

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 make up some of the earliest writings of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

In the United States, the answer seems to be "yes." According to a survey taken in 2003, more than half of the population considers ghosts are real. The belief is in spite of the questionable scientific evidence. The poll also revealed that few people have ever seen any spiritual being, and have simply based their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have been inspired by real-life ghost stories. However, many have turned out to be false and exaggerated before Hollywood even rewrote the story. Others have been manipulated by Hollywood so much that they don't even look like the original tale. But it doesn't matter so much how Hollywood has changed the ghost stories, because the real-life ones seem much less remarkable. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe a creepy feeling, or see strange spots of light on film, or see something out of the corner of their eye.

But TV and movies are everywhere in today's world, so they often subtly affect people. They influence society's beliefs, the same as ghost stories did long ago.

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. consider	q. doubtful
b. questionable	r. overstate
c. reveal	s. lightly
d. inspire	t. show
e. exaggerate	u. scary
f. manipulate	v. change
g. remarkable	w. believe
h. creepy	x. extraordinary
i. subtly	y. affect
j. influence	z. start

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

	remarkable	considers	influence	questionable	inspired
	revealed	exaggerated	creepy	subtly	manipulated
a.	According to a survey taken in 2003, more than half of the population () ghosts are real.				
b.	The belief is in spite of the () scientific evidence.				
c.	The poll also () that few people have ever seen any spiritual being.				
d.	Many popular programs and movies have been () by real-life ghost stories.				
e.	Many have turned out to be false and () before Hollywood even rewrote the story.				
f.	Others have been () by Hollywood so much that they don't even look like the original tale.				
g.	The real-life stories seem much less ().				
h.	At best, some describe a () feeling, or see strange spots of light on film.				
i.	But TV and movies are everywhere in today's world, so they often () affect people.				
j.	They () society's beliefs, the same as ghost stories did long ago.				

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

a.	consider	c.	reveal	e.	exaggerate	g.	remarkable	i.	subtly
b.	questionable	d.	inspire	f.	manipulate	h.	creepy	j.	influence

WORD RECOGNITION

1. Word Search: Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

remarkable	considers	influence	questionable	inspired
revealed	exaggerated	creepy	subtly	manipulated
I F Q C A X L M S S K N Y E S N A X C F W V C E X Z C L X R S M K T O E H C Z F M B N A E P O R A P N N D Y A A X U G D E C E F Q E S L N N M U N G I R S Q E U S T I O N A B L E S E N U L F B P I D P K B Y R N D D F V U U T S H E I O W A O B N W S L S B M G F R J P T C I Y Z A E E L B A K R A M E R Y P T U I N S P I R E D T D M P E Q D E L A E V E R F C E T D E V S D L S M U W Q J K M M U R M L G X J F V W K M J N Y M C L C E L C R E A P Y V G R				

2. Target Word Pool: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

remarkable	considers	influence	questionable	inspired
revealed	exaggerated	creepy	subtly	manipulated
inquest sabotage considering creepers questionable carpe considerate influence manipulating remarkability relative inspired reveal questions influenza inspiring exaggeration creep questionably unremarkable influential remarkably exaggerate manipulator subtly considers manipulated uninspired ineffectual reveled inspire crepe subtle marketable exaggarating revealing influencing revealed questioning influential exaggerated subtleness creepy manipulative remarkable considered inconsiderate exaggarative remarkable subterfuge considered manipulate inspirational				

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.	considers	c.	reveals	e.	exaggerated	g.	remarkable	i.	subtly
b.	questionable	d.	inspired	f.	manipulated	h.	creepy	j.	influence

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

a.	There are written accounts from the Chinese and Greeks, for example, which
b.	According to a survey taken in 2003,
c.	The poll also revealed that few people have ever seen any spiritual being, and
d.	But it doesn't matter so much how Hollywood has changed the ghost stories, because
e.	At best, some describe a creepy feeling, or

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.

Character(s):
Setting:
What happens in the story?:
Notes:

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 make up some of the earliest writings of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

In the United States, the answer seems to be "yes." According to a survey taken in 2003, more than half of the population considers ghosts are real. The belief is in spite of the questionable scientific evidence. The poll also revealed that few people have ever seen any spiritual being, and have simply based their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have been inspired by real-life ghost stories. However, many have turned out to be false and exaggerated before Hollywood even rewrote the story. Others have been manipulated by Hollywood so much that they don't even look like the original tale. But it doesn't matter so much how Hollywood has changed the ghost stories, because the real-life ones seem much less remarkable. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, some describe a creepy feeling, or see strange spots of light on film, or see something out of the corner of their eye.

But TV and movies are everywhere in today's world, so they often subtly affect people. They influence society's beliefs, the same as ghost stories did long ago.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

questionable	subtly	exaggerated	creepy	inspired
influence	corner	earliest	considers	spirits
remarkable	revealed	educated	manipulated	humankind

Do You Believe in Ghosts?

Ghost stories have been with (a. _____) for thousands of years. There are written accounts from the Chinese and Greeks, for example, which make up some of the (b. _____) writings of hauntings. But do people in our modern, well-(c. _____) civilization actually believe in ghosts?

In the United States, the answer seems to be "yes." According to a survey taken in 2003, more than half of the population (d. _____) ghosts are real. The belief is in spite of the (e. _____) scientific evidence. The poll also (f. _____) that few people have ever seen any spiritual being, and have simply based their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have been (g. _____) by real-life ghost stories. However, many have turned out to be false and (h. _____) before Hollywood even rewrote the story. Others have been (i. _____) by Hollywood so much that they don't even look like the original tale. But it doesn't matter so much how Hollywood has changed the ghost stories, because the real-life ones seem much less (j. _____). Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by (k. _____). At best, some describe a (l. _____) feeling, or see strange spots of light on film, or see something out of the (m. _____) of their eye.

But TV and movies are everywhere in today's world, so they often (n. _____) affect people. They (o. _____) society's beliefs, the same as ghost stories did long ago.

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.

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, a) _____ . But do people in our modern, well-educated civilization actually believe in ghosts?

In the United States, the answer seems to be "yes." According to a survey taken in 2003, more than half of the population considers ghosts are real. The belief is in spite of the questionable scientific evidence. b) _____ , and have simply based their beliefs on TV and movies.

Many popular programs and movies have been inspired by real-life ghost stories. However, many c) _____ . Others have been manipulated by Hollywood so much that they don't even look like the original tale. But it doesn't matter so much how Hollywood has changed the ghost stories, because the real-life ones seem much less remarkable. Objects don't fly across the room, and people aren't possessed by spirits. At best, d) _____ .

e) _____ , so they often subtly affect people. They influence society's beliefs, the same as ghost stories did long ago.

How about you? Do you believe in ghosts?

STUDENT HANDOUT (activities)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

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

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	considers	f.	manipulated
b.	questionable	g.	remarkable
c.	revealed	h.	creepy
d.	inspired	i.	subtly
e.	exaggerated	j.	influence

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

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

2. Fragments:

a.	make up some of the earliest writings of hauntings.
b.	more than half of the population considers ghosts are real.
c.	have simply based their beliefs on TV and movies.
d.	the real-life ones seem much less remarkable.
e.	see strange spots of light on film, or see something out of the corner of their eye.

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	humankind	i.	manipulated
b.	earliest	j.	remarkable
c.	educated	k.	spirits
d.	considers	l.	creepy
e.	questionable	m.	corner
f.	revealed	n.	subtly
g.	inspired	o.	influence
h.	exaggerated		

2. Extended Listening

a.	which make up some of the earliest writings of hauntings
b.	The poll also revealed that few people have ever seen any spiritual being
c.	have turned out to be false and exaggerated before Hollywood even rewrote the story
d.	some describe a creepy feeling, or see strange spots of light on film, or see something out of the corner of their eye
e.	But TV and movies are everywhere in today's world