

# Japanese Ghost Stories

Photocopiable

## While reading

### Story 1

1 **Underline the wrong word and put the right one.**

- a The Heiké ghosts are louder these days.  
.....
- b The people of Akagamaséki built a church for the Heiké spirits. ....
- c Hōichi was famous for performing songs and playing the *biwa*. ....
- d Hōichi first met the *samurai* one winter night.  
.....
- e Hōichi felt that there were few people in the room of the lord's house. ....
- f The priest thought that some good spirits were at work. ....

2 **Find words in Story 1.**

- a changed from a child to an adult. (p. 2)  
.....
- b like a small door to a garden. (p. 3) .....
- c when the sea moves they are on top. (p. 5)  
.....
- d moved very quickly. (p. 6) .....
- e when we ask Buddha for help, we say these. (p. 8) .....
- f the thing that moves all around our body. (p. 10) .....

### Stories 2–4

3 **Finish the sentences with the right word.**

- oven lies hung clearly shadow thick  
believed
- a The customers ..... the fortune-teller and they were afraid.
  - b The man wrote on the cup before he put it in the .....
  - c The girl remembered the *samurai's* clothes very ..... because she was in love.
  - d The girl ..... the purple robe in her room.
  - e One of the ill girls talked of a beautiful  
.....
  - f Strange things happen where a dead body  
.....
  - g Musō saw a small stone half-hidden by  
..... plants.

4 **Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**

- a Shōko Setsu gave up his position at the emperor's court.
- b Shōko Setsu spoke to the maker of the cup.
- c Many people saw the *samurai* that the young girl was in love with.
- d People in Tokyo still remember the Great Fire.
- e Musō Kokushi asked a priest if he could stay the night with him.
- f Musō Kokushi was not afraid of bad spirits and ghosts.
- g The old priest disappeared at the end of the story.

### Stories 5–7

5 **Match the words.**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| lay down | west     |
| get off  | took     |
| east     | filled   |
| brought  | birth    |
| healthy  | high     |
| death    | found    |
| low      | stood up |
| searched | get on   |
| emptied  | sick     |

6 **Finish the sentences.**

- a Miyata loved to rest under .....
- b The king of the spirits invited Miyata .....
- c Miyata had to go to Raishu and make .....
- d O-Sono's father had a low opinion .....
- e The priest found a love letter in .....
- f The assistants put rice bags around the man so .....
- g The man's head bounced and it caught .....

### Stories 8–9

7 **Answer the questions.**

- a What did the priests want to use the mirrors for?  
.....

# Japanese Ghost Stories

Photocopiable

- b What happened when the bell-makers heated the young woman's mirror?  
.....
- c What happens when an angry person kills herself?  
.....
- d What did the priests do with the bell in the end?  
.....
- e What did Mosaku and Minokichi do every morning?  
.....
- f What did the woman in white ask Minokichi not to do?  
.....

**8 Find words in Stories 8–9.**

- a A person who works with animals and on the land. (p. 38) .....
- b A lot of things, one on top of the other. (p. 39) .....
- c This describes a person who wants everything for himself or herself. (p. 40) .....
- d To make a noise with a bell. (p. 41) .....
- e A dish for soup. (p. 42) .....
- f To cross a river, you need this. (p. 43) .....
- g You leave a house through this. (p. 45) .....

**Stories 10–11**

**9 Write questions for the answers.**

- a Isogai / have / work?  
.....  
Because Lord Kikujii lost the war.
- b woodcutter / destroy / life?  
.....  
Because he loved women and wine too much.
- c *rokuro-kubi* / back / necks?  
.....  
Strange red characters.
- d priest / woodcutter's body?  
.....  
He pushed it out of the window.
- e Kwairyō / want / head?  
.....  
He planned to give it to a friend.

- f robber / head / for?  
.....  
To do business.

**10 Circle the extra word in the sentences.**

- a Lord Kikujii was very pleasing pleased with Isogai.
- b Kwairyō still already had the heart of a *samurai* under his priest's clothes.
- c Kwairyō found a nice grass grassy place to lie down.
- d The people in the small house had very polite speech speak.
- e The head cried loudly and tears fell away from its eyes.
- f The priest walked proud proudly through the town.
- g The old man gave his the life away to the tree.

**Stories 12–15**

**11 Write the name of the story next to the sentences.**

- Mujina The Hungry Hunter The Promise The Mountain
- a A man had a very sad dream about a beautiful woman. ....
  - b A man thought a woman was going to throw herself into a river. ....
  - c Two men were in a wild and empty place. ....
  - d A girl of fifteen became very ill and died. ....
  - e A boy was afraid and too weak to continue. ....
  - f A man's eyes, nose and mouth disappeared. ....
  - g A man placed gifts on his dead wife's gravestone. ....
  - h A man shot at two birds and killed one of them. ....

**12 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**

- a A *mujini* is like a cat, but it can change shape.
- b Sonjō killed the bird because he was hungry.
- c Sonjō remembered his dream the next day.
- d Nagao only married one woman.

## Japanese Ghost Stories

## Photocopiable

## 1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a In Story 1, the priest helped Hōichi to escape from the bad spirits.
- b In Story 2, a fortune teller can tell his or her own fortune.
- c In Story 3, the purple robe didn't burn.
- d In Story 4, the shape ate the priest as well as the body.
- e In Story 5, a butterfly flew around Miyata's face when he was asleep.
- f In Story 6, the ghost of O-Sono came back because of a letter.
- g The *samurai* in Story 7 isn't very clever.
- h In Story 8, we find out what was in the lazy farmer's pot.
- i In Story 9, the woman in white killed Mosaku in the hut.
- j Story 10 tells us that you can destroy a *rokuro-kubi* by moving the body away from the head.
- k In Story 11, the tree is special because it flowers in summer.
- l In Story 12, an old man is frightened because he sees a woman with no eyes, nose or mouth.
- m Story 13 is about a hunter who shoots a female bird.
- n Nagao, in Story 14, is very sad when O-Tei dies.
- o In Story 15, the Bodhisattva wants to frighten his young friend.

## 2 Circle the right words.

- a Hōichi was *poor* / *rich* when he was young.
- b The fortune-teller broke a *cup* / *plate*.
- c The priest thought there were *good* / *bad* spirits in the purple robe.
- d The shape was *small* / *large* and shadowy.
- e The king sent Miyata to an island to make *laws* / *business*.
- f O-Sono's family emptied the box and took everything to the *market* / *temple*.
- g The *samurai's* head bounced and caught a *robe* / *stone* in its teeth.
- h *Some people* / *Everyone* wanted to ring the bell of Mugen.
- i O-Yuki looked *older* / *younger* than most country women.

- j Kwairyō gave the head to a *farmer* / *robber*.
- k *Priests* / *Children* put pieces of brightly coloured paper in the fruit tree.
- l *Soba* is a popular Japanese *drink* / *dish*.
- m Sonjō dreamt about a beautiful *palace* / *woman*.
- n O-Tei *always* / *never* remembered her earlier birth.
- o It was very *difficult* / *easy* to climb up the mountain of skulls.

3 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a Many of these stories are about hstgos .....
- b Hōichi mrodepefr ..... his story about a great fight.
- c A uretfon .....-teller tells people about their future.
- d A yellow etyrlfubt ..... landed on the ground next to Miyata.
- e When O-Sono's family saw her, they could see her head clearly, but her feet were dhswyao .....
- f When the *samurai* cut off the man's head, it cuebndo ..... onto the sand.
- g The priests pushed the bell into the deep river and it psridaeadep .....
- h Minokichi's mother mledecow ..... O-Yuki into her house.
- i Kwairyō pulled the body of the toderuwcot ..... to the window by its feet.
- j The man's ghost went into the tree and it ordfwele ..... immediately.
- k It was very dark on the Akasaka Road in Tokyo before ltretsgishet .....
- l Sonjō was niguhnt ..... before he killed the bird.
- m O-Tei said she was promised in ragmreia ..... to Nagao for seven lives.
- n The Bodhisattva took his friend up a mountain of lksusl .....

## 4 Circle the extra word in the sentences.

- a The priest wanted Hōichi to had perform two or three times a week.
- b If people left gifts of food, the Shape would will eat them.
- c Miyata was took taken through the gateway.
- d It was impossible to heat heating the girl's special mirror.
- e The heads were laughing laughed when Kwairyō saw them.