

Ghostly Words

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Intensive English 12 A4

O Ghost, are you a shadow of one gone
Who stirs from time to time within his grave?
Was life unjust such death has turned out wrong?
And is there any way to such repay?
Or art thou merely fantasy, thou vision,
Pure madness, crazy mind tricks, in my head?
Or are you demon, devil come to haunt me,
And lure me into strife when I am dead?
Are you, spirit, friend who's come to guide me?
Do you speak truth, or good advice, or still,
Will you always be right there beside me,
To face life's challenges with double will?
Although you're see-through, I can't see through you;
'Tis you that sees through me — I know it's true.

(to the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Ghost, phantom, spirit, wraith,
Apparition, spook,
Ectoplasm, specter, presence,
Or maybe you're just a kook!

Our miracle is dead and gone,
It's but a childish memory
Of things that passed when life went on;
My thoughts a fond facsimile.
I stand here and I see the ghosts
Of eons, seconds, under lights,
Nothing but to give the most
That I can give within those nights.
And when I did, all else was right,
And together we would boast;
I still remember drama's might,
But only as, like you, a ghost.
I pray one day that I shall see
Another thing that matches you,
But, except for lonely me,
Our miracle is dead and gone.

**Are you up for a challenge? I thought so.
Can you name all of these ghosts I know?**

1. Small, with fur and wings, I'm known to coo;
"Something just tells me it belongs with you."
2. A friend? A foe? Constrained to serve, a fool?
No—I know you, a river swift and cool.
3. Every Turn on Turnover we fly;
Winter nights, *between* is in the sky.
4. You whose heart is bitter and greedy,
We'll show you what is, was, and what will be.
5. I'm real though you wish I were a lie;
Remains of friendly foe—or did he die?
6. My memories of life are under latch and key
But end with someone reaching out to catch me.
7. Seven are we bells that walk cold stream;
The eighth is collared, ninth buried to scheme.
8. My mission is completed, journey done,
And when I was defeated, all had won.
9. The moon that gave me life I life repay,
And turn the darkest night to white-beamed day.
10. I stole the diadem my mother wore;
My sweetheart who killed me wears ghostly gore.
11. It is my charge to guard the Items gold,
Until the final story has been told.
12. I know I was kind of a klutz that I fell off a roof,
Please, lay me rest; 'twill your journey home behoof.
13. By the river, I am melanch'ly;
Can you bring my children back to me?
14. My forest home is dead, my heart bleeds
But hope is still alive in scattered seeds.
15. We ride the wings of mumpers in the street,
The wingéd ones around their feeders' feet.
16. Avenge me, lion of thy prophetic soul!
I died besmirched and painfully; uncle!
17. Tell her I love her, ow, my spine,
Freedom's a pickle in the brine.
18. Because my home is what I love the most,
I'll linger like a damn ol' graveyard ghost.
19. A monster though I seem, I'm just in need;
Thank you for the bath, a noble deed.
20. My doom was a volcano, but my end
Was the betrayal of a lifelong friend.
21. A chilling film, July of SDC:
I'll ask this only once: where is Bald E?!
22. Gentle giants, fuzzies of the trees
Look around for lots of acorn seeds.
23. A dark mage that is loyal to the light
Fallen, but will never leave the fight.

Answers to Ghost and Spirit Riddles:

(Left column)

1. Winged Kuriboh, from *Yu-Gi-Oh! GX*, here representing the duel spirits, which also include the Neo-Spacians, the Crystal Beasts, the Ojamas, Blue-Eyes White Dragon... I really could go on all day. "Something just tells me that it belongs with you" is what Yugi said when he gave Winged Kuriboh to Jaden.
2. Haku (aka the Kohaku River), unable to escape from servitude until he knew his true name, from Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*.
3. The Turnover Ghosts, meteor showers during Pernese New Year that are said to be the ghosts of dead dragons, from the *Dragonriders of Pern* series by Anne McCaffrey
4. The ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*
5. The "ghost of Kaiba" from *Yu-Gi-Oh!* episodes "Duel with a Ghoul" and "Give Up the Ghost" (early Duelist Kingdom).
6. D, once called Daniel, from the Nintendo DS video game *Trace Memory*. His chest bears an imprint that mirrors the last thing he saw before he died; the hand of someone he thought was an enemy, reaching out to save him from falling to his death.
7. The seven bells from Garth Nix's *Sabriel* trilogy are all powerful spirit-beings of pure magic. Ranna, Mosrael, Kibeth, Dyrim, Belgaer, Saraneth, and Astarael are the seven bells, but there were also two others, one of whom, Yrael, exists in the form of Abhorsen's cat, Mogget, and the other of which, Orannis, was imprisoned: "Broken in two and buried under hill, / Forever to lie there, wishing us ill."
8. Atem, aka the spirit of the Millennium Puzzle, from *Yu-Gi-Oh!* Once he and Yugi had discovered and completed Atem's mysterious past, it was time for Atem to move on; in order to, he had to face a worthy opponent in a duel and lose. Yugi vs. Atem was absolutely spectacular, Yugi won, and Atem is now, finally, at peace. The Millennium Items are also completely wiped off the face of the earth, which is a blessing to everyone.
9. Princess Yuei, from *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. When she was born, she was sickly, and her parents asked the blessing of the moon spirit to help her. When the moon spirit was destroyed during the Siege of the North, she gave her own life to save the moon spirit, and has essentially become the moon spirit.
10. The Grey Lady, the Ravenclaw ghost from *Harry Potter*, who stole the fabled "lost diadem" of her mother, Rowena Ravenclaw. Despite this, Rowena loved her daughter, and sent her sweetie to go find her and ask her to come home so she could see her before she died. Helena Ravenclaw, the human who became the Grey Lady, fought with this sweetheart, and he stabbed her. Mad with remorse, he also killed himself, and he is now known as the Bloody Baron, Slytherin House's ghost.
11. Shadi, from *Yu-Gi-Oh!*, the spirit whose task it is to guard and take care of the Millennium Items.
12. The guy from Homer's *The Odyssey* who fell off Circe's roof and died, whom Odysseus and his crew returned and buried properly before setting off home.
13. La Llorona, of course.
14. Hei Bai, from *Avatar: the Last Airbender*, a forest spirit whose forest is burned to the ground. It is inconsolable and attacks a nearby village, until Aang shows it what Katara showed him: there are acorns and seeds scattered everywhere by the fire, so the forest will grow back soon.
15. The ghosts of the murdered dead that ride the pigeons in Tamora Pierce's *Beka Cooper* soon-to-be-trilogy.
16. The ghost from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
17. The ghost of Bobby from *Urinetown the Musical* by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann, who sings a duet in Act II, Scene 4.
18. Muley Graves, from John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, who stubbornly remains on his land instead of going west. He's not actually a ghost, but I wanted some variety and in a metaphorical sense he is. He's a metaphorical ghost.
19. The river spirit from Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*, who, when it comes to the bathhouse, appears to be a foul stink demon. Chihiro/Sen, the low rung on the totem pole, is given the task of serving it. She realizes that it has a "thorn" in its side, which is actually a bike handle sticking out, and pulls it free, pulling out more and more junk and garbage behind it. When the huge, smelly monstrosity is free of the pollution, all that's left is a very grateful wisp that gives Chihiro/Sen a magical herb in gratitude.
20. Avatar Roku, from *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. As Aang's previous incarnation, he's often known to guide him. He reveals in Book Three, Chapter Six, "The Avatar and the Firelord", that he shared a lifelong friendship with Firelord Sozin, who is famous for starting the ongoing and violent war. When Roku discovered that Sozin was beginning to conquer more territory, his calling as the Avatar was to stop him, because the four nations are meant to be so. Twenty-five years later, after both had sworn their friendship was over, a mighty volcano erupted on the island of Roku's home. He fought to stop it from destroying his village, and just when all seemed lost, Sozin showed up and assisted him. However, when Roku lay there in the path of the volcano, too weak to move, and begged Sozin for help, Sozin realized that without Roku around, all of his dreams and schemes of conquest could come true, and left him there to die.
21. This is an amateur film from summer camp, a chilling drama in which a vengeful ghost hunts down the camp director.
22. The Totoros, from Miyazaki's *My Neighbor Totoro*.
23. The Dark Magician, Yugi's most trusted monster, from *Yu-Gi-Oh!* Long ago, he was a powerful sorcerer named Mahad, the wielder of the Millennium Ring. Out of a deep loyalty to Atem, when danger threatened he was the first to challenge it head-on for the safety of everyone else. In failing to defeat the evil Bakura, he became one with his monster, Illusion Magician, and became the Dark Magician, able to follow Atem and defend him forevermore.

Clyde (normally an orange tabby)
Will dress this Halloween as a black cat,
Flashing between the houses of the neighborhood,
Always less than a pounce away,
Guarding the kids from all dangers.

Later, the kids safe in bed,
His ghostly form properly groomed,
He will take the Milky Way in a single leap,
Chasing the galaxies like tinkling bells,
Towards the beginning and end of all things.
(By my dad, Robert Mykland, in honor of the Mykland children's late guardian angel)

The moon is full, the wind is chill
The leaves do crackle, omens ill
Do lurk in every darkened place,
The sky black night, not outer space.
A night it seems that anything
Could happen, or is happening;
You just can't see it lurking there.
But it's there; tonight, beware.
An evening every gust of wind
Could herald any spook or fiend
Intent to take you by surprise.
A night you stay alert; your eyes,
Livened by the frosty air,
Stay wide awake, lest all your hair
Suddenly will stand on end,
Sensing, long before you ken,
A presence that is there, then gone!
'Twas nothing there. Or did the dawn
Save you from a ghastly fate?
And does the presaged specter wait
To give unwary wand'ers fright
On next full moon or next dark night?

Many speak with sadness that we cannot see or touch
The ghosts of those have left us, but I'm glad that it's as such.
For if we could see every ghost, and touch those not quite there,
Even if we're used to it, 'twould lead us to despair.
This is 'cause I feel them 'round already, though they're done;
They live in every speck of air—yes, every single one.
Ever step into a place and feel it's been loved?
Feel the times and stories made? Well, that's my point—it's proved.
If ever ghosts were more than air, there'd be no room to thrive,
For ghosts are where folks' hearts have found what makes them come alive.