

## the ARTICLE (for instructors)

### Do You Believe in Ghosts?

Ghost stories have been with humankind for thousands of years. There are written accounts from the Chinese and Greeks, for example, which comprise some of the earliest written records of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

The answer seems to be "yes," or at least it does in the US. More than half of the population considers the existence of ghosts as fact, according to a survey taken in 2003. This belief is in spite of the largely questionable and anecdotal scientific evidence. What's more, the poll revealed that few have seen hide or hair of any spiritual beings, but have instead founded their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have taken their inspiration from real life accounts, although quite a few of these have turned out false and clearly embellished before Hollywood even took a whack. Other stories have been very much manipulated by Hollywood, and so hardly resemble the original source. Regardless of how the stories have changed, real-life ghosts seem significantly less impressive than those depicted by Hollywood. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe an unusually creepy feeling, or strange spots of light appear on film, or something is glimpsed out of the corner of their eye.

But TV and movies are a ubiquitous part of today's world. Their affect on people can oftentimes be subtle and subconscious, and slowly influence beliefs, exactly as ghost stories of old.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

Teacher's Notes:

\* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

## **WARM-UPS**

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1. **Define:** What does "ghost" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?
  
2. **Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "ghosts" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.
  
3. **Title:** Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Do You Believe in Ghosts?"
  
4. **Ghost Story:** Do you know any ghost stories, or stories about the strange and supernatural? Get into pairs, and briefly tell a story about ghosts or the supernatural to him/her.
  
5. **Do you agree or disagree? Why?**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | Ghosts are real!  |
| b. | Some people see and/or talk to ghosts.                      |
| c. | I would want to see a ghost someday.                        |
| d. | More than 50% of people around the world believe in ghosts. |
| e. | TV programs and movies about ghosts are fantastic!          |

## VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

**1. Vocabulary match:** Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	<b>comprise</b>	q.	exaggerate
b.	<b>consider</b>	r.	unreliable
c.	<b>anecdotal</b>	s.	look like
d.	<b>inspiration</b>	t.	everywhere
e.	<b>embellish</b>	u.	make up
f.	<b>resemble</b>	v.	look
g.	<b>impressive</b>	w.	rousing
h.	<b>depict</b>	x.	idea
i.	<b>glimpse</b>	y.	believe
j.	<b>ubiquitous</b>	z.	describe

**2. Fill in the Blanks:** Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	<b>glimpsed</b>	<b>considers</b>	<b>ubiquitous</b>	<b>resemble</b>	<b>anecdotal</b>
	<b>inspiration</b>	<b>embellished</b>	<b>impressive</b>	<b>comprise</b>	<b>depicted</b>
a.	There are written accounts from the Chinese which ( ) some of the earliest writings of hauntings.				
b.	More than half of the US population ( ) the existence of ghosts as fact.				
c.	This belief is in spite of the largely questionable and ( ) scientific evidence.				
d.	Many popular programs and movies have taken their ( ) from real life accounts.				
e.	Many of the stories have turned out false and clearly ( ) before Hollywood even took a whack.				
f.	Other stories have been very much manipulated, and so hardly ( ) the original source.				
g.	Real-life ghosts seem significantly less ( ).				
h.	The stories ( ) by Hollywood are more interesting.				
i.	Something is ( ) out of the corner of their eye.				
j.	But TV and movies are a ( ) part of today's world.				

**3. Define:** Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	<b>comprise</b>	c.	<b>anecdotal</b>	e.	<b>embellish</b>	g.	<b>impressive</b>	i.	<b>glimpse</b>
b.	<b>consider</b>	d.	<b>inspiration</b>	f.	<b>resemble</b>	h.	<b>depict</b>	j.	<b>ubiquitous</b>



**pre- or post-COMPREHENSION**

**1. Word Association:** Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

**2. Brainstorm Questions:** Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

**3. True or False?:** Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	The earliest written stories about ghosts come from the Egyptians.	T / F
b.	Almost two-thirds of Americans believe in ghosts.	T / F
c.	TV and movies affect people's belief in ghosts.	T / F
d.	Real-life ghost stories are as exciting as the stories from Hollywood.	T / F
e.	According to the article, some people get a strange feeling when a ghost is nearby.	T / F

**4. Questions:** Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	How many people in the US believe in ghosts?
b.	Why do people in the US believe in ghosts?
c.	How are real-life ghost stories and Hollywood tales different?
d.	What does the article say about real-life ghost stories?
e.	How are modern ghost stories the same as stories from long ago?

**5. Vocabulary:** In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	<b>comprise</b>	c.	<b>anecdotal</b>	e.	<b>embellished</b>	g.	<b>impressive</b>	i.	<b>glimpsed</b>
b.	<b>considers</b>	d.	<b>inspiration</b>	f.	<b>resemble</b>	h.	<b>depicted</b>	j.	<b>ubiquitous</b>

**6. Fragments:** Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	<b>There are written accounts from the Chinese and Greeks, for example,</b>
b.	<b>But do people in our modern,</b>
c.	<b>What's more, the poll revealed that few have seen hide or hair of any spiritual beings, but</b>
d.	<b>At best, some describe an unusually creepy feeling, or</b>
e.	<b>Their affect on people can oftentimes be subtle and</b>

## post-COMPREHENSION

1. **Vocabulary:** Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.
2. **Class Questions:** Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.
3. **Summarize:** Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.
4. **Discuss:** Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	Do you believe in ghosts? How about other monsters, like vampires or mummies? Why/not?
d.	Do you know anyone who has seen, or think he/she has seen, a ghost? If yes, please explain.
e.	What would you do if you saw a ghost?
f.	Do you believe in the paranormal? Why/not?
g.	How much do you think TV and movies affect your opinions and beliefs? Please explain.
h.	What are some of your favorite ghost and/or horror movies from Hollywood? Why do you like them so much?
i.	Are there any good ghost stories from your country? If yes, please tell one.
j.	Compared to the US, do you think more or less people from your country believe in ghosts? Why?

5. **Ghost Story:** In pairs or groups, imagine a ghost story. Choose the characters, the setting, and what happens in your story. Then spend some time writing notes. Lastly, tell the story to the class or another pair/group of students.

<b>Character(s):</b>
<b>Setting:</b>
<b>What happens in the story?:</b>
<b>Notes:</b>

6. **Google Search:** Type "ghosts" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

## **STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)**

### **Do You Believe in Ghosts?**

Ghost stories have been with humankind for thousands of years. There are written accounts from the Chinese and Greeks, for example, which comprise some of the earliest written records of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

The answer seems to be "yes," or at least it does in the US. More than half of the population considers the existence of ghosts as fact, according to a survey taken in 2003. This belief is in spite of the largely questionable and anecdotal scientific evidence. What's more, the poll revealed that few have seen hide or hair of any spiritual beings, but have instead founded their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have taken their inspiration from real life accounts, although quite a few of these have turned out false and clearly embellished before Hollywood even took a whack. Other stories have been very much manipulated by Hollywood, and so hardly resemble the original source. Regardless of how the stories have changed, real-life ghosts seem significantly less impressive than those depicted by Hollywood. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe an unusually creepy feeling, or strange spots of light appear on film, or something is glimpsed out of the corner of their eye.

But TV and movies are a ubiquitous part of today's world. Their affect on people can oftentimes be subtle and subconscious, and slowly influence beliefs, exactly as ghost stories of old.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

**Notes:**

## STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

oftentimes	inspiration	founded	considers	hair
comprise	ubiquitous	resemble	creepy	anecdotal
embellished	depicted	accounts	glimpsed	impressive

### Do You Believe in Ghosts?

Ghost stories have been with humankind for thousands of years. There are written (a. \_\_\_\_\_) from the Chinese and Greeks, for example, which (b. \_\_\_\_\_) some of the earliest written records of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

The answer seems to be "yes," or at least it does in the US. More than half of the population (c. \_\_\_\_\_) the existence of ghosts as fact, according to a survey taken in 2003. This belief is in spite of the largely questionable and (d. \_\_\_\_\_) scientific evidence. What's more, the poll revealed that few have seen hide or (e. \_\_\_\_\_) of any spiritual beings, but have instead (f. \_\_\_\_\_) their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have taken their (g. \_\_\_\_\_) from real life accounts, although quite a few of these have turned out false and clearly (h. \_\_\_\_\_) before Hollywood even took a whack. Other stories have been very much manipulated by Hollywood, and so hardly (i. \_\_\_\_\_) the original source. Regardless of how the stories have changed, real-life ghosts seem significantly less (j. \_\_\_\_\_) than those (k. \_\_\_\_\_) by Hollywood. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe an unusually (l. \_\_\_\_\_) feeling, or strange spots of light appear on film, or something is (m. \_\_\_\_\_) out of the corner of their eye.

But TV and movies are a (n. \_\_\_\_\_) part of today's world. Their affect on people can (o. \_\_\_\_\_) be subtle and subconscious, and slowly influence beliefs, exactly as ghost stories of old.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

## **STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)**

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

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The answer seems to be "yes," or at least it does in the US. a) \_\_\_\_\_, according to a survey taken in 2003. This belief is in spite of the largely questionable and anecdotal scientific evidence. What's more, b) \_\_\_\_\_, but have instead founded their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have taken their inspiration from real life accounts, c) \_\_\_\_\_. Other stories have been very much manipulated by Hollywood, and so hardly resemble the original source. Regardless of how the stories have changed, d) \_\_\_\_\_. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe an unusually creepy feeling, e) \_\_\_\_\_.

But TV and movies are a ubiquitous part of today's world. Their affect on people can oftentimes be subtle and subconscious, and slowly influence beliefs, exactly as ghost stories of old.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

**STUDENT HANDOUT (activities)**

## ANSWER KEY

### Vocabulary

#### 1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	u	f.	s
b.	y	g.	w
c.	r	h.	z
d.	x	i.	v
e.	q	j.	t

#### 2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	comprise	f.	resemble
b.	considers	g.	impressive
c.	anecdotal	h.	depicted
d.	inspiration	i.	glimpsed
e.	embellished	j.	ubiquitous

### pre- or post-Comprehension

#### 1. True or False:

a.	F
b.	F
c.	T
d.	F
e.	T

#### 2. Fragments:

a.	which comprise some of the earliest written records of hauntings.
b.	well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?
c.	have instead founded their beliefs on TV and movies.
d.	strange spots of light appear on film, or something is glimpsed out of the corner of their eye.
e.	subconscious, and slowly influence beliefs, exactly as ghost stories of old.

### Student Handout

#### 1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	accounts	i.	resemble
b.	comprise	j.	impressive
c.	considers	k.	depicted
d.	anecdotal	l.	creepy
e.	hair	m.	glimpsed
f.	founded	n.	ubiquitous
g.	inspiration	o.	oftentimes
h.	embellished		

#### 2. Extended Listening

a.	More than half of the population considers the existence of ghosts as fact
b.	the poll revealed that few have seen hide or hair of any spiritual beings
c.	although quite a few of these have turned out false and clearly embellished before Hollywood even took a whack
d.	real-life ghosts seem significantly less impressive than those depicted by Hollywood
e.	or strange spots of light appear on film, or something is glimpsed out of the corner of their eye