



THE TURN OF THE SCREW HENRY JAMES

STAGE 4
B2
YOUNG ADULT READERS

ACTIVITY

Choose the correct word for each sentence, and decide between the noun and the adjective.

dread / dreadful
fear / frightening
beauty / beautiful
respectability / respectable
disappointment / disappointed
pain / painful

- 1 Another figure ... just as horrific, just as evil a woman in black, pale and dreadful, with such an air and such a face!
- 2 She didn't want to tell anyone the whole story because it was too frightening.
- 3 The handwriting was lovely. Douglas began to read in a fine, clear voice which echoed the beauty of the author's hand.
- 4 She is a lady, she is respectable and doesn't like it when people tell lies.
- 5 When he told everyone they'd have to wait to hear the rest of the story, they groaned in disappointment.
- 6 I had waited and waited to meet him. I was so impatient to see who he was that it was almost painful.

1 dreadful; 2 frightening; 3 beauty; 4 respectable; 5 disappointment; 6 painful



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TEST YOURSELF

2 Find 18 words from this story in the wordsearch below.
Then choose 3 you are not sure of and use a dictionary to write the meaning.

R	V	I	C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G	C
E	I	N	F	O	O	T	S	T	E	P	O
M	N	D	D	N	H	C	N	F	C	H	N
A	D	I	A	A	A	U	O	L	R	A	C
R	I	G	Z	U	R	N	D	A	O	N	E
K	C	N	Z	G	M	N	T	T	O	D	I
A	T	A	L	H	F	I	A	T	K	F	T
B	I	N	E	T	U	N	C	E	E	U	E
L	V	T	D	Y	L	G	T	R	D	L	D
E	E	S	A	N	E	A	B	S	U	R	D
A	P	P	R	E	H	E	N	S	I	V	E

Word			
Meaning			



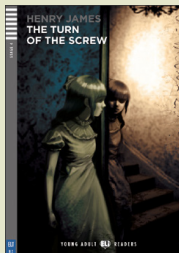
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PET - Speaking

Work in pairs. Ask and answer questions about the kinds of books and films you like. Use the prompts to help you.

- prefer comedies / horror?
- why?
- like ghost stories?
- why / why not?
- prefer / real stories / fantasy?
- why?
- what / films or books / like best?



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FOCUS ON...

Major Themes

Throughout his career James was attracted to the ghost story. However, he was not fond of literature's stereotypical ghosts. He preferred to create ghosts that were eerie extensions of everyday reality. With the *The Turn of the Screw*, many critics have wondered if the "strange and sinister" were only in the governess's mind and not part of reality. The result has been a longstanding critical dispute about the reality of the ghosts and the sanity of the governess. Beyond the dispute, critics have closely examined James's narrative technique for the story. The framing introduction and subsequent first-person narrative by the governess have been studied by theorists of fiction interested in the power of fictional narratives to convince or even manipulate readers. The imagery of *The Turn of the Screw* is reminiscent of gothic fiction. The emphasis on old and mysterious buildings throughout the novella reinforces this motif. James also relates the amount of light present in various scenes to the strength of the supernatural or ghostly forces apparently at work.

