The plays

One Ghost for the Day, One Ghost for the Night. One night, Richard Little is visited by the ghost of his dead brother-in-law, James Heston. When Heston died, his wife Beth (Richard’s sister) married David Keech. Beth too died a few months afterwards, leaving Keech with her eight-year-old boy. Keech also has the money which Heston left his son – but instead of keeping it to give to the boy when he reaches twenty-one (as Heston had wanted) he is using it to build a new house. Heston has come back because he wants Richard to get the money back and keep it for the boy.

Richard takes Keech to court and accuses him of taking the boy’s money. However, Keech surprises everyone by revealing that he is using his own money to build the house: in fact, he has the boy’s inheritance with him, and he shows it to the court. Richard explains nervously to the court that Heston’s ghost has visited him and, despite the ridicule of everyone in the court, persuades the judge to call Heston as a witness.

Heston’s voice is then heard in the court, and he reveals that the money that Keech is showing them was stolen from a rich man in the next village – a man that Keech had killed. Before anyone can catch him, Keech runs out of the court.

Later, Keech breaks into Richard Little’s house, kills Richard, and ends up in prison. There, he is visited by Richard’s ghost, who torments him. He promises to stay with Keech all day and every day. Then Heston comes into the cell: he will continue Keech’s torment every night. Keech will never be at peace.

Sleep now, My Darling. Jenny Lawson, once a successful actress, now stays unhappily at home while her husband Gilbert, a film director, often flies to America to work on his films.

Waiting at the airport to meet Gilbert as he returns from one of his trips to America, Jenny is approached by a young man who recognises her. He is a film student, and knows a lot about Gilbert’s films. Jenny confides in him that her life is empty. The young man asks her what would make her happy, and she replies that she was happy when she worked as an actress. He encourages her to become an actress again and then leaves.

Jenny sees his luggage label and realises that she has been talking to the twenty-year-old Gilbert. Just then, she is told that Gilbert’s plane has crashed. He is dead.

Jenny realises that her dead husband is trying to tell her to be happy, and she promises him that she will follow her dream of being an actress again.

A Ghost in Love. Two Americans, Brad Davis and Jerry Maloney, are on holiday in England. The young men stop at a hotel in a small northern village.

Brad has a strange feeling that he already knows the place. When he is alone in the room, the ghost of a beautiful young woman visits him, calling him Matthew. He remembers that he loved her, but as they talk Jerry comes back and the ghost disappears.

The landlady tells them that the ghost is well known. She is Ellen Bannister, who died, aged eighteen, over two hundred years ago. She had lived in the place where they are now, which became a hotel a hundred years later.

When Jerry and Brad talk to people in the village, it emerges that the girl’s boyfriend, Matthew, was a thief and that Ellen, who was very poor, sold the stolen goods.

Later, Ellen comes back to the room. She tells him how they had planned to sail away together to America. But the ship – with Matthew on it – left early. When Ellen arrived he was gone, leaving her stranded at the port. Later, she was put in prison, where she died soon afterwards. Her ghost has been waiting for Matthew, in her old home, ever since.

The time comes for Brad and Jerry to go home. Brad decides to stay with Ellen, who waited for him for so long.
A Ghost in Love and Other Plays

Pre-reading activity

Match the pictures with the words and story titles

Write the correct letter next to each picture.

Words
1. ‘You didn’t wait for me.’
2. ‘I’m going mad!’
3. ‘Your mother and I are so sorry.’
4. ‘My boy gets my money at twenty-one and not before.’
5. ‘Hello, Ellen.’
6. ‘I was happy when I was an actress.’

Story
7. One Ghost for the Day, One Ghost for the Night
8. Sleep now, My Darling
9. A Ghost in Love

To the teacher

Aim: To familiarize students with the settings
Time: 10–15 minutes
Organization: Give one copy of the worksheet to each student or pair of students. When they have matched the pictures and the captions, they can assign the pictures to the play titles given. Ask the students to discuss what is happening in each picture, how the people involved are probably feeling, and what each story might be about.

Key: 1ch 2dg 3ei 4ai 5fh 6bg
A Ghost in Love and Other Plays

While reading activity

What next?

One Ghost for the Day, One Ghost for the Night

What happens after scene 2?
Tick the boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>David Keech …</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 … kills Richard Little.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 … kills Mary.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 … goes to prison.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 … dies in a terrible accident.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 … gives Mary a lot of money.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 … sees a ghost and is afraid.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sleep now, My Darling

What happens after scene 2?
Tick the boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jenny Lawson …</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 … meets Gilbert when he comes back from America.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 … hears that Gilbert is dead.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 … meets Laura again, and is angry with her.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 … hears a message from a ghost.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 … starts to write a book.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 … is going to be an actress again.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Ghost in Love

What happens after scene 1?
Tick the boxes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brad Davis …</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>MAYBE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 … asks people in the village about Ellen.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 … sees Ellen again.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 … leaves the hotel because he is afraid.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 … kills a man and goes to prison.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 … stays in the village.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 … goes back to America and makes a lot of money.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To the teacher

Where: At the end of the scene indicated

Aim: To encourage students to predict the development of the story

Time: 5–10 minutes for each play

Organization: Give each student, or group of students, a copy of the worksheet for the play that they are working on. Ask them to predict whether these things will happen or not. The students are not expected to predict accurately how the story will develop. Once they have filled in their charts, they should keep them and see how accurately they have predicted as the story develops.
A Ghost in Love and Other Plays

After reading activity

Character crosswords

Look at this ‘crossword’ about Heston.

IS A G H O S T

WAS B E TH’S HUSBAND

K E E C H H A S H I S S O N

W A N T S R I C H A D T O G E T H I S B O Y’S M O N E Y

S P E A K S T O T H E C O U R T

V I S I T S K E E C H I N P R I S O N

Make ‘crosswords’ about some of the other characters.

To the teacher

Aim: To encourage students to think about the characters in the plays

Time: 15–30 minutes

Organization: Give out the worksheets to the students and ask them to write ‘crosswords’ following the example given. Students can work alone or in pairs.