

# The Ghost of Genny Castle

Photocopiable

## While reading

### Chapter 1

- 1 Look at the map in the Introduction to the book. What is near these places on the map?
  - a Aunt Min's cottage  
.....
  - b Walter Burge's cottage  
.....
  - c Genny Castle  
.....
  - d Little Genny  
.....
  
- 2 **Underline the wrong word in each sentence and write the right word.**
  - a The story takes place in the summer.
  - b Claire is five years old.
  - c Walter Burge is in his cottage when he sees Aunt Min's car.
  - d Walter Burge doesn't like cats.
  - e The cat is black.
  - f Aunt Min is short and thin.
  - g Aunt Min's car is big.
  - h Claire sees Genny Castle when she is in her aunt's house.
  - i It is sixteen miles to Aunt Min's cottage.
  - j Claire's parents are in New York.
  
- 3 **Answer these questions.**
  - a What month is it?  
.....
  - b When did Claire last see her aunt?  
.....
  - c How long is Claire staying with her aunt?  
.....
  - d Why did Claire's parents go away?  
.....
  - e Why is Genny Castle dangerous?  
.....
  - f Why are the villagers afraid of Walter Burge?  
.....
  - g Who died at Genny Castle some years ago?  
.....
  - h Who is the Christmas singing for?  
.....

### Chapter 2

- 4 **Who says the sentences a–h? Who are they talking to?**
  - a 'Don't get lost.'  
..... to .....
  - b 'Stop!'  
..... to .....
  - c 'Your shirt is all dirty.'  
..... to .....
  - d 'Let's have a cup of tea.'  
..... to .....
  - e 'You've got a Christmas tree!'  
..... to .....
  - f 'Who can help her?'  
..... to .....
  - g 'Please help my daughter!'  
..... to .....
  - h 'You burned my sister three years ago!'  
..... to .....
  
- 5 **Discuss this question with another student. What do you think?**  
Why do you think Walter Burge is afraid when he sees Claire running down the field?
  
- 6 **Work with another student.**  
Student A: You are Walter Burge. You see Claire running away from the castle. You shout, 'Stop!', and then you catch her. Ask her what happened at the castle.  
Student B: You are Claire. You are running away from the castle. Walter Burge catches you. He asks you what happened at the castle. Tell him about Black Tower, the falling stone and the head that you saw at the top of the tower.
  
- 7 **Write a sentence to answer this question.**  
Why does Claire think that she won't go back to the castle?
  
- 8 **Write a summary of page 14 from *The Story of Genny Castle*.**  
Pretend that you are Claire. You want to make a copy of the page that you read in *The Story of Genny Castle*. Write a paragraph to explain what happened to the witch at Genny Castle about two hundred years ago.

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## Chapter 3

### 9 Write the right words in the sentences.

castle church cottage lines  
near stop strong thinks

- Claire and her aunt drive to the .....
- There is a ..... wind.
- Claire ..... about the witch.
- The car makes ..... in the snow.
- The car can't ..... easily in the snow.
- Walter Burge doesn't want people to go ..... the castle.
- The cat goes up to the .....
- Claire and Aunt Min go inside Walter Burge's .....

### 10 Discuss these questions with another student.

#### What do you think?

Is Walter Burge really crazy? Why or why not?  
Why does he want people to stay away from Genny Castle? Why does he say, 'I must stop you, Alexa.'? Why does he go to the castle?

### 11 Choose 1, 2 or 3 to complete the sentences.

- Claire watches ... the car.
  - her aunt driving
  - the snow through the window of
  - the witch outside
- The night is very ...
  - warm.
  - cold.
  - bright.
- The car goes off the road and ... a tree.
  - stops near
  - goes beside
  - hits
- Walter Burge knows that the castle has ...
  - lots of secrets.
  - nothing to hide.
  - a very short history.
- Walter Burge wants to ... Alexa.
  - stop
  - help
  - hurt

## Chapter 4

### 12 Finish these sentences.

- Claire thinks a cat is in the tower because she sees its ..... in the snow.
- Walter Burge doesn't hear Claire because the wind is too .....
- Claire wants to find Walter Burge because her aunt must get .....
- It is ..... to see in the tower.
- Claire knows there is a fire because she sees the ..... light.
- When she knows there is a fire, Claire is very .....
- Claire can't go back down the tower because her feet don't .....
- Claire thinks Walter Burge needs some .....

### 13 Underline the right words.

- Walter Burge *always / never* goes up to the castle at night.
- Walter Burge thinks he sees a *face / light* on the top of Black Tower.
- The cat has *blue / green* eyes.
- Claire follows Walter Burge's footprints in the *grass / snow*.
- The stairs in the tower are *dry / wet*.
- Walter Burge puts his *foot / hand* on the tower wall.
- The cat *dies / lives* at the end of the story.
- Walter Burge walks away *happily / sadly*.

### 14 Discuss these questions with another student.

#### What do you think?

Why isn't the cat under the stones at the end of the story? Where is it?

### After reading

- Work in pairs. Tell each other which character in the book you like best. Explain why you feel this way.
- Work in pairs. Ask each other questions about the story. *Do you like the story? Why or why not?*
- Work in pairs. Tell each other a ghost story that you know.

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## Chapter 1

### 1 Match the letters with the numbers to complete the sentences.

- a Genny Castle is dangerous because ...
- b Aunt Min goes to the church because ...
- c Claire buys paper and envelopes because ...
- d Claire can't buy a book about Genny Castle because ...
- e People are afraid of Walter Burge because ...
- f The woman died at the castle because ...
- g The boy walks away from Claire because ...
- h Claire had an interesting morning because ...
  - 1 stones from Black Tower fell on her.
  - 2 there isn't one in the shop.
  - 3 she is going to put flowers in it.
  - 4 she wants to give her aunt something for Christmas.
  - 5 she saw Walter Burge and the boy.
  - 6 he is crazy.
  - 7 stones are always falling from the towers.
  - 8 he is angry.

## Chapter 2

### 2 What happens first? What happens next? Write the numbers, 1–10.

- a Claire sees a fire-coloured head at the top of the tower.
- b Claire arrives at Genny Castle.
- c Claire sees Walter Burge outside his cottage.
- d The stone hits the bottom stair and breaks.
- e Claire doesn't want Walter Burge to see her.
- f Claire goes out for a walk.
- g Claire hears something.
- h Claire throws herself down on the ground.
- i Claire feels afraid.
- j Claire sees a stone fall from the tower.

## Chapter 3

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

- a Claire and her aunt drive to the church in the morning.
- b In the church, Claire can't stop thinking about the witch.

- c The snow comes up over Claire's and Aunt Min's shoes.
- d The car goes off the road and hits a tree.
- e Aunt Min wants to phone the church in the village.
- f Claire and Aunt Min walk across Walter Burge's field.
- g Walter Burge is reading a book about cats.
- h Alexa pushes the door with her foot and goes outside.
- i Aunt Min's face is white because she is very tired.
- j Claire makes Aunt Min a cup of coffee in Walter Burge's cottage.

## Chapter 4

### 4 Write *in*, *on* or *at* in the sentences a–h.

- a Walter Burge looks up ... Black Tower.
- b The cat arrived ... Walter Burge's cottage ten years ago.
- c Walter Burge has a light ... his hand.
- d Claire follows Walter Burge's footprints ... the snow.
- e Walter Burge is ... the fire.
- f The cat sits ... the wall of the tower.
- g Walter Burge takes Claire and Aunt Min home ... his car.
- h Claire looks out the window ... the castle.

### 5 Write *Claire*, *Aunt Min*, *Walter Burge* or *Alexa* in the sentences a–h.

- a ..... thinks Alexa is more than a cat.
- b ..... falls asleep in front of the fire.
- c ..... is afraid of Claire.
- d ..... has orange hair.
- e ..... hears the sound of a fire.
- f ..... says, 'The wall!'
- g ..... says, 'Are you all right?'
- h ..... tries to find Alexa the next day.