The Mystery of Allegra

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 44)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
1 Yes  2 Yes  3 No  4 No  5 Yes  6 No  7 Yes

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the only ‘no’ answer is number 2.

While Reading

In all these activities it may be useful to help students to clarify which Allegra is which:
Allegra One = Allegra the ghost
Allegra Two = Allegra Henderson
Allegra Three = The Italian family’s daughter
Allegra Four = Adrian's daughter

CHAPTER 1 WHILE READING
1 T
2 F Adrian and his parents were on holiday in Italy.
3 F Margaret Henderson was English.
4 T
5 F Adrian woke up in the night.
6 T
7 F Allegra said that her mother was a long way from there.
8 T
9 F Adrian saw somebody in the next bedroom.
10 T

CHAPTER 2 WHILE READING
1 Who . . . ? Allegra Henderson (Allegra Two)
2 Who . . . ? Adrian
3 Where . . . ? Bagno a Ripoli
4 Where . . . ? In England
5 Who . . . ? Allegra Henderson (Allegra Two)
6 Who . . . ? Allegra the ghost (Allegra One)

CHAPTER 3 WHILE READING
1 Because she was dead.
2 Five years and three months.
3 To study Italian.
4 The daughter of the Italian family that Adrian was staying with (Allegra Three).
5 Allegra the ghost (Allegra One).
6 To Bagno a Ripoli.
7 On March 19th 1879, in Florence.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 4
Encourage speculation, but do not tell students the answers before they read the chapter. Let them check their own guesses as they read. The best answers are:
1 Yes  2 Yes  3 Yes  4 No  5 No  6 No (Shelley saw her too)

CHAPTER 4 WHILE READING
1 Lord Byron.
2 Her father.
3 Because she thought that she would have a better life with him.
4 To a convent.
5 Shelley.

CHAPTER 5 WHILE READING
1 The mother of the Italian Allegra (Allegra Three), to Adrian.
2 Adrian to the mother of the Italian Allegra (Allegra Three).
3 Adrian to Allegra the ghost (Allegra One).
4 Allegra the ghost (Allegra One) to Adrian.
5 Allegra the ghost (Allegra One) to her mother, Claire Clairmont.

CHAPTER 6 WHILE READING
1 The doctor said that the third Allegra was going to get well.
2 Adrian married an Italian girl.
3 Adrian and his wife had a baby girl.
4 Adrian’s child speaks English (and Italian).
5 Adrian’s daughter is a happy child.

Additional questions:
1 Allegra.
2 January 21st.
3 No.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING
1+12   2+8   3+14   4+10   5+11   6+13   7+9

Claire Clairmont’s daughter, Allegra, died in 1822, but her ghost lived in the body of Allegra Henderson. She was unhappy because she wanted to be with her mother. She wanted to go to Bagno a Ripoli but she couldn’t get there alone. So she came to Adrian’s room at night and asked him for help. When Allegra Henderson died, the ghost went to live in the body of the Italian family’s Allegra. Then the third Allegra became ill too, but Adrian knew how to help her. He took the ghost Allegra to Bagno a Ripoli and she found her mother there.
ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

ALLEGRA TWO

Chiara Henderson’s daughter was called Allegra, but she was often sad. She was tall and pale and she had brown eyes and long black hair. She could speak English and Italian but she couldn’t say the letter ‘r’. She was born on January 21st and she died on April 21st, when she was five years old.

ALLEGRA THREE

The Italian family’s daughter was called Allegra, but she was often sad. She was tall and pale and she had brown eyes and long brown hair. She was born on January 21st and she went to hospital on April 20th because she was ill but she didn’t die on April 21st, when she was five years old.

ALLEGRA FOUR

Adrian’s daughter was called Allegra, and she was a happy child. She was tall and pale and she had green eyes and long black hair. She could speak English and Italian but she couldn’t say the letter ‘r’. She was born on January 21st but she wasn’t ill and she didn’t die on April 21st, when she was five years old.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Possible answers:

CLAIRE: You must let me see Allegra. Why did you send her to that terrible convent school?
BYRON: Because it’s good for her.
CLAIRE: No, it isn’t. I’m sure that she is cold and lonely there. I’m going to take her away.
BYRON: Well, you can’t. I’ve told the nuns that they must lock the doors.
CLAIRE: You’re so unkind. I’m Allegra’s mother. And I know that she’s ill.
BYRON: How do you know that she’s ill?
CLAIRE: I had a dream about her. I think that she’s going to die.
BYRON: Of course she isn’t going to die.
CLAIRE: You don’t love her! You don’t want her with you, so why can’t she be with her mother?
BYRON: Because she must stay in the convent.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

The picture goes on page 36.

1 Adrian and the ghost Allegra (Allegra One).
2 To Bagno a Ripoli.
3 Because Adrian wants to take the ghost Allegra (Allegra One) to her mother and make the Italian family’s Allegra (Allegra Three) get well.

Lines taken from the text on page 36 would make suitable captions, for example:

• ‘Are you going to take me to Mamà?’
• ‘We’re going to Bagno a Ripoli.’

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

They say that ghosts are dead people who cannot rest. They are usually unhappy. Ghosts come at night; they often wear white clothes, and they are cold when you touch them. They can come into a room when the door and windows are locked. When they leave, you don’t see where they go. People are often afraid of ghosts.

ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

Open answers. Encourage discussion.