

1. Haunted house

This week's lesson is about Borley Rectory, a supposedly haunted residence which burnt down in 1939. Ghost hunter Harry Price wrote two books about Borley Rectory, *The Most Haunted House in England* (1940) and *The End of Borley Rectory* (1946).

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Start the lesson by asking your students whether they believe in ghosts. Ask if anyone knows any ghost stories that they would like to share with the class.
2. Divide the class into Group A and Group B. Give one copy of Worksheet A to each student in Group A and one copy of Worksheet B to each student in Group B.
3. Tell your students they are going to read a ghost story. They have the same text, but there is some information missing from each worksheet. Explain that they are going to ask a member of the other group some questions to help them complete the text, but first they need to prepare the questions.
4. Ask the students to work together in their group to prepare and write down the questions they need to ask to complete the text. (If your students need help with this, see the list of suggested questions on the following page.)
5. When all the students have prepared their questions, ask them to work in pairs with a student from the other group. They should take it in turns to ask and answer the questions they have prepared and write the answer in the space in their text.
6. When both students have finished asking and answering, allow them to compare worksheets.
7. Check answers in open class.

Suggested questions:

1. When was it (Borley Rectory) built?
2. Who built it / Who was it built by?
3. What destroyed it / What was it destroyed by?
4. When was it destroyed?
5. Who had been murdered there (according to legend)?
6. What had people heard coming from the cellar?
7. What did they (Reverend Guy Smith and his wife) report (after moving into the property)?
8. What did they (Reverend Guy Smith and his wife) ask for?
9. Who answered the request / Who was the request answered by?
10. What was Harry Price / What did Harry Price do?
11. Where was Marianne hit?
12. How long did the Foysters stay for?
13. How many paranormal events happened (during the Foysters' residence)?
14. Why did they (Harry Price and forty volunteers) lease the house for a year?
15. What did he (the new owner) knock over?
16. What (kind of bones) were found buried under the cellar?

Answers:

1. 1863 2. Henry Bull 3. fire 4. 1939 5. a nun 6. cries 7. whispers
8. help 9. Harry Price 10. ghost hunter 11. face 12. five years
13. two thousand 14. experiments 15. an oil lamp 16. a young woman

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://www.harrypricewebsite.co.uk/base_room.htm

A website dedicated to Harry Price, the 'psychical researcher' from the early twentieth century who lived in Borley Rectory for a year and wrote several books about his research there. Challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://www.ghost-story.co.uk/stories/borleyrectory1975bbcinterview.html>

A BBC video clip from 1975 about the Borley Rectory legend. Challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://www.parascience.org.uk/investigations/borley/borley.htm>

Modern ghost hunters still visit the Borley Rectory site, as shown in this 2006 report from a group called 'Para.Science'. Challenging for Intermediate level.