Room 13 and Other Ghost Stories
M. R. James

A Before Reading

1 This is a book of ghost stories. Look at the pictures in the book. Choose the most interesting picture.
(a) Describe the picture.
(b) What is happening in the picture?

2 Here are the titles of the stories.
   Room 13
   The Whistle
   The Message of Death
   The Maze
   The Lost Crowns of Anglia
(a) Which title is the most frightening?
(b) Write the first six sentences of one of the stories.

B After Reading Each of the Stories

ROOM 13

3 No one was able to read the writing on the papers. It was in a strange language. The writing was brown. The ink looked old. But Anderson did not think it was ink. He thought the papers were written in blood! You can read this strange language. What things do you think Nicolas Francken wrote about? Write a list of six things.

THE WHISTLE

4 Colonel Wilson keeps a diary. He writes about three days (and one night). He does not know the same things that Professor Parkins knows. Here is the beginning of the Colonel's diary. Write the rest of the Colonel's diary.
C  After Reading All the Stories

8  Look at Room 13 again. Make some of Nicolas Francken's papers. You can write in English. But remember that the papers are very old. (Use your answer to question 3 to help you.)

9  Write your own ghost story. Choose one of these endings for your story.
   (a) That was the most frightening night of my life. I am lucky to be alive! I will never go near the old house again.
   (b) Many people searched near the beach. Nobody ever found the body of Matthew Stonewall. But sometimes people hear the sound of screaming. And sometimes people see a strange dark shape walking along the beach.

Tales of Horror by Bram Stoker and Frankenstein by Mary Shelley are two more frightening Elementary Level Readers. Enjoy them!

Macmillan Readers

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