Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 90)

ACTIVITY 1  BEFORE READING

Encourage discussion of reader expectations of ghost stories. Students might want to choose some of the alternative answers, but the answers given below focus on the expectations that most readers would have of the traditional ghost story.

You usually find ghosts in old buildings like castles, and they seem to prefer places that are deserted and rather dark. They often appear at night, and they may arrive with a cold wind. Ghosts are usually people who died violently. They are mostly miserable, they make people feel uneasy, and they are often dangerous to the living. Meeting a ghost is, for most people, an unpleasant experience.

ACTIVITY 2  BEFORE READING

Encourage speculation, but do not give students the answers.

1 The Judge's House
2 Smee
3 The Ghost Coach
4 The Stranger in the Mist
5 Fullcircle
6 The Confession of Charles Linkworth

While Reading

SMEE  WHILE READING

1 Who . . . ? Tony Jackson.
2 What . . . ? ‘Smee’ is written on one piece of paper, and nothing is written on the others.
3 What . . . ? The backstairs on the first floor.
4 Who . . . ? Nobody / the thirteenth person (the ghost).
5 What . . . ? A hand.
6 What . . . ? A pair of human knees.
7 What . . . ? A woman's silk dress.
8 What . . . ? The feeling that there was an extra player, who shouldn't have been there.
9 Who . . . ? The girl who broke her neck on the stairs ten years ago.

THE JUDGE'S HOUSE  WHILE READING

Do not give the answer, but encourage students to wait and see if their answer is correct when they finish the story. The correct answer is 4.

THE STRANGER IN THE MIST  WHILE READING

1 Giles was pleased with Beverley's invitation because he was eager to study the geology of Caernarvonshire.
2 In the mist, Giles took the wrong path because he could not recognize the landmarks he had noticed earlier.
3 Although the old man spoke in Welsh, he was able to show Giles which path he should take.
4 If Giles had kept on following the path on the old man's map, he would have fallen over the cliff and been badly hurt or killed.
5 The old man's map was out of date because the path to Fablan Fawr had been destroyed by the Great Landslide.
6 The map that the old man had given Giles was exactly like the map found in Mr Stevenson's pocket.
7 Madog ap Rhys always carried a copy of his map with him in case he met a traveller who was lost in the mist.

THE CONFESSION OF CHARLES LINKWORTH  WHILE READING

1 A prison officer to Dr Teesdale, about the missing rope.
2 Dr Teesdale to himself, about the spirit of the dead man.
3 Prison Officer Draycott to Dr Teesdale, about a strange presence near the telephone.
4 Dr Teesdale to Prison Officer Draycott, about Linkworth's spirit.
5 Charles Linkworth's spirit to Dr Teesdale, about the chaplain, Mr Dawkins.
6 Dr Teesdale to Mr Dawkins, about Charles Linkworth's spirit.
7 Charles Linkworth's spirit to Mr Dawkins, about the murder of his mother.
8 Dr Teesdale's servant, Parker, to Dr Teesdale, about the rope used to hang Charles Linkworth, which the doctor had seen on the floor.

THE GHOST COACH  WHILE READING

10+8  2+7+4+1  5+9+11  3+6

When Murray first got into the coach, he noticed that the air smelt strangely damp and heavy. He tried to make conversation with the three passengers, but they only stared at him without speaking, and their bloodless faces and burning eyes soon told Murray that he was travelling with three dead men. With a scream of horror he threw himself at the door, but when the coach went over the edge of the steep drop, Murray fell with it, down to the valley fifty feet below. Later, he described his ghostly experience to the doctor, who refused to believe a word of it.
**After Reading**

**ACTIVITY 1** AFTER READING

2 **JACK:** This is getting silly. How much longer are we going to wait for Jackson and Mrs Gorman?

7 **VIOLET:** I think we've waited long enough. I'm getting rather worried, Jack. Do you think they're all right?

3 **JACK:** Of course they're all right! They're probably laughing in a corner somewhere. Very rude, I call it.

5 **VIOLET:** I'm not so sure. I think there's something odd going on tonight – remember the thirteenth person on the stairs?

8 **JACK:** That was just a mistake. I must have counted somebody twice.

1 **VIOLET:** Mistake or not, it felt very strange. I think we should send Reggie to look for them.

6 **JACK:** Yes, good idea. And he can tell them they've both got forfeits.

4 **VIOLET:** I don't care about that, as long as he finds them quickly.

**ACTIVITY 2** AFTER READING

Acceptable answers to this cloze passage are any words that have an appropriate meaning and fit the grammar of the sentence. Students might like to check each other's work and discuss alternative answers. Some alternatives are given below.

What an awful night this (it) has been for Benchurch. The police have decided that Moore (he) killed himself, but I doubt that very much; he seemed (appeared) to me a perfectly sensible (normal, reasonable) and cheerful young man, not at all the type to hang himself. But if he didn’t do it, then who did? Who made the noose (knot) in the rope? Why was the rope in two pieces? The ends of the rope had been bitten or chewed, not cut with a knife. Perhaps the rats did it (that), though I can’t imagine why. What also made me uneasy (uncomfortable, worried, etc.) was the judge's face in that picture. I have never (seldom, rarely) seen such a cruel, merciless (hard, terrible, etc.) face. And he seemed to be staring at that poor (unfortunate, unhappy, etc.) boy with a triumphant smile (look). People say he was a hard man, a real hanging judge, who showed no mercy (pity, kindness, etc.) to anyone. It's a horrible (frightening, etc.) idea, but I can’t help (stop) thinking that perhaps his ghost (spirit) wanted one last hanging . . .

**ACTIVITY 3** AFTER READING

**Suggested answers:**

**GILES:** Oh, I'm so glad to see you. Can you help me? I'm lost.

**MADOG:** Hello, young man. Where are you trying to get to?

**GILES:** Fablan Fawr. Do you know it?

**MADOG:** Yes indeed. I've lived here for many years and I know these hills very well.

**GILES:** You must do, if you can walk around in this mist. Do you come across many people in these hills?

**MADOG:** Whenever there's a mist, I come out and look for travellers who have lost their way. That's why I always carry a map. Look, this is where you are.

**GILES:** Ah, a map. Yes, I see. And this is the path I should take?

**MADOG:** Yes, that path will take you safely home to Fablan Fawr. But please take the map with you, in case you get lost again.

**GILES:** No, no, I mustn't take your map.

**MADOG:** But I keep copies of the map to give away. In fact, a few years ago I gave one to another young man, just like you. I met him here, in exactly the same place.

**GILES:** Really? Right here, you say? And was he lost too?

**MADOG:** Yes, but I gave him my map, and I'm sure he found his way home.

**GILES:** Well, I'll follow in his footsteps, then. That's very kind of you, and thank you very much for your help.

**ACTIVITY 4** AFTER READING

5+8+3+10 1+7 9+4+12 2+11+6

Two days after Linkworth died, I had dinner with Dr Teesdale, who told me that Linkworth had telephoned him, asking to speak to me. Then the doctor's telephone rang and a soft voice asked me to forgive him. I asked for a sign from the dead man and a few minutes later we saw him in the room with us, which was a most horrible experience. When the phone rang again, Linkworth confessed to his crime so I spoke the words of forgiveness to him.
ACTIVITY 5  AFTER READING
Answers to these questions are entirely open, but the following suggestions may stimulate discussion if necessary.
1 Perhaps the old man knows in some way that Murray is coming. He may even have sent Jacob out to look for him.
2 Perhaps the old man has little appetite for good food. We know that he is a sad, studious person who has chosen a quiet, lonely place to live. He seems to shun the things that people enjoy, like friends and company, so he may also have little interest in food.
3 Perhaps he sees it as a chance to get Murray out of the house. Although he has been polite to him, he has never been warm or welcoming. Another possibility is that he is haunted in some way by the ghost coach, and can only free himself from it by sending Murray to it. Or perhaps he has been made so bitter by the loss of his son that he takes a malicious pleasure in sending Murray to his death.
4 Perhaps by sending Murray to ride in the ghost coach, the old man would free his son’s ghost to rest in peace.

ACTIVITY 6  AFTER READING
Suggested answer:
Fullcircle is a delightful house, situated in a green valley. There is an old stone wall around the house, and a little wood and a tiny lake nearby. A pretty rose garden is close to the house. Fullcircle was designed in 1660 by the famous Sir Christopher Wren, who built St Paul’s Cathedral in London. Its first owner was Lord Carteron, who used to spend months at a time at Fullcircle, enjoying the house and garden. The house has pale stone walls and large, light windows. Inside there is a lovely curving staircase, and a beautiful small chapel and library. It would suit owners who enjoy the countryside and would like to live there in style.

ACTIVITY 7  AFTER READING
Smee
• THIRTEENTH GUEST AT CHRISTMAS PARTY IS GHOST
• DEAD WOMAN APPEARS IN PARTY GAME
The Judge’s House
• MYSTERY DEATH OF STUDENT IN LOCAL HOUSE
• ALARM BELL RINGS AS STUDENT DIES
The Stranger in the Mist
• THREE STEPS FROM CLIFF EDGE — VISITOR’S LUCKY ESCAPE
• GHOST OF MADOG AP RHYS NEARLY KILLS VISITOR
The Confession of Charles Linkworth
• CHAPLAIN’S CALL FROM UNHAPPY SPIRIT
• MURDERER CONFESSIONS — AFTER DEATH
The Ghost Coach
• LOST MAN’S RIDE IN COACH OF TERROR
• ‘MY RIDE WITH DEAD MEN’ — INJURED TRAVELLER SPEAKS

Fullcircle
• ‘GHOST HOUSE HAS CHANGED MY FRIENDS,’ SAYS DR SWOPE
• THE MAGIC OF A HOUSE — ‘I’M A CHANGED MAN,’ SAYS OWNER

ACTIVITY 8  AFTER READING
Open answers.

ACTIVITY 9  AFTER READING
1 The chaplain (Mr Dawkins) in The Confession of Charles Linkworth, as Linkworth was going to be hanged.
2 Leithen in Fullcircle, just after he had taken Harry Peck (the narrator) on his first visit to the house.
3 Brenda Ford (the ghost of the dead girl) in Smee, before Tony Jackson finds her behind the curtain in the window-seat during the last game.
4 Parry (Beverley’s servant) in The Stranger in the Mist, just before he finds Giles on the hillside.
5 Jacob in The Ghost Coach, after he leaves Murray on the road to the signpost.
6 Dr Thornhill in The Judge’s House, when he hears the alarm bell ringing as Moore is hanged.