Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 60)

ACTIVITY 1  BEFORE READING
Open answers, but the information available should lead students to choose some options before others. The most likely answers are numbers 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, and 17. Students should also try to guess which ghost belongs to which story.

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 answers are 1b, 2c, 3c, 4a, 5a.

While Reading

A PAIR OF GHOSTLY HANDS, TO PAGE 7  WHILE READING
Encourage students to make guesses, and also to look for any clues in the text: for example, it is more likely to be someone from Mr Kendall’s family than from Farmer Hosking’s, as Mr Kendall sold the house, perhaps to get away from the ghost. But do not tell students if their guesses are right or not; they will find out as they read that the answers are:
1. To someone that Mrs Carkeek had known.
2. To someone in Mr Kendall’s family.
3. To a good kind person.
4. To a child.
5. To someone who died not long ago.

LOST HEARTS, TO PAGE 19  WHILE 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 true answers are numbers 1 and 6.

LOST HEARTS, PAGE 20 TO END  WHILE READING
Students can describe this in their own way; a possible explanation might be:
Mr Abney believed that by eating the hearts of three children he could become somebody who could do strange and wonderful things. But the ghosts of Phoebe and Giovanni, the two children he had killed years before, wanted to punish him. Perhaps they also wanted to stop him killing Stephen as well. They probably came into the library through the window from the garden, and then perhaps the boy used his long fingernails to make the wound in Mr Abney’s side. There was no blood, so perhaps Mr Abney died of fear.

MRS AMWORTH, TO PAGE 29  WHILE READING
Encourage students to discuss all the possibilities and how each death might happen, but do not tell them the answers.
1. Mrs Amworth, who is killed in a road accident in the village.
2. A vampire, who is killed by the narrator and Francis Urcombe.

THE WAXWORK, TO PAGE 41  WHILE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers (which are numbers 1 and 4).

JOHN CHARRINGTON’S WEDDING, TO PAGE 51  WHILE READING
Encourage students to examine the various possibilities, but do not tell them what actually happens. They will find by the end that the events happen in this order: 3, 4, 2, 1, 5.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1  AFTER READING
1. Mrs Amworth, from the story Mrs Amworth
She has just met Francis Urcombe in the village street, and seen that he and the others are moving the gardener’s son to a different house. She is very angry because the vampire in her is taking the boy’s blood and she wants to be able to get at him at night.
2. May Forster, in John Charrington’s Wedding
She is in the church, waiting for John to arrive, and has just heard his footsteps as he comes in. She has not looked at him yet.
3. Miss Margaret, in A Pair of Ghostly Hands
Aunt Emily has just come in and seen her hands under the tap in the little room at the back of the house.
4. The manager, in The Waxwork
He has just left Raymond Hewson in the Murderers’ Room for the night.
5. Mr Abney, in Lost Hearts
He has just heard about Stephen’s horrible dream, in which Stephen saw a body in the bath, in the bathroom where Mr Abney had hidden the dead body of Phoebe Stanley. Mr Abney is worried that the ghosts of the two dead children will make trouble for him in some way.
ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

‘Well, she knows now, Mr Hosking. Everything was fine until she wanted to use the tap in the little room two days ago. When she went to look at the water tanks, she found the cork and took it out. Then early this morning she got up because she heard water running. She went down to the little room and saw Margaret, who was washing her hands under the tap. Of course, Miss Emily was afraid at first, but I told her Miss Margaret loved her, so she decided to stay.’

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Possible answers:
MRS BUNCH: But why did Mr Abney want to see you so late?
STEPHEN: I don’t know. He just said he wanted to show me something very important.
MRS BUNCH: It’s all so strange. I don’t understand it at all.
STEPHEN: And there was another strange thing, Mrs Bunch. Earlier in the evening I saw a boy and a girl in the garden.
MRS BUNCH: Really? What were they like?
STEPHEN: She was like the body in the bath in my dream and he was thin, with black hair and long fingernails.
MRS BUNCH: And what did they do, this boy and girl?
STEPHEN: They stood there, looking up at the windows. She stood still, holding her hands over her heart, but he lifted his arms high in the air. Then, on the left side of his chest, a great black hole opened, and I heard a terrible cry. And then they disappeared.
MRS BUNCH: How frightening! And then you went down to the library and found poor Mr Abney in his armchair . . .

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

We are sorry to report the death of Mrs Amworth in a road accident. Mrs Amworth spent many years in India, but returned to England earlier this year after the death of her husband. She came to Maxley because her family, the Chastons, had once lived here.

In the short time she was with us, Mrs Amworth quickly became a part of village life and a friend to many. Her lunch and dinner parties were popular, and she enjoyed card games and musical evenings. Everyone in Maxley will miss her.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

If students need help with this, encourage them to look at links in the language.

3 TOM: ‘What’s happened, sir? People are saying that Mr Charrington has disappeared.’

6 GEOFFREY: ‘I’m afraid he has, Tom. You see, when we got back here to the house, there was a message about him.’

5 TOM: ‘What did the message say, sir?’

8 GEOFFREY: ‘It said . . . It said that Mr Charrington was killed in an accident on his way to the station. At half past one.’

1 TOM: ‘Half past one! But at half past three he was in the church, getting married! We all saw him!’

4 GEOFFREY: ‘I know, Tom. So did I. That’s what’s so terrible.’

7 TOM: ‘So that poor, poor girl married a ghost, and rode home with him in the carriage. Is she . . .?’

2 GEOFFREY: ‘No, Tom, she isn’t all right, and I don’t think she ever will be again.’

ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

Encourage discussion of the titles and whether students think they are good titles or not.

A Pair of Ghostly Hands
• A Tap in the Night
• A Gentle Ghost
Lost Hearts
• Ashes for Mr Abney
• A Dangerous Spring
Mrs Amworth
• Twice Dead
• A Job in the Cemetery
The Waxwork
• The Eyes of a Murderer
• The Neck Collector
John Charrington’s Wedding
• Keeping a Promise
• A Lucky Bride