

“The Haunted Grange of Goresthorpe” by Arthur Conan Doyle
A Quiz by Dean Richardson

1. What is the location? (a) Suffolk (b) Sussex (c) Norfolk (d) Wessex
2. What is a grange?
3. What is the condition of the grange?
4. What story do the “elders of the village” tell about it?
5. Who was the last tenant of the grange? (a) Job Garston (b) Godfrey Daniel (c) Job Morsely (d) Godfrey Marsden
6. When did he reside there?
7. What was his crime?
8. What was his rumored fate? (a) hanging (b) guillotine (c) suicide by drowning (d) eaten by rats
9. Who is Tom Hulton, and how does he differ from the narrator, Jack?
10. According to Tom, what are the two kinds of men?
11. What is an “impregnated spirit”?
12. What does Tom propose to do?
13. What prompted Jack to agree to go? (a) male ego (b) curiosity (c) to be sure Tom didn’t pretend to see a ghost (d) the third glass of whiskey (apparently, the spirits moved him)
14. What room in the Grange do they select for their vigil?
15. What is the noise that they misinterpret as rain leaking through the ceiling?
16. What do they see in the corridor?
17. What do Jack and Tom do then?
18. What does their subsequent discussion reveal?

Discussion Questions

1. What are some characteristics of the story that typify ACD’s mature writing style, especially in the Canon? First-person narration; one of protagonists is a doctor (medical student during events of the

story); protagonist is accompanied by a friend; strong sense of place and atmosphere; attention to detail; flashbacks or backstory; Lycett (*The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes*, 2007) notes “the narrative ploy of playing off one character against another . . . to examine rival claims of rationalism and skepticism.” Marsden is like the Baskerville ancestor Sir Hugo (17th c.).

2. What are some advantages of first person narrative? Empathy, identification, seeing events through the protagonist’s eyes

3. What are some disadvantages? Loss of suspense (you know the protagonist survives); other characters’ feelings and motives may be unclear.

4. Who was the Pretender? (Hint: not Jackson Browne) Charles Edward Stuart (“Bonnie Prince Charlie” aka “The Young Pretender”), grandson of James II, who had been dethroned and replaced by William III of Orange. CES tried unsuccessfully to seize power in the Jacobite rising of 1745.

5. “‘Hang the noise,’ said Tom, ‘pass me over a fusee, old boy.’” What is a fusee? A large-headed match capable of staying lit in strong wind

6. What is a rough translation of “quod tango credo”? I believe what I can touch.

Quiz Answers

1. c

2. Farm house

3. The house is a “tumbledown old pile” amid stagnant pools and garbage.

4. Thirty years earlier Job Garston slept in it one night and the next day was “a white-haired broken man.”

5. d

6. Middle of the last century (1700s)

7. Killing his wife and two children

8. c

9. A college friend whose subsequent German schooling made him speculative rather than practical

10. Those who deny the existence of ghosts and are afraid of them, and those who allow the possible existence and want to see one

11. The spirit of a person who had some all-absorbing passion that at death prevented him from leaving the earth and bound him to a particular place

12. Spend the night in the grange to see if it’s haunted

13. d (but the other options could apply as well)

14. The one under the bedroom where Marsden killed his children and wife

15. Blood dripping on the torn wallpaper

16. A man in old-fashioned clothes runs down the corridor, illuminated by lightning through the windows and pursued by a woman. He seems to have ribbons hanging from his hair, and she has marks on her neck. He runs out of sight; then she does; there is a scream and then silence.

17. Get the hell out of there and back to Jack’s smoking room

18. The ribbons in the man’s hair were actually seaweed, and the marks on the woman’s neck were made by fingers as in strangulation.