

The Ghost

Robert Harris

A Before Reading

- 1 The story takes place both in Britain and the United States. The following are all mentioned in the book. Decide if they are connected with Britain or the United States and write them in the correct column.

Cambridge University Downing Street Grand Central Parkway Harvard University
 Heathrow Airport LaGuardia Airport New Labour Oxford Circus The president
 The prime minister The White House Yale University

Britain	The United States

- 2 a The following acronyms appear in the book. Do you know what they stand for?

BBC _____ FBI _____
 CIA _____ MI5 _____
 MP _____ SUV _____

- b Write the names of any other commonly used acronyms in English you know.

3 The book is about the writing of a political memoir. Look at the following words from the book and decide if they are connected with politics or with writing/books and write them in the correct column.

autobiography bestseller campaign candidate chapter constituency election
ghostwriter manuscript minister parliament party publish

Politics	Writing/Books

B While Reading

4 Imagine that a news reporter outside the house in Martha's Vineyard is interviewing one of the demonstrators against Lang. Imagine the demonstrator's answers to the following questions from the interviewer.



Why are you here protesting against Adam Lang?

Why do you consider him to be a war criminal and a liar?

What evidence is there against Adam Lang?

What do you want Adam Lang to do?

- 5 a There are many deaths in the book. As you read, keep a record of who dies and how.

Who?	How?
<i>Michael McAra</i>	

- b 'So he travels abroad and drives around in a bomb-proof car with armed bodyguards, making lots of money from lecturing, whilst the rest of us are left here to be attacked by terrorists. And all because of the stupid decisions he made when he was prime minister.' (p.10)

Do you agree with Kate's opinion? To what extent did Lang's own behaviour lead to his death?

C After Reading

- 6 Write a British newspaper article reporting the death of Adam Lang in a suicide bombing. Mention:
- how and where he was killed.
 - details of the suicide bomber.
 - why Lang was already in the news at that time.
 - reaction to the news of the death of Lang.

Adam Lang killed in suicide bombing

- 7 a What do you think makes a good politician? Decide if the following are important or not.

A good politician should ...	Yes	No	It depends
be good at acting.			
always tell the truth.			
be prepared to take difficult or unpopular decisions.			
have a supportive family.			
be prepared to lose his/her privacy.			
be a good speaker.			
make people like him/her.			
not change his/her mind.			
not be interested in making money.			
want power.			
want to improve the world.			

- b Write a paragraph explaining your choices above and adding any other qualities you think are important. Include a comment on whether you think Adam Lang had the qualities of a good politician.

- c 'But actors can't change things, only politicians can do that.' (p.27)

Do you agree with the quotation? Which three jobs/professions do you think give people the most power to change things in the world? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.