

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Room 13 and Other Stories by 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) Look at the front cover of the book. Which story do you think this picture is for?
- (c) Write the first six sentences of one of the stories.

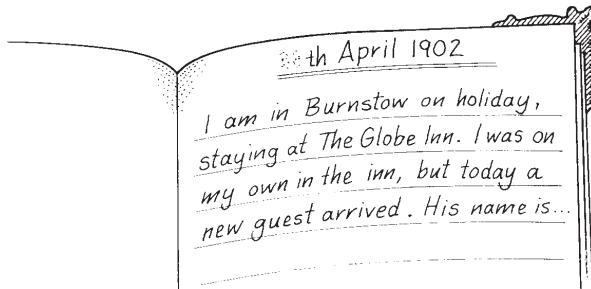
B After Reading Each of the Stories

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.



THE MESSAGE OF DEATH

5 Who said what? Draw a line between the person and the sentence he said.

(a) *'That man's name is Karswell. He's an evil man.'*

Dunning

(b) *'My brother became very strange.'*

Karswell

(c) *'Did your brother think Karswell was making this trouble?'*

Harrington

(d) *'Excuse me, can I get a porter at Dover to take*

Farrer

my luggage to the boat?'

THE MAZE

6 You can have one more picture in this story.

(a) What is in your picture? Write short notes to describe the picture.

(b) Draw the picture or write a detailed description of it.

(c) What is the caption for your picture? Choose a sentence from the story.

THE LOST CROWNS OF ANGLIA

7 The police asked the Narrator (Mr James) and Henry Long a lot of questions. But the two policemen never found out who murdered Mr Paxton. Write a script (a play) of the questions and answers.

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.

*There is a cassette recording of these stories. And **Tales of Horror** by Bram Stoker and **Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley are two more frightening Elementary Level Readers. Enjoy them!*