Worksheet
Answer Key
Level 3

Tales of the Supernatural  Frank Brennan

Summaries

Irish Rose
In Dublin, Ireland, on 31 July 2004, Mary Flynn, a beautiful young model and film star, is at a party celebrating the premiere of her new film. She becomes bored at the party and wants to dance. She goes into the hotel garden and meets a red-haired stranger, who leads her out into a wood, where she hears the sounds of Irish dance music. She accepts delicious fruit, and dances with the stranger. Later, she returns to the party. She feels tired. Then, she looks in a mirror and sees a very elderly woman. The date on the hotel clock says 31 July 2104.

Haw Par Villa
The story is set in Singapore. Raymond Ang, a very strict father, takes his son, Johnnie, to see the painted figures at Haw Par Villa to teach him: you are punished in the next life for your actions in this life. Raymond has a snake tattoo on his arm. This represents danger. When Raymond dies, Johnnie goes to the funeral with his wife Linda and their young son Wesley. An angry-looking old woman is at the funeral. Johnnie tells Linda that his father may have murdered the woman’s son. The family visit Haw Par Villa. In the garden, the old woman from the funeral is standing next to some painted figures, but now she is smiling. Johnnie sees Raymond’s face and the snake tattoo on one of the painted figures. The figure’s face shows that it is in pain.

Banshee
Software engineer Conor Molloy and wife Holly notice a ghost of a woman with long red hair on the screen in Conor’s latest computer game. That night, the ghost appears outside their bedroom window. Soon, Conor learns that his step father has died. After the funeral, Conor and Holly speak to Bill’s widow, Bridie, about the ghost. Bridie, who is Irish, says she also saw it. She tells them about the Irish belief in the banshee – a visiting spirit who tells a family that a death is about to occur. Four years later, the banshee appears again. Nobody talks about it. Nobody knows who did not see it. Those who saw it know there will be another death in the family. But who?

The Yew Trees
Married couple Rupert and Zoe Blake present a home makeover series. They now want to convert an old church into a house. In the garden are two huge, ancient yew trees, called Adam and Eve. Zoe wants to cut down a tree. A mysterious gardener, Adam Ross, warns that terrible things will happen if the Blakes cut down the trees. But the Blakes disagree. They buy an axe. After hitting the tree once, Zoe screams in pain. From inside the tree, a green female spirit emerges and puts her hand into Zoe’s heart.

Tea
Author’s agent Alice DeLancie visits one of her authors, Chris Horton, a young English travel writer. Chris seems obsessed with Japan. His flat in Paris is full of Japanese art, and he has almost stopped writing. Alice meets Chris’s landlord, Monsieur Dupont, who tells her that a Japanese artist, Zen, killed himself in the flat. Dupont has sold Zen’s paintings and possessions to Chris, including the knife which Zen used to commit suicide. Alice is invited to a small party at Chris’s flat. Chris signs the invitation ‘Chris ‘Zen’ Horton’. At the party, Chris dramatically picks up Zen’s knife. Then an important guest, Monsieur Rousseau, praises Japanese art. Chris drops the knife. He returns to his old self, and continues writing his book.

A Bed for Ambrose
Ambrose, a professional gunman, is in hospital. He has an out-of-body experience. He sees the surgeon and her team who are trying to save his life. He also sees the sad face of his mother. Suddenly, he wakes up in a hospital bed with a smiling nurse next to him. She looks like his mother. He thinks he should reform. He asks the nurse about his out-of-body experience. She confirms that this is not unusual. She adds ominously that once he has recovered, he will feel the pain of more bullets. Ambrose is convinced that the nurse is trying to kill him. The nurse says that she cannot kill him. Ambrose is already dead and is facing hell.

Before reading
2. A world we cannot explain.
Tales of the Supernatural Frank Brennan

Check your reading

Irish Rose
1. 1 b, 2 c, 3 d, 4 e, 5 a
2. e, f, b, i, a, h, c, d, g
3. Student’s own answer.

Haw Par Villa
1. 1 f, 2 d, 3 b, 4 g, 5 c, 6 a, 7 e
2. a Raymond, b Raymond, c Linda, d Johnnie, e Johnnie, f Linda, g person at villa, h Wesley
3. Student’s own answer.

Banshee
1. In the corner of the screen, Holly and Conor saw a woman with long hair and a sad face, who looked like she was washing her hands. They heard a voice, like the scream of someone in pain. Later, they saw the woman with green eyes and long red hair outside their bedroom window, fifteen metres above the ground. That night, Holly’s father Bill was killed.
2. Sentences a, c, f, h are correct.
3. Student’s own answer.

The Yew Trees
1. a Rupert, b Zoe, c Adam Ross, d the young man, e the older man, f Rupert and Zoe, g Zoe, h a green man, i Rupert
2. a Both the trees had dark green leaves and one had round red berries. b A gardener found Zoe to talk about the trees. c Correct. d The trees had grown together for thousands of years. e Correct. f The Blakes didn’t take Mr Ross’s advice about the trees.
3. Student’s own answer.

Tea
1. 1 f, 2 e, 3 a, 4 b, 5 c, 6 d
2. 1 d, 2 g, 3 b, 4 f, 5 a, 6 c, 7 e

A Bed for Ambrose
1. a F, b F, c F, d P, e P, f P, g P
2. Student’s own answer.
3. Student’s own answer.

We Will Wait, Too
1. When writers think they have a new idea they call it inspiration. If they only knew their new ideas are often us, the ghosts of unborn characters, who have walked into their thoughts. We are ghosts who want to live through their stories.