written in the 19th century, these three ghost stories are guaranteed to send shivers down the reader's back. Each story was written by a master of the 'ghost story' genre.

'The Woman in the Black Coat', by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu was published in 1838. It tells the story of Fanny, a young girl, who goes to live in the large country house of her much older husband, Lord Glenfallen. One night she meets a blind woman in a black coat. On hearing this, Lord Glenfallen is obviously frightened. Then the blind woman appears again, and threatens to kill Fanny unless she leaves the house. Fanny learns that the woman is a ghost. She was Lord Glenfallen's wife and died mysteriously; Lord Glenfallen may have killed her. Fanny leaves her husband and the house, never to return.

The second story, ‘Imray Came Back’, by Rudyard Kipling, takes place in India. A man called Imray suddenly disappears. A policeman, Strickland, moves into Imray's house and the narrator of the story visits him. Mysterious things start happening. Visitors appear and immediately disappear. Strickland's dog refuses to sleep in the house at night, and there are strange sounds. Then the two men attempt to kill a poisonous snake, and in doing so discover the body of Imray. Strickland’s servant confesses to the murder. The servant deliberately steps on the dying snake in order to kill himself. At last, the ghost of Imray is satisfied ...

'The Room in the Tower', by E F Benson, was published in 1912. It tells the story of a young man who has a terrifying, recurring dream about a room in a house. Over the years, the people in the dream get older. In his dream, a woman, Mrs Stone, dies; the young man sees a stone that says, ‘Remember the bad and dangerous Julia Stone’. That same year, by chance, the young man finds himself in the house he has so often dreamt about. He is shown to his bedroom - it is the room of his dreams. In it there is a picture of Mrs Stone. That night the young man wakes to find Mrs Stone standing over him. She bites his neck until it bleeds, but he manages to escape. The young man learns that a woman had died in that room. Her ghost visits young men in their dreams and brings them to the house. There, she kills them and drinks their blood ...

Tales of the sinister and supernatural were very fashionable in the 19th century. Two masterpieces that have achieved almost mythical status are: Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus (1818) by Mary Shelley, and Dracula (1897) by Bram Stoker. Magazines containing short stories were very popular, and Christmas issues, in particular, were devoted to ghost stories. Charles Dickens, the American Edgar Allen Poe, and Henry J ames were some of the greatest practitioners of the genre.

Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu (1814-73)

This Irish novelist was born into a well-educated Dublin family. He trained as a lawyer but never practised. Instead he started writing short stories, and his first novel, The Cock and Anchor, appeared in 1845. He became owner and editor of the Dublin University Magazine in 1849. But it was not until 1861, three years after his wife died, that his most important work began. Le Fanu was one of the best-sellers of the 1860s-80s, writing ingenious tales of mystery and terror. Among the most famous are The House by the Churchyard (1863) and the remarkable collection of short stories entitled In a Glass Darkly (1872). Sadly, the public then lost interest in Le Fanu's work. However, in the 20th century, Le Fanu's reputation has risen steadily. He is now recognized as being almost unequalled as a writer of sinister and supernatural stories.

Edward Frederic Benson (1867-1940)

Edward Frederic Benson came from a talented literary family. Both his brothers, Arthur and Robert, wrote prolifically, as did E F Benson. He wrote some 93 books, including five volumes of family memories. However, today he is remembered for his tales of the supernatural.

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

The poet, novelist and short-story writer Rudyard Kipling was a major literary figure of his time, and is the most important of the three writers represented here. Kipling was born in India into a distinguished family. He was sent to England at the age of six, and spent five unhappy years there, separated from his parents. He wrote about this
2. Describe the picture on page 23. Then answer these questions:
   (a) What do you think happened to Imray? Why is he dead? Why do you think this?
   (b) What do you think will happen next? How will the story end?

Page 24, line 3 to end of story
1. Are these sentences right or wrong? When they are wrong, make them right.
   (a) Tietjens didn't like sleeping in the house because it was cold.
   (b) Imray died of an illness.
   (c) All the servants say Imray suddenly went away to Europe.
   (d) Bahadur Khan thinks Imray killed his son.
   (e) Bahadur Khan killed Imray.
   (f) Bahadur Khan put his foot on the snake by mistake.

2. Work with another student. Talk about these questions.
   (a) How does Strickland know that Bahadur Khan killed Imray?
   (b) Why did strange things happen in the house, do you think?
   (c) Do you think Bahadur Khan is a bad man?

‘THE ROOM IN THE TOWER’
Page 28 to near bottom of page 29
1. Answer these questions.
   (a) How many times does the writer have the dream?
   (b) Where does the dream happen?
   (c) Who is Jack Stone? Who is Mrs Stone?
   (d) Describe the building in the corner of the garden.
   (e) When does the writer wake up?
   (f) How does the writer feel in the dream?
   (g) How do the people in the dream change?
   (h) The dream stops for six months and then starts again. How is it different this time?
   (i) What are the words on the stone?

2. Work with another student.
   (a) Describe the pictures on pages 32 and 34.
   (b) What do you think will happen next? How do you think the story will end?

Bottom of page 29 to end of the story
1. Which is the right answer?
   (a) The writer goes to the house in Sussex with
      (i) John Stone.
      (ii) Jack Clinton.
   (b) The people in the garden
      (i) talk and laugh.
      (ii) are unfriendly.
   (c) The pictures in the room in the tower show
      (i) an old man and a young woman.
      (ii) an old woman and a young man.
   (d) The cat and the dog
      (i) want to go into the tower.
      (ii) are frightened of the tower.
   (e) The village people buried Mrs Stone under the tree near the tower
      (i) three times.
      (ii) once.
   (f) The ghost of Mrs Stone wants to
      (i) kill young men and drink their blood.
      (ii) kill cats and dogs and drink their blood.

2. Work with another student.
   (a) Describe the pictures in the room in the tower.
   (b) What happens in the middle of the night?
   (c) How does the writer know he is not dreaming?

Activities after reading the book
Work with another student. Find these words in your dictionary: explain and situation. Then answer these questions.
Which story is each sentence from? Try not to look at the book. Who is speaking? Who is the person speaking to? Explain the situation.
   (a) ‘She does this every evening now. I can’t understand it.’
   (b) ‘They say it’s a very nice place.’
   (c) ‘Please don’t go. Wait and see what happens.’
   (d) ‘Is something wrong, madam?’
   (e) ‘You’re right!’
   (f) ‘He loves you.’
   (g) ‘She doesn’t know what she is saying.’
   (h) ‘He was a bad man.’
   (i) ‘I am so happy that you came.’
   (j) ‘Come and see him.’
Student’s activities

Photocopiable

Students can do these exercises alone or with one or more other students. Pair/group-only activities are marked.

Activities before reading the book

Work with some other students. Talk about these questions.
(a) Do you like ghost stories? Say why/why not.
(b) Which ghost story do you like best? Tell the story.

Activities while reading the book

‘THE WOMAN IN THE BLACK COAT’

Page 1 to halfway down page 4

1 Answer these questions.
   (a) What is the name of the young girl in the story?
   (b) Why doesn’t she play much with her sister?
   (c) Why does her sister leave home?
   (d) Why does the girl cry when her sister leaves?
   (e) Why does her sister decide to come home?
   (f) What is strange about her sister’s death?
   (g) Why do the girl and her mother go to Dublin?
   (h) How does the girl’s life change in Dublin?

2 Talk with another student.
   (a) Why does the girl’s mother want her to marry Lord Glenfallen?
   (b) Why does the girl say she will marry him?

3 Work with another student.
   Student A: You are Fanny. Tell your friend about Lord Glenfallen. Tell your friend why you are going to marry him.
   Student B: You are Fanny’s friend. Listen to her and ask questions.

Halfway down page 4 to halfway down page 9

1 Finish these sentences.
   (a) Fanny likes her husband’s house because .............................................
   (b) When she sees her room she feels cold with fear because .............................................
   (c) When Fanny tells Martha about the black coat, Martha is frightened because .............................................
   (d) Fanny feels Lord Glenfallen is different at Cahergillagh because .............................................
   (e) Fanny cries out for help because .............................................
   (f) Lord Glenfallen’s face is ‘white with fear’ because .............................................

2 Work with another student. Find the word describe in your dictionary.
   (a) Describe the woman in the black coat.
   (b) Make the conversation between Fanny and the woman in the black coat.

Halfway down page 9 to end of story

1 These sentences are wrong. Make them right.
   (a) Lord Glenfallen wants to stay in Cahergillagh.
   (b) Fanny sees the blind woman during the day.
   (c) The blind woman was Lord Glenfallen’s sister.
   (d) The blind woman has a gun.
   (e) The blind woman wants Fanny to stay in the house.
   (f) The blind woman is a real person.
   (g) The blind woman died because she fell from a window.
   (h) The blind woman lost her eyes in a fire.
   (i) Fanny stayed in the house.

2 Work with two or three students. Write a ghost story. Then read your story to the class.

‘IMRAY CAME BACK’

Page 14 to page 18, line 10

1 What do you know about these people or animals?
   Imray, Strickland, Tietjens, the writer, Bahadur Khan

2 Work with another student.
   Student A: You are the writer. Strickland is home from the police station. Tell him about the strange visitor and the face at the window. Tell him about Tietjens too.
   Student B: You are Strickland. You are home from the police station. Say to your friend, ‘Any visitors?’ and listen to his answer. Ask him questions.

Page 18, line 11 to page 24, line 2

1 Answer these questions.
   (a) Why does the writer sleep badly?
   (b) Why does Tietjens sleep outside at night?
   (c) Why does the writer want to go to a hotel?
   (d) Why does Strickland want to kill the snake?
   (e) Why does Strickland say, ‘I think that our friend Imray is back’?
experience in The Light that Failed (1890). From 1878-1882 he attended a school for officers' children where he was much happier. In 1882 he returned to India and began a successful career as a journalist. During this period he published poems and stories inspired by his life in India. They include the famous Plain Tales from the Hills (1888), and Soldiers Three (1890).

In 1889 Kipling came to London, where his poems made him an instant literary celebrity. Three years later he married an American, Caroline Balestier. Over the next ten years Kipling wrote his most famous children's stories. They include: The Jungle Book (1894), The Second Jungle Book (1895), Kim (1901), and the Just So Stories (1902). These stories all took place in India; the Just So Stories were about its animals. Today, Kim is regarded as Kipling's greatest long work.

From 1902 Kipling lived in Sussex, England. By now, he was rich and famous. He continued to write prolifically; however, the days of his greatest success were over. With the First World War, his writing became much darker and more sombre. Stories of this period, such as A Diversity of Creatures (1917), are now considered to be particularly fine writing. In 1907 he became the first English writer to receive the Nobel Prize for literature. Kipling died in 1936, and the next year his autobiographical fragment, Something of Myself, was published.

Kipling's output was vast and varied. For a period after his death he was unfashionable. His intense patriotism was criticized. His poetry, with its easy rhythms and style, was belittled by critics. However, he is now seen as a great chronicler of colonial life under the British Empire; he is recognized as a storyteller of genius. Stories such as Kim, The Jungle Book, and the Just So Stories will continue to be read as long as there are children to read them.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Look at the information about the three authors in the introduction to the book. Give each student in the class a slip of paper. In brackets, write the name of the author whom the fact is about. For example:
He lived in India for many years. (Rudyard Kipling)

Students then have ten minutes to collect as many facts as possible. They do this by asking each other what their 'facts' are. They then return to their seats and write down all the facts they have learned about each author. The winner is the person who has listed the greatest number of correct facts.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

'The Woman in the Black Coat'

1. Put students into pairs. Discuss the following questions:
   - Do you believe in ghosts? Say why/why not.
   - Then have a whole-class discussion on the subject. Divide the board into two halves. On one half write the reasons why students believe in ghosts. On the other half write the reasons why they do not believe in ghosts. Then the class can have a vote on the subject.

2. Put students into small groups. They tell the story of 'The Woman in the Black Coat'. Each student in the group says a few sentences, then the next student continues with the story.

'Imray Came Back'

Put students into small groups. Tell each group that they are one of the characters in the story - Strickland, Tietjens, or Bahadur Khan. Each group then tells the story to the rest of the class from the point of view of that character. Students can write the story for homework.

'The Room in the Tower'

In groups of three, students act out the scene in which Mrs Stone tries to kill the writer. The third student plays John. After the writer runs out into the garden, the two young men talk about what happened. They also talk about what they are going to do the next day.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

Put students into small groups. Ask them to try to agree which story in the book is best. Why is it best? Then they tell the rest of the class what they think and why.

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practised in the 'Before You Read' sections of exercises at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

'The Woman in the Black Coat'

blind (adj) you are blind when you cannot see with your eyes

dream (n) you see these pictures when you are asleep

fear (n) the feeling you have when you are afraid

get married (v) to marry somebody

ghost (n) when you see a person after they are dead, you see a ghost

jealous (adj) unhappy because you want something and another person has that thing

ugly (adj) not pretty

wedding (n) this is when a man and woman get married; it is usually in a church

'Imray Came Back'

ceiling (n) the top part of a room

corner (n) the place where two walls meet

disappear (v) to go away suddenly

neck (n) this is below somebody's head

servant (n) this person works in another person's house

snake (n) this is a long thin animal; it hasn't any legs

'The Room in the Tower'

blood (n) this is red and is inside people

bury (v) to put something or somebody into the ground

change (v) to be different

stone (n) this is very, very hard and comes from the ground

tower (n) a tall building or part of a building; people look out from it.