

Horror Stories

E. F. BENSON - AMELIA B. EDWARDS - MARY E. BRADDON - ALGERNON BLACKWOOD



WORKSHEETS

ydspublishing

A2+ - Level 3

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ABOUT THE STORIES

The first story in this book, *Mrs Amworth*, is about a vampire who threatens a small, quiet village in England. It was written by Edward Frederic Benson, an English novelist, biographer and archaeologist, who is particularly known for his short stories and memoirs. It was published in Benson's 2nd collection of ghost tales, *Visible and Invisible*, in 1923.

The Phantom Coach, the second story in this book, was written by Amelia B. Edwards, who is one of the best Victorian ghost story writers. The story, which was published in 1864, is a classic ghost story, which Edwards is best known for.

Another story in this book is *Good Lady Ducayne*. It is a gothic story by Mary Elizabeth Braddon, who is one of the most popular novelists of the Victorian era. The story was published in 1869. It is based on a 19th century popular folkloric belief which associates vampirism with deaths from mysterious illnesses.

Keeping His Promise, the last story in this book, was written by Algernon Henry Blackwood, one the most creative ghost story writers. He wrote ten books of short stories. This story was published in his collection entitled *The Empty House* in 1906.

SUMMARY

Mrs Amworth

Maxley is a quiet and peaceful village until a 45-year-old woman arrives there from London. She is a very cheerful and friendly person, and the villagers like her very much. Until two years ago, she lived in India because her husband, who is now dead, was a judge there. After his death, she leaves India and lives in London for a year. Then, she moves to Maxley where her ancestors used to live hundreds of years ago. The narrator, the man who tells the story, has a close friend who is a retired professor of physiology and studies supernatural happenings like vampirism. One day, a 16-year-old boy, who has been bitten by mosquitoes and has two wounds on his neck, becomes very ill. The professor suspects that Mrs Amworth is a vampire and the boy is her victim. When he confronts Mrs Amworth, she is accidentally hit by a car and killed. Two months after she is buried, the narrator sees her entering a neighbour's house one night. She has risen from her grave in search of blood. So, the professor makes a plan to get rid of this vampire. He and the narrator dig up her coffin, and the professor drives a pick through the heart of the corpse. Having killed the vampire, they put the coffin, back into the grave.

The Phantom Coach

The story begins in the open county, where the narrator, who is also the main character, has gone to hunt. He has stayed out too late, and it starts to snow. So, he looks for a place to spend the night. Luckily, he runs into an old man who is the servant of an old scientist living in a farmhouse nearby. He spends a few hours in that house having dinner and a chat with the scientist. When it stops snowing, he decides to leave. The scientist tells him to get on the night mail coach and gives him directions to the crossroads where it will pass in an hour. The old servant accompanies him to the old road. As they walk, he talks about a coach accident that happened on that road nine years ago. When the servant leaves, he starts to walk in the dark deserted old road. Just as he is thinking about the coach accident, the night mail coach that he wants to

catch arrives. He stops it and gets on. He starts talking to the three passengers on it. Suddenly, the coach has a big crash. The story ends when he wakes up from a coma. His wife tells him that he had a brain injury when he fell onto a rock during the crash.

Good Lady Ducayne

This is the story of a young poor woman, Bella, who finds a job as a companion to a very old and rich aristocratic lady. The lady pays Bella a very high salary and takes her to Italy, where Bella has a very nice life. Bella is very pleased with all this and likes the old woman. A few months later, Bella becomes very ill and weak. She gets thinner and paler every day. The lady's doctor tells her that it is because of the mosquito bites on her arm. She is also having strange dreams. Then, Bella learns that the old lady's previous two companions died from an unknown illness, and she fears that she might die, too. A young doctor, who Bella has become friends with and who is very interested in her, tries to cure and help her. He believes that the lady's doctor has made Bella ill in an effort to make the old lady live longer. When he accuses the lady and her doctor of this, the lady decides to stop this treatment and hire a new doctor. She wants Bella to leave and gives her a check for a thousand pounds.

Keeping His Promise

When a university student named Marriot is studying for an exam one rainy night, someone comes to his door. He is Marriott's old friend from school. He is very thin and weak, so Marriott takes him inside and gives him supper. The friend never talks and goes to sleep in Marriot's bedroom. When Marriott goes into the room to check on his friend later, he is not physically there. But Marriot hears his breathing and is not sure what is happening. Meanwhile, he has pain in his arm and there is a drop of blood on his wrist. He is very confused. He tells this to a friend of his the next morning. They both wonder if Marriott had a hallucination and where the mysterious man is.

Discuss before you begin reading:

- 1 Have you read any vampire stories or watched any vampire films? Which ones? What did you think of them? Did they frighten you?
- 2 Why are ghost or vampire stories so popular?



HORROR STORIES

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A Word Search

Find the <u>ten</u> words that you need to fill in the blanks in the paragraph about vampires.

Α	В	Ν	F	R	С	0	R	Р	S	Е	T	L	Χ	N
С	R	I	U	D	L	Z	٧	Α	Z	F	Q	J	Н	Υ
Н	Χ	Μ	W	С	0	F	F	I	Ν	D	K	S	0	С
K	L	Μ	S	Z	L	J	W	Е	I	Р	I	R	S	1
Т	В	T	В	В	L	0	0	D	Н	В	Ν	0	С	Κ
X	Q	Χ	D	V	Υ	I	Е	G	Α	R	L	I	С	R
1	Α	V	В	U	L	Н	Μ	U	V	Ν	K	D	Q	N
R	В	Н	L	Е	G	Е	Ν	D	С	0	0	S	Μ	Е
\ \	I	С	T	Ι	M	Α	Χ	Q	V	M	R	Е	В	Υ
X	Μ	S	U	Ν	R	I	S	Е	J	W	F	L	Е	V
W	D	Е	K	R	0	J	Z	С	В	S	S	G	Q	Υ
Α	Н	V	D	W	Р	G	R	Α	V	Е	U	Z	Χ	н
N	V	0	С	В	С	Μ	0	Ν	S	T	Е	R	J	s
R	Е	U	Κ	Α	С	Α	U	Μ	K	С	U	V	S	С
0	Z	W	С	Е	Р	ı	D	Е	М	I	С	L	R	

vampires are fictional 1s that appear in movies, books and other media. They feed on the 2 of the living people, whom they munt during the night. They bite the throat of their 3 According to a 4, a person bitten by a vampire becomes a vampire, too. Vampires that have died wake at night and rise from their 5 s to roam the streets,	Vampires cannot stand the smell of 8 or the sight of a Christian cross. One way to destroy a vampire is to drive a sharp object through its heart. Stories of creatures with vampiric features were first told in ancient times. Tales of walking 9 s that drank the blood of the living people and spread disease were very common in medieval Europe during
B Can you match the boxes (1-4) with the story titles Mrs Amworth b The Phantom Coach	
is very very rich and very very kind. She is easy to please. I read to her a lot, and she falls asleep. ——	3 'And I made a scar in his arm like mine. We exchanged drops of blood in each other's cuts. He put a drop into my arm, and I put one into his. 'But why?'
2 'There was a mysterious disease in India. She and her husband were there. And'	'It was a boys' agreement.'
'Well?' I asked. 'He was one of the victims.'	I climbed up and opened the door myself. There were three passengers inside. I went in, shut the

'He was one of the victims.' ___

door and sat down in the empty corner.

vampire now. ___

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~	Put (7) flext to your choices.				
St	rs Amworth op reading the story at the end of <u>page 10</u> . The vampire t nworth. Choose the statement(s) that make us think so.	that	Mr Urcombe is talking about is probably Mrs		
1	She said she is 45 years old, but she looks ten years younger	6	She does not want to meet Mr Urcombe after his talk about the epidemic in India		
	very active Her ancestors are buried in Maxley. There was an epidemic of vampirism in Maxley hundreds of years ago	7 8	She loves gardening She tells the narrator to keep his windows open at night		
-		9	She says she loves the night air and the soil		
4		10	The narrator had a dream in which she was at his window, smiling at him, but maybe, this was not a dream		
5	There was an epidemic of vampirism in India before she came to England. Her husband was one of the victims				
	ne <i>Phantom Coach</i> the end of <u>page 27,</u> guess why James sees a tiny light w	vher	n he looks back toward the old road.		
1	Someone is following him. Perhaps he is a vampire or a mu	ırdeı	rer		
2	There is no light. He is imagining this				
3	It is the night mail coach that he wants to get on				
4	It is the phantom of the coach that fell into the valley below	nine	years ago		
	ood Lady Ducayne op reading at the end of <u>page 41</u> and guess which of the	foll	owing happens at the end of the story.		
	We discover that Lady Ducayne's doctor is a vampire. He p				
2	Lady Ducayne finally dies, leaving all her money and jewels to Bella. Bella and her mother become rich				
3	Mr Stafford discovers the truth about Lady Ducayne and he				
4	Mr Stafford marries Bella and starts working for Lady Ducay	/ne :	as her doctor. He replaces Dr Parravicini		
	eeping His Promise the end of <u>page 64,</u> try to guess who really Marriott's gu	est	is and why he visits him.		
1	He is the ghost of a dead friend and makes himself invisible	e late	er on. Only his breathing is heard		
2	He died while sleeping in Marriott's bed. But his sprit remain	ns in	the bedroom		
3	Marriott had a hallucination because he was very tired. Actuis also a hallucination	ıally	, no one came to his door. The breathing that he hears		



4 He was bitten by a vampire on the way to Marriott's house. And he has bitten Marriott's wrist because he himself is a

3

After You Read

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A Character Crosswords.

Look at the crossword in the box. It is about the character of Lady Amworth in the 1st story. Then, make crosswords about the characters in the other stories.

VERY ACTIVE

A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN

WIDOW

45 YEARS OLD

BURIED IN THE CEMETERY

PIQUETTE - HER FAVOURITE GAME

HOUSE IN MAXLEY

1	the main character in <i>The Phantom Coach</i> (the lawyer)	2 the main character in Good Lady Ducayne
		D
	M	E
	UU	
		L
	R	L
	RR	
		A
	A	
	Y	
3	Lady Ducayne's doctor	4 the main character in Keeping His Promise
	P	M
	A	A
	R	R
	R	R
•••	A	
	V	O
		T
•••		
	C	
	I	
	N	

A	Match the words (1-8) with the stories (a-d). (8x2=16 pts)	3	Why didn't Mr Urcombe allow Mrs Amworth to go near the gardener's son again?
1 3 5 7	breathing 2 crossroads suicide 4 cemetery stake 6 companion chloroform 8 signpost		 The boy didn't want anyone to see him ill. He thought she would poison him with her jelly. He knew that the boy was her victim.
-	chloroform 8 signpost Mrs Amworth b The Phantom Coach	4	Which is <u>not</u> true about the old scientist whose house James went into for shelter?
С	Good Lady Ducayne d Keeping His Promise Match the characters (a-j) with the information (1-10). (10x2=20 pts)		 a He was not pleased to have a stranger in his house at first. b He did not enjoy talking with James. c He had not talked to anyone other than Jacob for four years.
	Miss Torpinter b Major Pearsal Herbert d Francin	5	In The Phantom Coach, James Murray
g i 1 2	Greene f Dr Ross Mrs Rolleston h Jacob Field j Lotta servant in a country farmhouse Marriott's old school friend		 a believes that he was one of the passengers on the coach that fell into the valley years ago b quickly jumped out of the coach when he saw that the passengers were dead bodies c does not remember why and how he got on a
3 4	Bella's new friend in Italy Marriott's friend at the university		coach that night
5 6	the husband of a vampire's second victim a local doctor	6	What kind of a companion was Lady Ducayne looking for?
7 8 9 10	a woman who find jobs for young women Lady Ducayne's French maid Bella's mother Lotta's brother		 a someone young, healthy and strong b someone naïve and ignorant c someone poor and with no family
_	Mark the sentences as True (T) or False (F).	7	How did Dr Parravicini make Lady Ducayne live longer?
	 (12x2=24 pts) Mrs Amworth 1 Mr Urcombe was never fond of Mrs Amworth. 2 Everyone in Maxley learned the truth about Mrs 		 a with a secret medication that he invented b by giving her the blood of the young, healthy companions c by giving her a tonic that he made in his room
	Amworth. 3 Mrs Amworth's death made the villagers very happy.	8	What did Bella think about Dr Parravicini at first?
	 The Phantom Coach 4 Lawyer Murray was a single man. 5 The old scientist was hospitable to James. 		 a She knew he was a dangerous man. b She was irritated by his rude behaviour to her. c She thought he was a harmless person.
	6 He gave James a guide and a horse to go back to the village.	9	How did Marriott's friend Field die?
	 Good Lady Ducayne 		 a He had starved himself to death. b He got killed in an accident on the way to Marriott's house. c He shot himself in his family's house.
_	was from a poor family.Mr Stafford was sure that the scars on Bella's arms were not mosquito bites.	10	According to the promise that Marriott and Field had made years ago, the one who died first
	Keeping His Promise 10 Marriot did not know that his friend had died. 11 Marriot accidentally scratched his wrist while he was pulling the bed.		 a would show himself to the other one b would kill the other one c would send his spirit to live with the other one
_	12 Marriott didn't remember his promise until he saw the drop of blood on his wrist.	E	Which stories contain these elements? (Name 2 stories for each.) (5x2=10 pts)
D	Mark the correct answers. (10x3=30 pts)	1	mysterious illness associated with mosquito bites:
1	Who felt that Mrs Amworth was a vampire?	2	men interested in supernatural beings/events:
	a Mr Urcombeb Dr Rossc her gardener	3	young men studying medicine:
2	How did Mrs Amworth's husband die?	4	pain or wound on the arm:
-	a in an accident b due to poisoning c due to a vampiric epidemic	5	events that could be hallucinations:





PALLADIUM TOWER
Barbaros Mah. Kardelen Sk. No: 2 Kat: 22 34746 Ataşehir / İstanbul
Tel: 0850 288 35 00 • Faks: 0850 288 35 09
www.ydspublishing.com • info@ydspublishing.com