

THOUGHTFUL READING



**Пособие по развитию навыков чтения на материале
адаптированной литературы**

**Автор - Сипакова И.Н. , зав. кафедрой иностранных языков
Педагогического института СГУ**

САРАТОВ 2011

Данное пособие предназначено для студентов второго курса педагогических специальностей, изучающих английский язык в качестве дополнительной специальности. Целью пособия является развитие и совершенствование навыков изучающего и аналитического чтения на материале адаптированной художественной литературы. Данный вариант адаптации произведения О. Уайльда «Кантервильское привидение» (**The Canterville Ghost. 3rd level . Adapted from Oscar Wilde’s story**) выбран по нескольким основаниям. Ведущим соображением являлось его соответствие уровню языковой компетенции студентов. Немаловажно и то, что адаптация осуществлена носителем языка. При всей ограниченности языковых средств автору пересказа удалось сохранить атмосферу произведения, что и позволяет использовать его в качестве пособия для развития начальных навыков аналитического чтения. Наличие саундтрека к пересказу облегчает работу студентов над технической стороной чтения. Наконец, по окончании работы над адаптированным произведением имеется возможность сравнения его с оригиналом. Это позволяет студентам, с одной стороны, нагляднее выявить палитру языковых средств, используемых О.Уайльдом и, с другой стороны, уяснить некоторые приёмы, используемые для адаптации текста, что поможет развить их методические компетенции.

Пособие состоит из семи разделов, включающих в себя задания по лексике и грамматике и вопросы к содержательной стороне произведения, побуждающие студента обращаться не только к фактической стороне произведения, но и анализировать его смысл. В Приложении приводятся адреса веб-сайтов, на которых студенты могут познакомиться с биографией писателя и его знаменитыми парадоксами, а также отрывки из оригинала произведения для сопоставительного анализа.

CONTENTS

Section 1.....	pp.3,4
Section 2.....	pp. 4,5
Section 3.....	pp.5,6
Section 4.....	pp.6,7
Section 5.....	pp.7,8
Section 6.....	pp.8,9
Section 7.....	pp.9,10
Topics for presentations	p. 11
Appendix	pp.11-15

THE CANTERVILLE GHOST

Section 1. Pages 4, 5

Vocabulary and Grammar exercises

1. Point out all the instances of using Present Perfect. Explain the reasons for it.
2. Write out the irregular verbs and use them in the sentences of your own.
3. Learn the spelling of the proper names from this part of the text.
4. Explain the use of “either” in the sentence “And you haven’t seen this ghost either”.
5. Write out the pronouns and refer them to the following groups:
personal, objective, possessive, indefinite, interrogative, relative.
6. Turn direct speech used in this extract into indirect.
7. Find out the functional part-of –speech difference between “frighten” and “afraid”.
8. What are the most frequently used verbs in the extract?
9. Give antonyms or antonymous expressions for the following words: rich, come, work, want, large, old, find, ill, night, buy, as well, remember, good-looking, lovely, take, countryside, west, outside, darken, fall, front, black,
10. Define the “–ed form” in the sentence “Then they rode to the house in a wagon pulled by two horses”.

Discussion of the text

1. Who’s the author of the story? Have you read it in Russian? What other works by Oscar Wilde do you know?
2. Prepare a short outline of Oscar Wilde’s literary work.
3. Which characters of the story are mentioned in this part of the text? Name them in order of appearance.
4. Describe each of the characters using the text.
5. Why did Lord Canterville want to sell the Canterville Chase?
6. How did Mr. Otis explain that ghosts didn’t exist?

7. What was the weather like when the Otises came to the Canterville Chase?
8. What part does a weather description usually play in fiction? Give examples either from Russian or from English literature.
9. What stereotypes referring to traditional England can you observe in this part of narration?
10. What stereotypes referring to Americans can you observe in this part of narration?

Section 2. Pages 6, 7

Vocabulary and Grammar exercises

1. Point out the words and expressions describing nasty weather.
2. Give a singular form of the noun “bookshelves”. Give other examples of words with the similar way of forming plural.
3. Make up sentences of your own with *look at, look around, look for, look after, look like*.
4. Define the meaning of the prefix –re in “reappeared”. Give similar examples.
5. Give names of the things you use while laying a tea table besides cups and a pot of tea.
6. Find two instances of Passive Voice on page 6. How do they differ?
7. Turn direct speech used in this extract into indirect.
8. Give antonyms and antonymous expressions for the following: heavily, floor, remove, nonsense, later, clean, anything, stand up, continue, strange, lock.
9. Find the sentences (page 7) in which “clean” belongs to different parts of speech. Give other examples of conversion.
10. State different functions of “to” and “by” in the sentences on pages 6, 7.

Discussion of the text

1. Render the legend about the blood stain in the library.
2. What did Washington Otis want to do with this blood stain?
3. Comment on the name of the Stain Remover.
4. Why did another thunderstorm happen?
5. Mrs Umny fainted. Why? What did the author imply by this?
6. In what literary genres are natural phenomena a bit overused as omens of fate?
7. Think of the literary allusions connected with this part of the text.
8. How does the author show the common sense and practicability of all the Otises?
9. Give examples of the Otises being democratic towards Mrs Umny.
10. Can you give examples of the author's irony (pp.4-7).

Section 3. Pages 8, 9

Vocabulary and Grammar exercises

1. Point out all the instances of using Past Perfect. Explain the reasons for it.
2. Is there a difference between “surprised” and “amazed”?
3. Is there a difference between “went back” and “walked back”?
4. Give your own examples with the expressions “walked around” and “walked back”.
5. Give antonyms and antonymous expressions for the following: upstairs, long, strange, hungry, through, open, old-fashioned, end, laugh, secret, upset.
6. Give synonyms and synonymous expressions for: terrible, surprised, turn, want, decide.
7. State the meaning of the prefix in “unhappy”. Give similar examples.
8. Turn direct speech used in this extract into indirect.
9. Compare and comment on the difference of grammar structures in “**There was** a strange noise outside the room” and “The sound **was** like metal chains”.
10. Write out adverbs from this extract and use them in the sentences of your own.

Discussion of the text

1. Comment on Washington Otis' words "I don't think Pinkerton's stain remover is bad. I think there really is a ghost."
2. What made the Otises believe the ghost really existed?
3. What was the main reason of Mr Otis's wish to find the ghost?
4. Comment on the sentence "Mr Otis woke up after **midnight**".
5. Describe the way the Canterville Ghost looked.
6. How did the Ghost use to frighten people?
7. What kind of reaction do you expect from a person seeing a ghost? Did Mr Otis behave as people were supposed to under such circumstances? What about the twins?
8. What is the difference between "Dear sir" and "My dear sir". Which is formal and which is a bit familiar?
9. Comment on the phrase "Mr Otis put a bottle of oil **on a table in the corridor**". Does it add to the general "matter-of- fact" Otises' attitude towards the Ghost?
10. What linguistic means did the author use to describe the scene more vividly? (attributes, modifiers, exclamations, etc.)

Section 4. Pages 10, 11

Vocabulary and Grammar exercises

1. Turn direct speech used in this extract into indirect.
2. Give synonyms and synonymous expressions for: every, shout, sad, terrible, hold, suit, hurt, finish, next to.
3. Give antonyms and antonymous expressions for the following: reappear, disappear, silent, sad, fall, over, angrily, put on.

4. State the meaning of the suffix in “unhappy”. Give your own examples.
5. Give other words which go with **ache**: stomach ache ...,
6. Make up your own sentences beginning with “One morning ...Another morning...”
7. Name the colours you know. Try to use less trivial, e.g. beige, etc.
8. State the meaning of “made” in “The blood stain made her feel sad”. Give similar examples.
9. Give your examples with the Objective-with –the Infinitive construction, e.g. “...they heard him laugh”. (p. 11).
10. Compare and state the difference between “He gave a loud shout” and “He shouted”. Give similar examples with smoke, drink, look.

Discussion of the text

1. What was so funny for the Otises about the blood stain?
2. Why was Virginia the only one to feel sorry for the Ghost?
3. Describe the second appearance of the Ghost. Was it intended to be more impressive than the first one? Why?
4. Why was this reappearance a failure?
5. What did the Ghost do to make up after his failure with the suit of armour?
6. How did the Otises go through that event? Describe how each of them behaved.
7. Who was the most helpful of the Otises towards the ghost?
8. Why didn't the Ghost take the patented medication from Mrs Otis?

Section 5. Pages 12, 13

Vocabulary and Grammar exercises

1. Turn direct speech used in this extract into indirect.
2. Give synonyms and synonymous expressions for: to visit, problem, as well, suddenly, at the moment, again, terrifying, soaked with water.

3. Give antonyms and antonymous expressions for the following: dark, climb up, better, there, round, top.
4. Make up your own sentences beginning with “What could ...?”
5. Give your examples of “feel + adjective”: feel weak ...,
6. State the meaning of “true” in “THE OTIS GHOST, THE ONLY TRUE”.
(p.13). Give the other meanings of this word.
7. Write down all the phrasal verbs out of this extract like “took off”(p.13).
8. Write down all the infinitives out of the extract and state their function, e.g. The twins had put the head in the corridor **to frighten** him (обстоятельство цели).
9. Give your own examples of comparisons built according to the model “He planned to make his face **as horrible as possible**”.
10. Paraphrase the extract on the part of the twins.

Discussion of the text

1. What kind of problem did the ghost have?
2. What happened to the colour of the blood stain? Did it demonstrate the absurdness of the situation?
3. How did the ghost plan to frighten the twins? Which means was brand new?
4. How did it happen that the Ghost was frightened by a ghost?
5. Comment on the card the twins had invented for THEIR ghost.
6. What were the signs of the Canterville Ghost’s weakness?
7. “It was one o’clock in the morning”. (p.13). Will Russians call the same hour “morning”? Why did the Ghost choose exactly that time?
8. Comment on the tricks the twins played on the Ghost.

Vocabulary and Grammar exercises

1. Turn direct speech used in this extract into indirect.
2. Give synonyms and synonymous expressions for: trick, soaked, nearest, tin, also, come in, long, wicked, reply, rude.
3. Give antonyms and antonymous expressions for the following: unhappy, run, nearest, quietly, kind, wife, hope.
4. Make up your own sentences beginning with “Can’t you ...?”
5. Make up a situation ending with “Leave him alone!” (p.14).
6. Analyze the usage of “was” in the following sentence (p.15): He was looking at the library window which was made of glass”.
7. Translate the sentence “But you **did** try to frighten them.” Why is the auxiliary verb used contrary to the rule? Build up your own examples of the emphasis in Past Simple.
8. How did Ghost’s appearance change? (p.15).

Discussion of the text

1. Comment on the “Starve to death” against “Would you like a sandwich?” What’s the difference?
2. What kind of tricks did the twins prepare for the Ghost?
3. How did the Ghost explain Virginia why he had tried to frighten their family?
4. Prove that Virginia was very loyal to her family.
5. Why was the blood differently coloured each time?
6. Why couldn’t the Ghost sleep?
7. What means are used in this extract to create humorous effect?

Section 7. Pages 16, 17, 18

Vocabulary and Grammar exercises

1. Turn direct speech used in this extract into indirect.

2. Give synonyms and synonymous expressions for: old, thick, weep, at last, earth, search, worry, too, strange, search, none.
3. Give antonyms and antonymous expressions for the following: sweet, stronger, death, deep, worry, late, kind, set.
4. Make up your own sentences ending with **all night long** or **all day long**.
5. Give your examples of the sentences with “have to” in the modal meaning “What do I have to do?” (p. 17).
6. Give you examples of the construction “His lips were cold like, but they burned like fire.”
7. Virginia walked into the darkness (p.17). Define the meaning of the suffix –ness. Give similar examples.
8. “Mr Otis went to tell the village policeman ...” (p.17). What part of speech is “village” being an attribute? Give similar examples.

Discussion of the text

1. Render the description of a magic garden by the Ghost.
2. Compare the adapted and original versions of the Magic Garden description. What linguistic means are employed?
3. Is Virginia’s response to this description somewhat predictable?
4. Translate the verse written on the window into Russian. Try to follow its rhythm.
5. Describe the way Virginia and the Ghost left the Chase. Use as many attributes as are used in the extract.
6. What was done to find Virginia?
7. Can you draw any parallels concerning the need for eternal sleep or rest in other literary works?
8. Paraphrase the whole story on the part of Virginia.
9. Paraphrase the whole text on the part of Mr Otis.
10. Paraphrase the whole text on the part of the Ghost.

TOPICS FOR END OF THE TERM PRESENTATIONS

Oscar Wilde's Literary Work

Irony in O.Wilde's books. Paradoxes.

Americans versus Englishmen (an ironical overview in the *Canterville Ghost*).

Linguistic Means of adapting a story to the students' level.

APPENDIX

I. The following web-site gives a very brief outline of Oscar Wilde's life and work:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_wilde

II. Oscar Wilde has been recognized as a genius of paradoxes. You can enjoy them here:

<http://www.quotesdaddy.com/quote/961209/Oscar+Wilde/paradoxically-though-it-may-seem-it-is-none-the-less>

III. Compare the original and the adapted description of the Garden of Death

"Far away beyond the pine-woods," he answered, in a low, dreamy voice, "there is a little garden. There the grass grows long and deep, there are the great white stars of the hemlock flower, there the nightingale sings all night long. All night long he sings, and the cold crystal moon looks down, and the yew-tree spreads out its giant arms over the sleepers."

Virginia's eyes grew dim with tears, and she hid her face in her hands.

"You mean the Garden of Death," she whispered.

"Yes, death. Death must be so beautiful. To lie in the soft brown earth, with the grasses waving above one's head, and listen to silence. To have no yesterday, and no to-morrow. To forget time, to forget life, to be at peace. You can help me. You can open for me the portals of death's house, for love is always with you, and love is stronger than death is."

Virginia trembled, a cold shudder ran through her, and for a few moments there was silence. She felt as if she was in a terrible dream. Then the ghost spoke again, and his voice sounded like the sighing of the wind.

"Have you ever read the old prophecy on the library window?"

"Oh, often," cried the little girl, looking up; "I know it quite well. It is painted in curious black letters, and is difficult to read. There are only six lines:

*'When a golden girl can win
Prayer from out the lips of sin,
When the barren almond bears,
And a little child gives away its tears,
Then shall all the house be still
And peace come to Canterville.'
"But I don't know what they mean."*

"They mean," he said, sadly, "that you must weep with me for my sins, because I have no tears, and pray with me for my soul, because I have no faith, and then, if you have always been sweet, and good, and gentle, the angel of death will have mercy on me. You will see fearful shapes in darkness, and wicked voices will whisper in your ear, but they will not harm you, for against the purity of a little child the powers of Hell cannot prevail."

Virginia made no answer, and the ghost wrung his hands in wild despair as he looked down at her bowed golden head. Suddenly she stood up, very pale, and with a strange light in her eyes. "I am not afraid," she said firmly, "and I will ask the angel to have mercy on you."

He rose from his seat with a faint cry of joy, and taking her hand bent over it with old-fashioned grace and kissed it. His fingers were as cold as ice, and his lips burned like fire, but Virginia did not falter, as he led her across the dusky room. On the faded green tapestry were brodered little huntsmen. They blew their tasselled horns and with their tiny hands waved to her to go back. "Go back! little Virginia," they cried, "go back!" but the ghost clutched her hand more tightly, and she shut her

eyes against them. Horrible animals with lizard tails and goggle eyes blinked at her from the carven chimneypiece, and murmured, "Beware! little Virginia, beware! we may never see you again," but the Ghost glided on more swiftly, and Virginia did not listen.

When they reached the end of the room he stopped, and muttered some words she could not understand. She opened her eyes, and saw the wall slowly fading away like a mist, and a great black cavern in front of her. A bitter cold wind swept round them, and she felt something pulling at her dress. "Quick, quick," cried the Ghost, "or it will be too late," and in a moment the wainscoting had closed behind them, and the Tapestry Chamber was empty.

IV. British culture opposite to the American culture (and both are imperfect)

"The Canterville Ghost" is a study in contrasts. Wilde takes an American family, places them in a British setting, then, through a series of mishaps, pits one culture against the other. He creates stereotypical characters that represent both England and the United States, and he presents each of these characters as comical figures, satirizing both the unrefined tastes of Americans and the determination of the British to guard their traditions. Sir Simon is not a symbol of England, as perhaps Mrs. Umney is, but rather a paragon of British culture. In this sense, he stands in perfect contrast to the Otises. Sir Simon misunderstands the Otises just as they misunderstand him, and, by pitting them against each other, Wilde clearly wishes to emphasize the culture clash between England and the United States.

The story illustrates Wilde's tendency to reverse situations into their opposites as the Otises gain the upper hand and succeed in terrorizing the ghost rather than be terrorized by him. Wilde pairs this reversal of situations with a reversal of perspective. This ghost story is told not from the perspective of the castle occupants, as in traditional tales, but from the perspective of the ghost, Sir Simon. In this sense, Sir Simon could logically be labeled the "protagonist" in this story, as it is he who faces the challenge of overcoming adversity and bettering his "life."

Though Wilde tells a humorous tale, it appears that he also has a message, and he uses fifteen-year-old Virginia to convey it. Virginia says that the ghost helped her see the significance of life and death, and why love is stronger than both. This is certainly not the first time an author has used the traditional ghost story and the theme of life and death to examine the issue of forgiveness; ghosts, after all, presumably remain in this realm because, for some reason, they are unable to move on. Wilde's ghost, Sir Simon, "had been very wicked," Virginia tells her father after she returns to the castle. "But he was really sorry for all that he had done." God has forgiven him, Virginia tells her father, and because of that forgiveness, in the end, Sir Simon de Canterville can rest in peace.

Использованная литература:

Oscar Wilde. The Canterville Ghost. Retold by Stephen Colbourn. Macmillan.

Oscar Wilde. The Canterville Ghost/Selections. Moscow Progress Publishers. 1979.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_wilde

<http://www.quotesdaddy.com/quote/961209/Oscar+Wilde/paradoxically-though-it-may-seem-it-is-none-the-less>

Иллюстрация на титульном листе взята из галереи:

<http://www.oscarwilde.ru/llb-sa-autname-138/>