

LESSON PLAN

3/4



STORIES OF GHOSTS AND MYSTERY

Worksheet

1. Before you read

Match the words from the text to their meaning.

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| 1. sexton | a. when you break a law of your religion |
| 2. pulpit | b. the minister stands here to talk to his people |
| 3. sermon | c. a person who looks after the church and rings the bell on Sundays |
| 4. sin | d. the people who attend a church service regularly |
| 5. congregation | e. a talk on a religious subject given by a minister |
| 6. funeral procession | f. people who go with the coffin to the cemetery |

2. Read the first part of the extract – Part One – The Veil

“What has Reverend Hooper got on his face?” the sexton cried, amazed.

Everyone turned around and looked at Reverend Hooper who was walking slowly towards the church.

“Are you sure he’s our reverend?” asked John Gray.

“Of course it is,” said the sexton.

Reverend Hooper, a man of about thirty, was dressed in his best Sunday clothes but there was one strange thing about him that morning. He had a black veil tied to his forehead. It covered his whole face, except for his mouth and chin. The people who stood at the door of the church looked at him, amazed.

“What’s the Reverend wearing on his face?” asked Goodman Gray.

“I don’t know and I don’t like it,” said an old woman.

“Why is he hiding his face?” asked a young man. “He looks awful.”

“Is he our reverend or not?” asked a boy.

“Our Reverend is mad!” cried Goodman Gray, entering the church.

As Reverend Hooper entered the church the whole congregation looked at him and several little boys climbed onto the seats to get a better view. But the Reverend did not seem to notice anything and slowly walked to the pulpit and looked at his congregation. He never took the mysterious veil off, but it moved a bit when he breathed. Was he trying to hide from someone—God perhaps? Or was he trying to hide something?

A few women who were frightened by the black veil left the church.

This Sunday’s sermon was darker, gloomier and more powerful than the others. The sermon was about secret sins and the mysteries which we hide from our family and even from ourselves—forgetting that God can see them.



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3. Read the second part of the extract – Part One – The Veil

Later that morning the church bell rang for the funeral of a young woman. Her relatives and friends waited in her house for Reverend Hooper. He arrived and was still wearing the black veil. He walked into the room where the coffin with the body of the young woman was and stood next to it. Then he bent over the coffin and his veil hung straight down from his forehead.

An old woman who was sitting near the coffin said that the body of the young woman shook when the reverend looked at her.

The reverend left the room and went into the living room where friends and relatives were waiting for the funeral prayer. After the prayer the funeral procession walked slowly down the street and Reverend Hooper followed in his black veil.

“Why are you looking back?” a man in the procession asked a woman.

“I thought I saw the Reverend and the young woman’s ghost walking hand in hand,” replied the woman.

“So did I,” said a young girl.

4. Look at this sentence:

“I thought I saw the Reverend and the young woman’s ghost walking hand in hand,” replied the woman.

In pairs or small groups, comment on this sentence.

Was there a secret relationship between the Reverend and the young woman? Is this the reason why the reverend wore the mask? Why did the body of the dead girl in the coffin shake when the reverend looked at her?

5. What do you think will happen next?

Will the Reverend explain the reason for his mask? Why was his sermon about secret sins? What will the congregation think of their Reverend? Will someone try to investigate the life of the Reverend?

