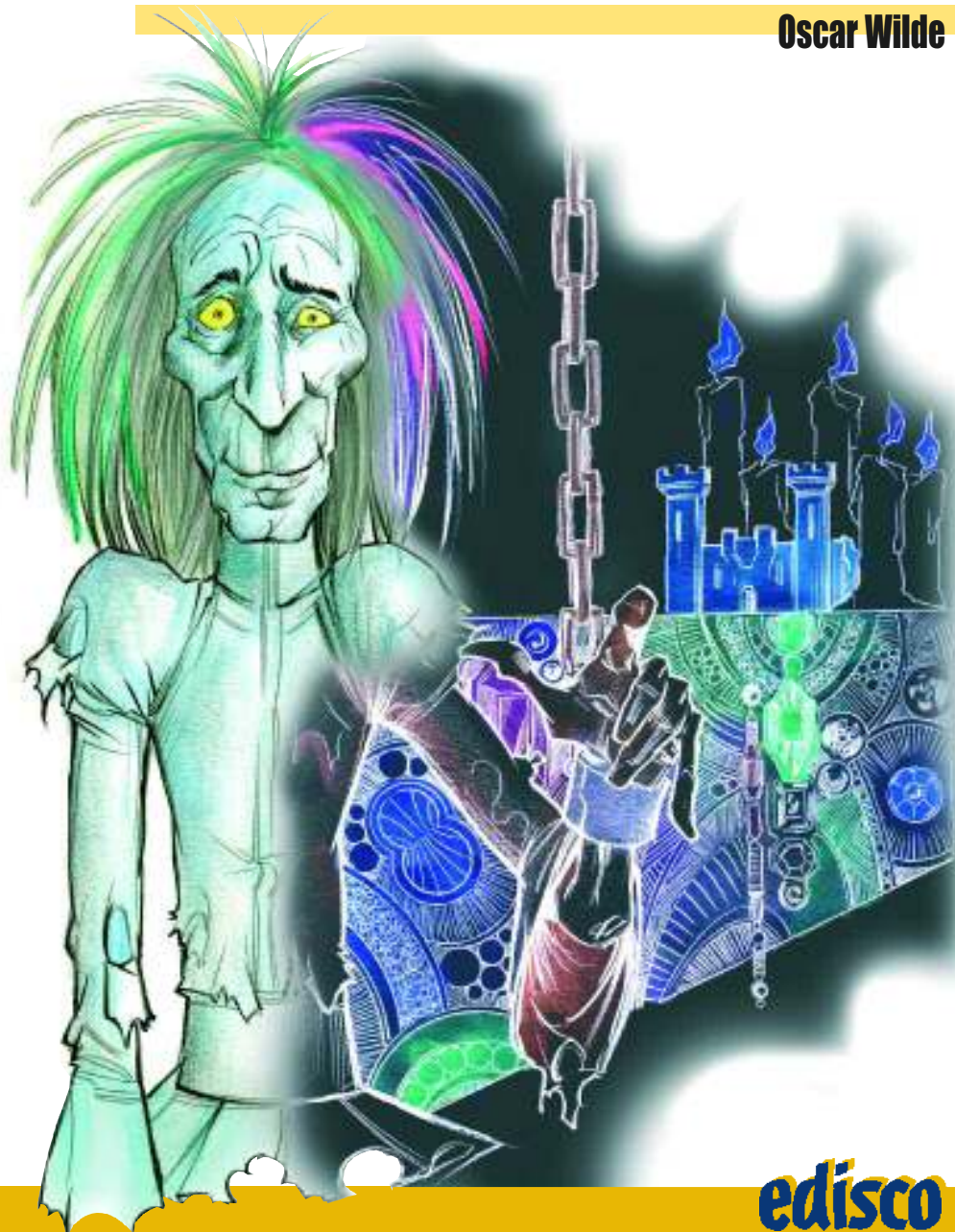


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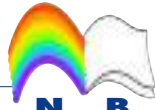
R A I N B O W S

The Canterville Ghost

Oscar Wilde



edisco



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Oscar Wilde

The Canterville Ghost

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The Canterville Ghost

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Oscar Wilde	4
BEFORE READING	5
Chapter 1 – Canterville Castle	6
AFTER READING	12
• Extension: <i>Castles and ghosts: Glamis Castle</i>	15
BEFORE READING	16
Chapter 2 – The ghost appears	17
AFTER READING	23
• Extension: <i>Ghost parties around the world</i>	26
BEFORE READING	27
Chapter 3 – Life at the castle	28
AFTER READING	34
• Extension: <i>Ghosts in literature</i>	37
BEFORE READING	38
Chapter 4 – Virginia	39
AFTER READING	45
• Extension: <i>Ghosts at the cinema</i>	48
BEFORE READING	49
Chapter 5 – The garden	50
AFTER READING	56
• SUMMING-UP ACTIVITIES	59
• GLOSSARY	61

The author

Oscar Wilde



Oscar Wilde, born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1854 is famous as a poet, a writer and a dramatist¹. His mother is a poet and a journalist and his father is a doctor. He studies in Ireland and at Oxford University in England. He travels in Europe and in 1882 he goes to the United States as a university lecturer². When he leaves the US he says: “I have civilised America”.

Oscar Wilde lives in the Victorian Age, the age of Queen Victoria, who rules³ Great Britain for over sixty years, from 1837 to 1901. Victorians believe that patriotism, marriage⁴ and going to church are very important; so those years are difficult for people like Oscar Wilde with unusual ideas about religion and life.

In 1884 he marries Constance and they have two sons. In 1887 he writes *The Canterville Ghost* and in 1888 he writes his most famous children's story *The Happy Prince* for his sons.

His most famous works are: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), his only novel; *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), *An Ideal Husband* (1895) and *A Woman of No Importance* (1893).

Unfortunately, Wilde spends two years in prison for immoral behaviour⁵. When he leaves prison, he goes to Paris; now he is alone and penniless⁶. In 1900 he dies, only forty-six years old.

Oscar Wilde is famous for his aphorisms⁷. These are some of the most famous:

- “All art is quite useless⁸”;
- “Illusion is the first of all pleasures”;
- “The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible”.

1. *dramatist*: a person who writes plays.

2. *lecturer*: a person who teaches at a university or college.

3. *rules*: has the power over a country.

4. *marriage*: the relationship between

a husband and a wife.

5. *behaviour*: the way a person acts.

6. *penniless*: without any money.

7. *aphorism*: a short and clever sentence.

8. *useless*: not useful.



BEFORE READING

1 Link the words to the pictures. Then circle the words that refer to what you can find in a castle.

- a. ghost
- b. fireplace
- c. church
- d. secret passage
- e. candles
- f. tree
- g. cloud
- h. stairs
- i. pictures
- j. ship



2 Answer these questions.

- a. Do you believe in ghosts?
- b. Are you afraid of ghosts?
- c. Does your best friend believe in ghosts?
- d. Where do ghosts live?
- e. How do you imagine a ghost? Briefly describe it.....

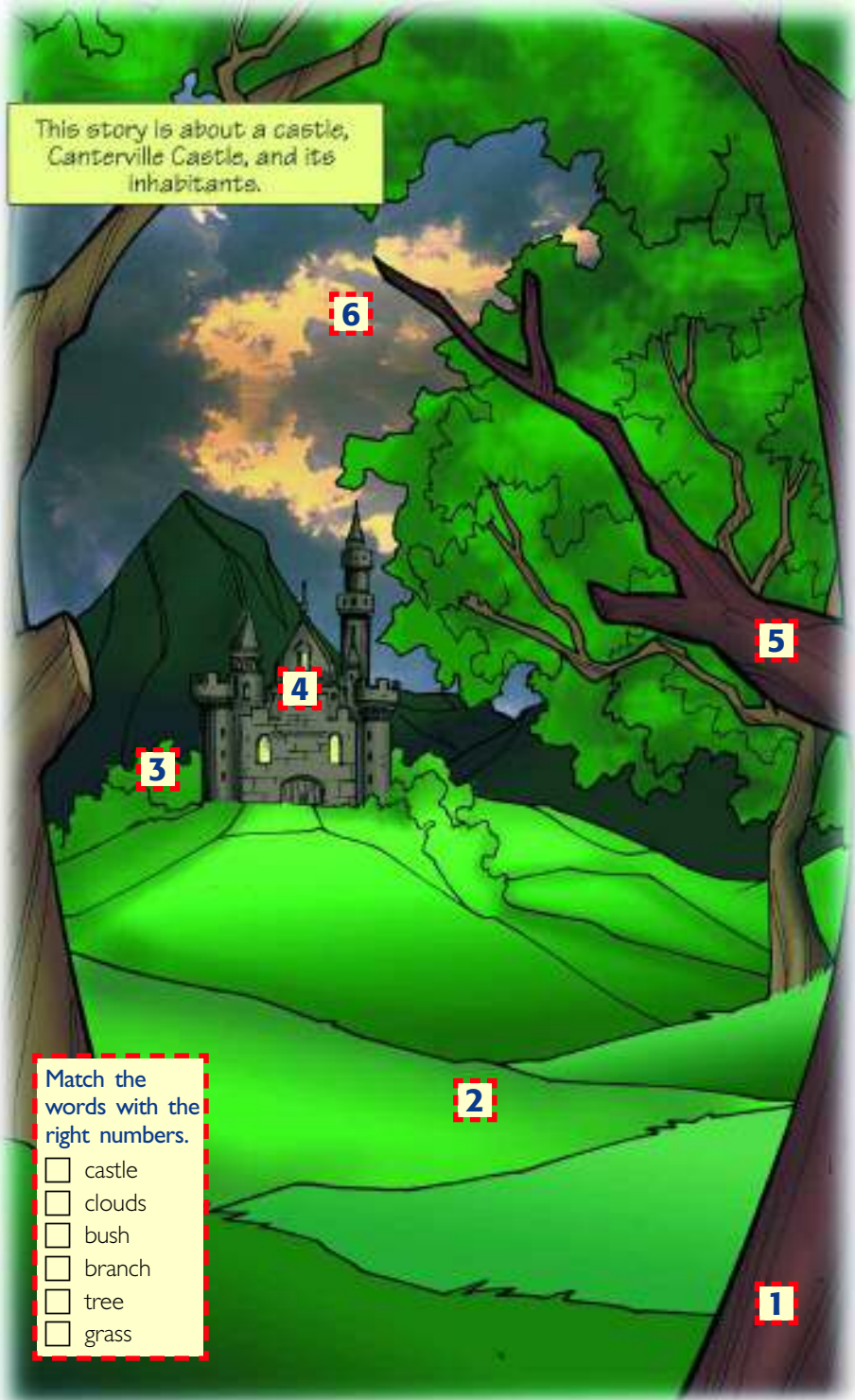
3 These are the names of the members of a family. Can you add some more?

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| a. mother | f. |
| b. sister | g. |
| c. son | h. |
| d. aunt | i. |
| e. | j. |

The Canterville Ghost

Canterville Castle

This story is about a castle, Canterville Castle, and its inhabitants.



Match the words with the right numbers.

- ☐ castle
- ☐ clouds
- ☐ bush
- ☐ branch
- ☐ tree
- ☐ grass







Mr Otis and his family are now at the castle. It is a lovely July evening. At the entrance an old woman is standing.

Dad! Who's that lady at the door? She's really ugly!

Ssh... Be polite!

Welcome to Canterville Castle.

I am the housekeeper. Please, follow me.

The Otis family follows Mrs Umney into the library... Mrs Otis points at a red stain by the fireplace.

What's that?

fireplace

stain

It's blood!

I can't stand blood stains! Remove it!

I'm sorry, that's not possible. This blood stain is more than 300 years old.

Mrs Umney says that it is the blood of Lady Eleonore De Canterville. She was in this castle in 1575.

My husband is going to kill me! Here, just by the fireplace!