

Do you believe in ghosts?

1. Look at the pictures and name the creatures. Then, discuss the questions.

- What do you know about the creatures in the pictures?
- Can these creatures be considered supernatural? Who/What might be included in this group?
- Why do people believe in supernatural things?

2. Read about five supernatural creatures and match the descriptions with the names of creatures in the boxes. There are two creatures you do not need to use.

fairy

genie

ghost

mermaid

unicorn

vampire

werewolf

- A. These small magical creatures are often found in forests. They **reveal themselves** only to those who believe in magic and can sometimes cause trouble. They seem to **emerge out of nowhere**, spreading their magical dust.
- B. These mysterious beings **lurk** beneath the waves and lead sailors to traps with their beautiful songs. Even though they are famous for looking stunningly beautiful, actually seeing one of them can **make your blood run cold**.
- C. These creatures are immortal beings that feed on the blood of the living. They often hide **in plain sight** until they show their true nature at night when attacking their victims. They can be repelled by the smell of garlic or killed with a wooden stick through their chest.
- D. These magical beings can **grant wishes** when released from their lamps. They appear in a cloud of smoke, offering to change the fate of whoever sets them free. But be careful: every wish comes at a price.
- E. These are spirits of the dead that sometimes **haunt** a house or another location. They might make their presence known by making strange noises or moving objects, only to **vanish into thin air** when someone tries to confront them.

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3. Match the definitions with the words and phrases in bold in ex. 2.

1. appear in a place repeatedly, usually with evil intent
2. suddenly appear without warning
3. wait or move secretly, often with bad intentions or before an attack
4. disappear completely and suddenly
5. appear after being hidden
6. make someone's desires come true, often magically
7. in a place where people can clearly see
8. cause someone to feel extremely scared or shocked

4. Correct the mistakes in the words and phrases in bold.

In *The Canterville Ghost* by Oscar Wilde, Sir Simon's spirit **hunts** a house, attempting to scare the unshakable Otis family. He frequently **submerges out of nowhere**, clangs his chains **in plane sight** and **learns** in the dark hallways, waiting for the right moment to **make their blood walk cold**, but his efforts only lead to comic situations. After repeated failures, he **vanishes into thick air**, frustrated by his inability to scare them. Later, he **relieves himself** to Virginia Otis, sharing his sad story. While the girl can't **grand** the ghost's **wish** and make him scary, Virginia shows compassion, helping Sir Simon to finally find peace.

5. Discuss the questions.

- Have you read *The Canterville Ghost* by Oscar Wilde, or seen its TV adaptation?
- What other books, films or TV shows about supernatural creatures have you read or seen? What did you think of them?
- What's the scariest supernatural film or book you've ever seen or read? What made it so frightening?
- What do you think makes supernatural stories popular?
- Do you think the popularity of supernatural stories has changed over time? Are they more or less popular now than in the past?
- How do such shows and films influence our beliefs or fears about supernatural creatures?



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6. Think of something for each category.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| A. animal | F. supernatural creature |
| B. famous dead person | G. time of the day |
| C. famous slogan | H. verb phrase for an activity (e.g. take a walk, read a book) |
| D. household object | |
| E. indoor place | |

7. Complete the text with the words and phrases you prepared according to the category.

It was a dark and stormy night when Sarah decided to investigate the mysterious **[indoor place]** together with her old **[animal]**. She heard that the ghost of **[famous dead person]** who lived there long ago haunted the place.

As she stepped inside, shadows seemed to lurk in every corner, making her blood run cold. Suddenly, the ghost of **[famous dead person]** emerged out of nowhere shouting, '**[famous slogan]**'. It promised to grant Sarah's wishes, but only if Sarah stayed in the **[indoor place]** until **[time of the day]** to discover its secret. Sarah thought it would have been nice to **[verb phrase for an activity]** more often.

Just as she was thinking, other **[supernatural creatures]** revealed themselves to her, warning her that the **[indoor place]** would remain haunted until she discovered this secret.

Determined to solve the mystery, Sarah searched everywhere. After a long search, she found **[household object]** hidden in plain sight. The moment she smashed it, the ghost and the **[supernatural creatures]** vanished into thin air, and the place fell silent.

The curse was finally broken, and so was the ghost's promise.

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8. Decide how these points might explain why people claim they saw a ghost. Then, suggest one or two more reasons for such a claim.

- A. prior knowledge that the place is or might be haunted
- B. stress or extreme conditions
- C. sleep paralysis
- D. mould

9. Watch a **video** [<https://youtu.be/XqH8t-N1aTo>] (to 02:42) and say which point in ex. 8 best summarises its main idea.

10. Complete the sentences with what you remember from the video. Then, watch part of the **video** (from 00:44 to 02:23) again and check your answers.

- A. When Jenny Parker woke up one night and couldn't move, she saw _____

- B. Professors Alice Gregory and Chris French say that sleep paralysis involves _____

- C. When Jenny Parker learned about the scientific explanation of her visions, she _____

- D. To prevent sleep paralysis, experts recommend _____

11. Discuss the questions.

- Have you heard of any similar cases like the story of the woman in the video? Give more details.
- Have you ever experienced something you couldn't explain? What happened?
- Do people ever lie about seeing supernatural things? Why?
- Why do people respond to supernatural phenomena differently (e.g. some are scared while others are excited)?
- Would you ever visit a place known for supernatural events, like the Bermuda Triangle or a haunted house? What would you expect to happen?

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Read the interview with someone who spent a night in a haunted house and complete the phrases in the answers. The first letters are provided. Then, complete the interviewer's questions.

Interviewer: Welcome, Alex. I hear you recently spent a night in a haunted house.

_____?

Alex: Oh, definitely. At one point, I saw a figure that seemed to e_____ o_____ o_____ n_____ in the hallway. It was so sudden and unexpected – it really m_____ m_____ b_____ r_____ c_____.

Interviewer: That sounds terrifying! _____?

Alex: Of course! There were moments when I felt like something was l_____ just next to me. And there were times when objects seemed to move. I was petrified, so it was hard to tell if it was my imagination or if something supernatural was happening i_____ p_____ s_____.

Interviewer: Fascinating! So, _____?

Alex: I think so! There was a chilling moment when a spirit seemed to r_____ itself to me. It was a pale figure that appeared for just a moment before it v_____ i_____ t_____ a_____. I could hardly believe my eyes.

Interviewer: _____?

Alex: It disappeared so quickly that I didn't have a chance to. But If I tried to communicate with ghosts again, or still better, genies, I would ask them to g_____ m_____ w_____. It could be good fun, you know.

Interviewer: Thanks for sharing your experience, Alex.