

Using a cloze exercise activity for reading comprehension

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Appendix: Sample reading text with cloze exercises

Story taken from: Beatty, K. (2004) *Read and Think 3*. Longman.

Looking For Ghosts

Partner (A)

Among all the things in the world that frighten people, **ghosts** are among the scariest.

At Halloween, children dress up as ghosts and other **supernatural** creatures to scare their friends. Ghosts, like many of these other **creatures**, have a long history. Ancient tales of cultures all around the world are full of ghost **stories**. Often these ghosts are the spirits of the dead who come back to Earth for some **reason**.

What that reason is, supposedly differs from ghost to ghost. Some ghosts are **reluctant** to leave their favorite place. They have lived in the same house, for **example**, for all their lives and even death cannot convince them to completely leave. Others are said to come back to **avenge** their own murders. If a person has had his or her life cut short, their ghost might want to make sure that someone is **punished** for the crime. Many ghosts are supposedly from those who were wrongly **executed**.

But are there such things as ghosts? Many people think so, but how do you prove whether or not ghosts really **exist**?

Many people have tried over the years, but sometimes the ways of looking for ghosts have been just a way to **cheat** people. The most common way is using some kind of tool to **contact** the spirit world, for example, a board on which one or more people put their fingers and are **directed** to a yes/no answer or individual letters that spell out a **message**.

Scientists claim that this type of message is just a trick of our brains, which have deep **thoughts** about what we want the board to say. Of course we get the **answer** we want.

Others are more direct, with people who claim to **speak** to ghosts and write down their thoughts. These people are said to channel the **ideas** of the dead, and some, with no talent in music or writing, have been seen to write music, poems, or **novels** in the style of long-dead famous people.

Looking For Ghosts

Partner (B)

Scientists looking at these are often unimpressed with the **results** and suggest that the new writing may just be the brain reworking **familiar** styles.

In other cases, ghosts are said to speak to spiritualists in séances, where **several** people gather, usually in a dark room, to hear messages from dead **relatives** and friends. Sometimes it is for love; sometimes it is for something else. For example, **someone** might die without telling a relative where they have hidden all their money!

In such séances, there are sometimes more **dramatic** events. For example, a ghost appears or the cold hand of a dead child seems to **touch** the arm of its sad mother. More often, it is a parent that is sought.

Someone who **desperately** wanted to talk to his mother after her death in 1920 was Harry Houdini (1874-1926). Houdini was best known for his magic tricks on stage, such as his **escapes** from being tied up with rope or locked in chains. As a **magician**, he knew the tricks other people used, so after being disappointed time and again in the search for his mother, he **started** on a new career. In his career, Houdini went to séances—often in disguise with a **journalist** and a policeman. He watched and listened closely to find out how things were being done. He also helped *Scientific American* **magazine**, which offered a huge cash prize to anyone who could prove ghosts existed, but no one could **fool** Harry Houdini!

But how does this explain why some places appear to be haunted, sometimes reported by **strangers** over hundreds of years? How is it that these strangers allege to have seen a special ghost without any prior **knowledge**?

Recently, psychologists in the United Kingdom had **volunteers** visit so-called haunted mansions and vaults in England and Scotland. While they found no **evidence** for ghosts, paradoxically, the psychologists explained that some people do often report feeling ghosts **present** in certain places. Their explanation is that a cluster of features, such as changes in light and **temperature**, make certain people “feel” that a ghost is there.

What would Harry Houdini say?

Looking For Ghosts

Partner (B)

Among all the things in the world that frighten people, _____ are among the scariest.

At Halloween, children dress up as ghosts and other _____ creatures to scare their friends. Ghosts, like many of these other _____, have a long history. Ancient tales of cultures all around the world are full of ghost _____. Often these ghosts are the spirits of the dead who come back to Earth for some _____.

What that reason is, supposedly differs from ghost to ghost. Some ghosts are _____ to leave their favorite place. They have lived in the same house, for _____, for all their lives and even death cannot convince them to completely leave. Others are said to come back to _____ their own murders. If a person has had his or her life cut short, their ghost might want to make sure that someone is _____ for the crime. Many ghosts are supposedly from those who were wrongly _____.

But are there such things as ghosts? Many people think so, but how do you prove whether or not ghosts really _____?

Many people have tried over the years, but sometimes the ways of looking for ghosts have been just a way to _____ people. The most common way is using some kind of tool to _____ the spirit world, for example, a board on which one or more people put their fingers and are _____ to a yes/no answer or individual letters that spell out a _____.

Scientists claim that this type of message is just a trick of our brains, which have deep _____ about what we want the board to say. Of course we get the _____ we want.

Others are more direct, with people who claim to _____ to ghosts and write down their thoughts. These people are said to channel the _____ of the dead, and some, with no tal-

ent in music or writing, have been seen to write music, poems, or _____ in the style of long-dead famous people.

Looking For Ghosts

Partner (A)

Scientists looking at these are often unimpressed with the _____ and suggest that the new writing may just be the brain reworking _____ styles.

In other cases, ghosts are said to speak to spiritualists in séances, where _____ people gather, usually in a dark room, to hear messages from dead _____ and friends. Sometimes it is for love; sometimes it is for something else. For example, _____ might die without telling a relative where they have hidden all their money!

In such séances, there are sometimes more _____ events. For example, a ghost appears or the cold hand of a dead child seems to _____ the arm of its sad mother. More often, it is a parent that is sought.

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But how does this explain why some places appear to be haunted, sometimes reported by _____ over hundreds of years? How is it that these strangers allege to have seen a special ghost without any prior _____?

Recently, psychologists in the United Kingdom had _____ visit so called haunted mansions and vaults in England and Scotland. While they found no _____ for ghosts, paradoxically, the psychologists explained that some people do often report feeling ghosts _____ in certain places. Their explanation is that a cluster of features, such as changes in light and _____, make certain people “feel” that a ghost is there.

What would Harry Houdini say?