

# **Didactic** Project

BACHILLERATO & CICLOS FORMATIVOS DE GRADO MEDIO

# The Canterville Ghost





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#### 1. JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSAL

- Theatre as a tool for stimulating and encouraging the student to discover, learn and apply the language he/ she has learned.
- The plays present civic content and are also focused on an educational/student environment that will allow the students to identify with the values contained therein.
- The scripts, apart from allowing the play to be performed in the theatre thus creating the recreational
  and aesthetic aspect, also allow communicative functions, vocabulary and grammatical structures to
  be developed. These can be worked on beforehand in class using a series of worksheets to facilitate
  understanding of the plot and contribute to language learning. This didactic material is adjusted to the level
  of the students according to the objectives stipulated for the relevant level by the M.E.C.D.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES:

#### General:

- Listening to and understanding messages in a variety of verbal exchanges, using the information transmitted to complete tasks.
- Expressing oneself and interacting orally in simple and common situations, using verbal and non-verbal procedures and adopting a respectful attitude.
- Writing a variety of texts with different endings with the help of templates and models.
- Reading various texts in order to understand them, extracting general and with a pre-established goal.
- Valuing a foreign language as a mean of communication and understanding among people with different places of origin, culture and languages.
- Contributing to the student's knowledge of linguistic, geographic and cultural features of the country where the foreign language is spoken.
- Understanding that theatre is a source of pleasure and personal enrichment, thus fostering his/her interest
  in it.
- Fostering interest in participating in oral exchanges about routines and situations from daily life in the relevant foreign language.
- · Working on language prosody: aspects of phonetics, rhythm, accentuation and intonation.
- Familiarizing the student, from the start, with the plot and different characters in order to facilitate comprehension of the performance during the play.
- Developing two communicative functions per level, providing the student with all the syntactic, grammatical, lexical and phonetic knowledge that make up the relevant functions in order for the student to be able to grasp them.
- The four basic skills that each reader needs to control in order to communicate optimally will also be worked on: listening and reading comprehension (L.C.-R.C.) and written and oral expression (W.E.-O.E).



#### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### **Presentation of Material:**

The didactic worksheets included with the material, available to both students and teachers, are designed to be completed over four **60 minute sessions**. The idea behind this is that the worksheets should be integrated into the class routine, reinforcing or applying previously acquired knowledge or introducing new but simple content on languages for a certain level.

#### **Material Structure:**

The objective of the **second and third sessions** is to give the students the necessary hints in order for them to be able to watch the play without any comprehension problems on the day it is performed.

The **fourth session** will be focused on expression. After having seen it, the student will be allowed to express his/her opinion on the performance (comparing the play's actual ending with the ending he/she had previously imagined; comparing the behaviour of the actors with his/her own.



# **ACTIVITIES**

## **BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE**

		OBJECTIVES	COMPETENCIES
SESSION 1	Activity 1	Familiarisation with the plot.	• R.C. • W.E.
	Activity 2	Familiarisation with the characters.	• R.C. • W.E.
	Activity 3	Discriminating sounds.	• L.C. • W.E.
SESSION 2	Activity 1	Adjectives and antonyms.	• R.C. • W.C.
	Activity 2	Testing your Knowledge.	• W.E. • O.E.
	Activity 3	Grammar: Past Simple Passive	• W.E.
SESSION 3	Activity 1	Apologising.	• R.C.
	Activity 2	Vocabulary.	• W.E.
	Activity 3	Making hypothesis.	• W.E • L.C.



# AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

		OBJECTIVES	COMPETENCIES
SESSION 4	Activity 1	Verifying your hypotheses	• O.E.
	Activity 2	Describing the performance as a whole	• W.E.
	Activity 3	Role play	• L.C. • O.E.



#### APPROACH CHOSEN:

Although our main objectives are to foster interest in theatre and to help the student to grasp two new communicative functions, our approach is intended to be fun, visual and aimed at communication. In fact, on these worksheets, we can many activities presented as games and which also provide moments of fun in class. Finally, all sessions require the student to express him/herself, with activities focusing on situations from daily life or even acting. As such, the goal is to offer activities as an alternative to the class routine and to make learning a second language more attractive. All of this work is presented as project of the utmost interest: seeing a play in a foreign language.

#### **ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Before starting on the worksheets and the activities proposed therein, the students must have the play in order to go on to read it. Similarly, given that there are many activities requiring useful and modern resources, there must also be a CD player in the classroom for listening to the scenes and songs. All this material (play, CD, worksheets) is available on the following website: www.recursosweb.com

In the student section, the sessions are spread out over several worksheets. As such, it is advisable to make as many copies as there are students as soon as possible. As soon as the students have the worksheets, they will be able to complete them, following the instructions given for each exercise and with help from additional materials such as dictionaries and reference manuals in class.

In the teacher's section, you will find all the activities designed for the students as well as the answer key with all the correct answers for all the questions.

Each activity on the didactic worksheets is designed to train the four basic skills in foreign language acquisition: Listening Comprehension, Reading Comprehension, Written Expression and Oral Expression.

Through these skills, a range of vocabulary, grammatical structures and phonetic aspects are worked on in order to develop a series of communicative functions that we consider key for understanding the play as well for applying them to real situations.

In addition to the presence of the different basic skills, the sessions follow a sequential order. As such, it is important to complete each and every one of the sessions, from the introduction of the plot to the storyline and characters, culminating in the resolution of the play. Therefore, completing the didactic worksheets before going to see the play is necessary to reinforce the overall comprehension of the play and, at the same time, we create excitement and expectations that could very well be completely found upon leaving the theatre.





## **SESSION 1: Synopsis and Characters**

## **Activity 1: The Synopsis**



Read the synopsis of THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was a great irish poet and playwright. During his life he experimented with different literary genres that truly put him on the map. We can highlight his playwrights "Salomé" (1894) and "The Importance of being Earnest" (1895), "The Tale of the Canterville Ghost "(1888), and the "Picture of Dorian Gray" (1891), his only novel.

"The Canterville Ghost" is one of his most famous works. Showing a great sense of humour, Oscar Wilde puts face to face the practicality and the lack os roots of an american family with the traditional and deep love for the customs of the english.

Hiram and Lucrecia Otis are an American couple that decide together (1) with their children Virgina of sixteen years old and the twins Junior and Washington of thirteen, (2) to undertake a new life (3) in England. (4) Without listening (5) to the warnings, they decide to live (6) in the enchanted Canterville Castle, where it is said that the ghost of Sir Simon Canterville, the old owner, has haunted the place (7) since he killed his wife Eleanor three hundred years before.

(8) Once they settle down, start to happen strange incidents that jeopardise their peace, but the Otis family, (9) far from being frightened, decide to stand up the ghost and torment it. The sweet Virginia will be the only one that decides to help Sir Simon's ghost to be saved.



Choose between the correct **preposition** from the following options.

1.	a. of	b. with	c. since	d. to
2.	a. until	b. to	c. into	d. towards
3.	a. at	b. on	c. of	d. in
4.	a. without	b. since	c. on	d. within
<b>5</b> .	a. at	b. in	c. to	d. on
6.	a. in	b. at	c. on	d. to
7.	a. before	b. since	c. after	d. once
8.	a. once	b. in	c. until	d. beside
9.	a. over	b. far from	c. below	d. over





# SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

## **Activity 2: Getting to Know the Characters**



**Take a look!** The characters from The Canterville Ghost are introducing themselves. Can you help them? Read the extracts from the plot to deduce information and make up sentences for each character.

Here are some "Introducing" words to help you....

How do you do?
Let me introduce myself...
Pleased to me you
Hello there!
Good morning/afternoon/evening

#### About Mrs. Umney in the play:

Hello, I am Mrs. Umney	

MRS. UMNEY: I am Mrs. Umney, the housekeeper. Welcome to the village of Canterville."

**LUCRETIA:** That's a very unusual outfit you're wearing, Mrs... Eh... Jubbley...

MRS. UMNEY: The uniform of the housekeeper of Canterville Chase has remained unchanged

in over four hundred years.





## **SESSION 1: Synopsis and Characters**

GHOST: Do I frighten you!?

MRS. UMNEY: Yes! Oh, Yes!

GHOST: Are you sure?

MRS. UMNEY: Quite sure.

GHOST: Why?

MRS. UMNEY: You are terrible.

**VIRGINIA:** I am glad he has you here, but I still don't understand why you stay here.

MRS. UMNEY: This was my mother's position. And her mother's before. The Umneys have been

housekeepers here for centuries. It is our heritage. One day the Ghost may the pathway to his freedom. Until that day comes he is compelled to remain here

and frighten and disturb.

#### **About the Canterville Ghost in the play:**



**MRS. UMNEY:** Perhaps it is best if I explain properly: Sir Simon de Canterville murdered his wife and then disappeared in very mysterious circumstances. His body has never been found, but his guilty spirit still haunts the house. This is why we had such difficulty in finding occupants.

**GHOST:** Thank you. So why don't I frighten these stupid Yankees? This is a disaster! I am the Canterville Ghost! The most feared spirit in England! I have been attacked, battered and degraded, humiliated and mocked... More than any phantom could ever hold.

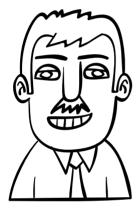
**GHOST:** In truth; I didn't mean to kill her at all. I loved her. But I was insanely jealous. I thought her heart was leading her to other men. Then on a dark night one winter, in the middle of a terrible fight, I struck her and she fell down the stairs to her death. Her brothers, intent on revenge, had me murdered and placed a curse on me and my spirit.





# SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

About Mr. and Mrs. Otis in the play:





LUCRETIA: [...] I am Lucretia Otis and this is my husband, Hiram. Oh! And these are

my babies!

HIRAM: She's right. Look! A stain! All the money I paid for this place and I get a great

red stain!

**LUCRETIA:** It's funny, isn't it dear? You made your fortune from stain cleaners and now

you've got a big stain!

LUCRETIA: The Ghost? In here? In our living room? I haven't even done my hair!

Slowly the door creaks open. Mist begins to fill the room. The Ghost

enters into the room trough the mist.

**HIRAM:** (Laughing hysterically) Bravo! Bravo! So, you are the dead guy, right?

Hiram and Lucretia laugh joyously at this comment. The Ghost is completely

shocked by this reaction.

**GHOST:** Thou darest laugh at me!





## **SESSION 1: Synopsis and Characters**

About Virginia in the play:	_
	1 1

**LUCRETIA:** And this is Virginia, I know she is not half as pretty as I am.... She can be a little

strange. You'll get used to that. Just ignore her, like I do.

VIRGINIA: Poor Ghost... Mrs. Umney... I feel sorry for the Ghost. My family has been

very cruel to him.

MRS. UMNEY: It's very unusual to hear someone taking the Ghost's side.

VIRGINIA: (Reading the writing on the wall) "When a gentle girl gives away her tears,

peace will come to Canterville Chase" I don't understand.

**GHOST:** It means that to escape the curse, a young girl must cry for my sins, because

I have no tears. She must then walk into the darkness, a darkness where she would hear and see terrible things, monstrous shapes, and hideous voices. There, surrounded by the horror, she must pray for me, for my soul. And then, if she has always been sweet and gentle, the Angel of Death will have mercy

upon me. And I will at last be free.





## **SESSION 1: Synopsis and Characters**

About the twins in the play:	

**JUNIOR:** We are not scared of any stupid ghost.

**WASHINGTON:** Yeah!!! You have no idea. **JUNIOR:** We are his worst nightmare!

**WASHINGTON:** This is gonna be awesome! A real live ghost to battle.

HIRAM: Oh! It's raining again. This weather is a disgrace. Any more rain and we'll

have to swim everywhere.

**JUNIOR:** I'm so bored with this place. It's so dull. It's so quiet. Now that the ghost is

leaving us alone, there's nothing to do.





# SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

# Activity 3: What can you hear?



**Listen** and answer the following questions:

Track 1

What is Mrs. Umneys job?  cleaner housekeeper babysitter igoverness
The uniform that Mrs. Umney wears has not been changed for:
<ul> <li>□ four hundred and years</li> <li>□ three hundred years</li> <li>□ years</li> <li>☑ four hundred years</li> </ul>
Lucrecia says her daughter Virginia:
<ul> <li>is as beautiful as her</li> <li>is not half beautiful as her</li> <li>is much uglier than her</li> <li>is as pretty as her brothers</li> </ul>
The curtains are
□ Persian □ Oriental □ Indian □ made of silk





## **SESSION 1: Synopsis and Characters**



#### Track 2

The blood spot belongs to:

- ☐ The Canterville Ghost
- ☐ Sir Simon
- ☐ Mrs. Umney

Mrs. Umney has not cleaned the spot:

- out of respect for Sir Simon
- decause it appears again
- because she is frightened about the consecuences
- ☐ to remember the crime

Mr. Otis cleans the spot using the cleaning product called:

- fthe best cleaner in the world
- infallible cleaner
- □ special blood cleaner
- Otis' Champion Stain Remover



#### Track 3

The Canterville ghost is:

- f the spirit of Sir Simon
- ☐ the spirit of Lady Eleanors
- ☐ Sir Simon's murderer
- ☐ The owner of the Canterville castle

Hiram believes that ghosts in the United States are:

- bigger than in Europe
- more fearsome than in Europe
- he is not sure about ghosts existing in the United States
- more fun than in Europe

The twins want:

- for to be the worst nightmare of the ghost
- to become the best friends of the ghost
- to hide from the ghost
- to learn from the ghost





## **SESSION 2: Understanding The Play**

## **Activity 1: Synonyms and antonyms**



Complete the box below:

ADJECTIVES	SYNONYMS	ANTONYMS
ORDINARY	normal, usual, conventional, regular,	strange
MISERABLE	worthless, inferior, poor, dreadful,	gorgeous
LOVELY	enchanting, charming, adorable	dreadful
KIND	benevolent, considerate, friendly,	feared
MARVELLOUS	fabulous, astonishing, spectacular,	terrible
UGLY	unsightly, hideous, bad-looking,	pretty



#### Complete the sentences below using the adjectives from the antonyms column:

- Oh, Hiram! This house is gorgeous! It's all so.... English!
- I know she is not half as pretty as I am
- There's a very strange mark here.
- She was murdered by her husband, Sir Simon de Canterville, whose portrait now looks down on his **dreadful** crime.
- This is a disaster! I am the Canterville Ghost! The **feared** spirit in England!
- There you would see such terrible things that it would make you lose your innocence.





## **SESSION 2: Understanding The Play**

## **Activity 2: Two Different cultures**



Listen to TRACK 7 (Scene 3) of THE CANTERVILLE GHOST.



Say if the following sentences belong to EEUU or England

- The 4 of July is the national day commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. (England / EEUU).
- Many people say it is the land of opportunity. (England / EEUU)
- It is composed of different islands. (England / EEUU)
- The currency is the pound. (England / EEUU)
- Alaska is the biggest state of the country. (England / EEUU)
- Its capital is London. (England / EEUU)
- It has a population of over 300.000.000 inhabitants. (England / EEUU)
- It's a constitutional monarchy. (England / EEUU)
- Saint George is the patron saint. (<u>England</u> / EEUU)

Do you know what a cliché is? Search for American and English culture clichés and write down some examples:

AMERICAN CULTURE CLICHÉS:			
English culture clichés:			



Do you believe in clichés? Discuss in the classroom in two groups .





# SESSION 2: Understanding The Play

## **Activity 3: Past Simple Passive**



Change these sentences in the same way from Active to Passive. Use was or were + the past participe.

· Sir Simon killed Eleanor.

Ex. Eleanor was killed by Sir Simon.

· Hiram cleaned the blood spot.

The blood spot was cleaned by Hiram.

• Mrs. Umney served the typical English breakfast.

The typical English breakfast was served by Mrs. Umney.

· Lucretia Otis scold Virginia for being late for the dinner.

Virginia was scolded for being late for the dinner.

• The twins tormented the poor ghost of Sir Simon.

The poor ghost of Sir Simon was tormented by the twins.

• The ghost frightened Mrs. Umney.

Mrs. Umney was frightened by the ghost.





#### **SESSION 3: THE ENDING**

## **Activity 1: Apologising**



Listen to TRACK 10 (Scene 3)

**VIRGINIA**: But can't someone help you?

GHOST: No. I am condemned to stay here forever.VIRGINIA: Why? Is there a curse or something?GHOST: A curse that will never be broken.

VIRGINIA: I'm someone who wants to help. I want to help.

**GHOST:** I am beyond help.

VIRGINIA: Won't you just explain the curse to me? Does it have something to do with you

murdering your wife?

**GHOST:** That is purely a family matter and concerns no one else. **VIRGINIA:** It concerns many people. It's very bad to kill anyone!

**GHOST:** In fact I did not kill her, how was I gonna kill her? I loved her so much... One day,

after going hunting, I found her dead body on the stairs. Apparently she fell off an there was no one around to help here... I was not there for her... something I'll never forgive myself. As I was crying and cursing myself beside her body, her brothers arrived, whom knew I once had been a violent and cruel man... They assumed that I killed her and never listened to my explanations. Her brothers,

intenet on revenge, had me murdered and placed a curse on my spririt.

**VIRGINIA:** How did they murder you? **GHOST:** They starved me to death.

VIRGINIA: Really? Geee... Are you hungry? I could get you a hot dog!

Imagine you are the Canterville ghost. Write some sentences to Eleanor, showing deep regret from the damage caused. Here are some clues to help you:

<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>
<ul><li>there's no excuse for</li><li>to beg for mercy</li><li>to beg pardon</li></ul>	- to be sorry - to forgive - to apologise

Dear Eleanor,





# **SESSION 3: THE ENDING**

# **Activity 2: The Curse**



Take a look!

« When a gentle girl gives away her tears, peace will come to Canterville Ghost. »

Complete the box bellow using the same structure as above to express cause-effect :

as soon as	As soon as we know anything, we will phone you.
as long as	
whenever	
while	
now that	
after	
once	
when	





## **SESSION 3: THE ENDING**

# **Activity 3: Towards The End**



Listen to TRACK 14.

Write a few lines about what you think is going to happen.






# **SESSION 4: Express Yourself!**

## **Activity 1: The End of the Play And Your Impressions**



Now you have seen *THE CANTERVILLE GHOST*. Was it how you imagined it to be? Compare the real thing with what you imagined the play to be.

Look back at Activity 3 in Session 3 when you acted out scenes from the play in groups. Which version did you prefer - your performance or the actors' performance in the play?

I prefer my ending / the real ending / my interpretation of the characters / the actor's interpretation because.......

..more (+)...

- original
- entertaining
- boring
  - interesting
- dynamic
- emotive
- creative
- realistic

..it was...





# **SESSION 4: Express Yourself!**

## **Activity 2: Value the Play**

Did you enjoy THE CANTERVILLE GHOST? What did you think?

**Theatrical criticism.** To be able to analyze a show you should think about several things:

- General evaluation of the show.
- Plot.
- Topic.
- Message.
- Acting.
- Adaptation.
- Scenography.
- Dressing.
- Atmosphere.
- Music.

	Write a sentence for each:		
Use verbs such as "to like";" to love", "to enjoy".			
	Use verbs such as "to hate"; to prefer to».	ر	
-			
-			
-			
-			
-			





# **SESSION 4: Express Yourself!**

## **Activity 3: Role Plays**



Here are three extracts from the play. Choose one to act out in groups.

Extract One (Track 4):

Lucretia: I hope this place will keep the kids busy.

HIRAM: Maybe they'll love it. We could end up buying the house.

LUCRETIA: We could buy the whole country if we wanted to.

HIRAM: It will be good for Virginia too. A chance to really find herself.

Lucretia: Find herself?! You would need a road map and Indiana Jones!

(After a few moments we hear a strange noise coming from outside the door.)

Lucretia: Hiram? Hiram! What's that noise?

HIRAM: I don't know it sounds like it might be the ghost...

The Ghost? In here? In our living room? I haven't even done my hair!

(Slowly the door creaks open. Mist begins to fill the room. The Ghost enters into the room trough the mist.)

HIRAM: (Laughing hysterically.) Bravo! Bravo! So, you are the dead guy, right?

(Hiram and Lucretia laugh joyously at this comment. The Ghost is completely shocked by this reaction.)

GHOST: Thou darest laugh at me! (There is no reaction from Hiram apart from a wide smile.)

GHOST: I'm sorry, I don't speak French. Anyway I'm Hiram Otis, the new resident of Canterville

HIRAM: Chase. And this is my wife, Lucretia.

LUCRETIA: Hi there!

HIRAM: (Pushing the ghost out of the room.) Listen, I know it's the first time we've met and all

that, I mean we are on holiday here, right? We need to sleep and relax, ok? So I've gotta

insist you do something about those annoying chain noises.

**G**ноsт: My what?

HIRAM: The chains. Too loud.

Lucretia: They are so uncool.

HIRAM: But we've got the solution: This is the "Otis' Champion Chain Lubricator," a fine product

that will lubricate your chains in a matter of seconds!: Jingle Otis Champion Chain

Lubricator





## **SESSION 4: Express Yourself!**



Mrs. Umney: (Opens the door.) Hello! Mr Otis and family?

LUCRETIA: Oh, Hiram! This house is gorgeous! It's all so.... English!

HIRAM: Yep. Are you Umney?

Mrs. Umney: I am Mrs. Umney, the housekeeper. Welcome to the village of Canterville.

Lucretia: That's a very unusual outfit you're wearing, Mrs.... Eh..... Jubbley....

MRS. UMNEY: The uniform of the housekeeper of Canterville Chase has remained unchanged in over

four hundred years.

Lucretia: Really? Well, I hope you've had it cleaned! (She laughs) I am Lucretia Otis and this is my

husband, Hiram.

Mrs. Umney: A pleasure to meet you.

Lucretia: Oh! And these are my babies. (Looking around)! For God's sake! Where are they?

Twins (off): We are coming now, we are playing in the garden. Yeah just playing...

LUCRETIA: And this is Virginia, I know she is not half as pretty as I am.... She can be a little strange.

You'll get used to that. Just ignore her, like I do.





## **SESSION 4: Express Yourself!**



Extract Three (Track 12):

(The living room. A Sunny afternoon. Lucretia is reading a British magazine.)

Lucretia: (Reading a magazine.) Oh my God! Look at these people! They are so pale! The Royal

Family should travel to California at least once a year...The Queen of England looks like a

ghost.

MRS. UMNEY: Please, show a little respect for the Queen of England! God Save the Queen!

Lucretia: I didn't mean to offend you, but who dresses this lady?

Mrs. Umney: Fortunately, not the same designer that dresses you.

Lucretia: This magazine is ridiculous! (Talking to Hiram.) Hiram! I want to read People magazine! I

wonder what's happened to Justin Bieber this week?

**HIRAM:** Honey! I can go to the city and get it for you after my cricket match.

Lucretia: You call that a city? Three squalid little houses and a greasy pub? My God! I need to go to

the mall. I want to go to my beauty therapist! I mean, look at my nails... Hiram! Hiram! Are

you listening to me? I'm talking to you!

HIRAM: Just a second, pumpkin! I'm learning how to play cricket.

Lucretia: What? Croquet? What is all that croquet nonsense?

MRS. UMNEY: Cricket, Mrs. Otis, Cricket! Cricket is an English sport for gentlemen that consists of a ball

and a bat. It is played by two teams of eleven players each on a grass field, somewhat oval-shaped, smaller in size to that of a football field. In the middle of the field there is a flat

rectangular area called the pitch... (We hear the sound of broken glass.) And no

windows should be broken in the process.

LUCRETIA: Do you play cricket Mrs. Umney?

MRS. UMNEY: Not any more, madam, not at my age.

Lucretia: Why? Do they make you retire at 90?

Mrs. Umney: I'll be inside.

#### **OTHER SHOWS**

#### **Bachillerato & Ciclos Formativos de Grado Medio**

Be Cool (In English)
Les misérables (En Français)
Entremeses
Tres sombreros de copa

## The Canterville Ghost

Didactic Project elaborated by Amalia Guerreiro Iglesias





Only our American family would buy an old English mansion with its very own ghost included, and what's more, a ghost who cannot bear being made a fool of. The most ingenious of Oscar Wilde's satires, adapted to your students' level. The perfect comedy for bringing a paranormal touch to your English classes. You will love the adaptation we have prepared of this universal literary classic.

