

Before-reading questions

Reader's own answers.

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 The woman died twenty years ago. She was a governess who taught Douglas's younger sister and is described as clever, nice and charming. She was the youngest daughter of a poor parson who lived in the country. She got her first job at the age of twenty at a house called Bly in Essex. She fell in love with the gentleman who employed her to look after two children when he interviewed her.
- 2 They are a girl aged eight and a boy aged ten. They are the gentleman's niece and nephew, who lived with his parents in India after the death of their father, his brother, who was a soldier. The boy was sent away to school after the children's previous governess died.
- 3 The job has strange conditions attached to it – the governess has to take complete charge at Bly and should never contact the gentleman again.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 The governess meets Mrs Grose, who is the housekeeper, and Flora, who is the little girl. Mrs Grose is a large, comfortable-looking woman. Flora is charming, with blonde hair and blue eyes, and the governess thinks she is the most beautiful child she has ever seen.
- 2 The letter tells the governess that Miles has been expelled from school. It does not tell her why he has been expelled.
- 3 She was young and pretty. She went home at the end of the year for a short holiday and died. She was not ill when she left Bly.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 The governess decides to do nothing about the letter. She will not answer it. She will not say anything to Miles, and she will not contact his uncle. She locks it in a cupboard in her bedroom.
- 2 Just after her pupils have eaten a meal and gone to bed. She loves to walk around the garden in the park and listen to the birds as it is getting dark. She feels as though Bly belongs to her.
- 3 She sees a man, a stranger, on top of one of the towers. Later, she sees the same man outside the dining room with his face against the window, staring in.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 The governess is able to describe what he looks like to Mrs Grose.
- 2 Peter Quint has very short, red hair and a long, pale face. He has thick, dark eyebrows, his eyes are small, and they are sharp and strange. His mouth is wide, his lips are thin, and he is tall and strong. He is not a gentleman, and he is very handsome. He was the owner's valet – his own servant. He wears his master's clothes. He was in charge at Bly after the owner went away. He is dead – he was found on an icy road on the way home from the pub. There are mysteries about his life and people wondered if someone had killed him. He made friends with Miles.
- 3 While Flora is playing by the lake, the governess sees a figure watching them from the other side of the lake. Flora turns her back to the lake.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 *Reader's own answer.*
- 2 *Reader's own answer.*
- 3 Because they want to possess the children.

- 4 We learn that they were both corrupt and wicked. There was “something between” Miss Jessel and Quint even though she was a lady, and he was only a valet. This probably means that they were in love with each other. Mrs Grose has guessed the reason why Miss Jessel left, saying it was wicked for a governess to behave like that. She does not actually say so, but we can guess that Miss Jessel was going to have a baby. Miss Jessel might have died while she was having a baby or she might have killed herself.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 Because nothing further happens for a while. The children are calm and behave very well for her.
- 2 Nothing strange or bad has happened for a while, so the governess does not feel so anxious. Then the governess sees the ghost of Peter Quint on the stairs inside the house late one night, and she gets very frightened and anxious again.
- 3 Miles is staring up at someone or something at the top of the tower. The governess probably believes that Miles is looking up at Peter Quint because that is where the governess first saw Quint.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 **Model answer:**
The governess probably wants to protect them from the ghosts.
- 2 The governess believes that the children are aware of the ghosts and that they will go to them and become possessed by them. She believes that the children are not good and well behaved. They are just pretending. She is now sure she is right about this.
- 3 Because she is too proud to let him know that she needs help. She does not want him to believe that she wants to attract him

by asking him to come to Bly. She wants to please him by not trying to change the conditions of her job.

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 The governess is sure that the children know that she knows they are aware of the ghosts. But she does not feel able to talk to them about this.
- 2 So she can plan what to say to the children about the ghosts. She knows that she is obsessed with the problem, but she is too embarrassed to say anything to the children. She feels ill and as if she is drowning. She shivers with fear and imagines the experiences which the children had while Quint and Miss Jessel were alive.
- 3 Miles wants to go back to school because he is growing up and does not want to be taught by a woman any more. He wants to see more of life and more people like himself.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 Because she does not want to sit next to Miles in silence while he holds her arm in order to remind her about their conversation.
- 2 The governess changes her mind when she sees the ghost of Miss Jessel in the schoolroom.
- 3 She has decided to write to the children’s uncle and ask him to come to Bly.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 **Model answer:**
Miles might want to talk about what he did at school. He might want to talk about the ghosts. He might want to talk about the way that the governess behaves.
- 2 **Model answer:**
The governess wants to talk about the ghosts.
- 3 There is an extraordinary noise and a feeling of ice-cold air, as if the window is open,

but the curtains and the window are closed.
The candle goes out, so the room is dark.

Model answer:

Miles blew out the candle in order to end the conversation, and the governess imagined the noise and the ice-cold wind because she is so obsessed and frightened.

Or

The ghost of Peter Quint caused the noise and the feeling of wind. He made the candle go out in order to help Miles to avoid the conversation.

- 4** The governess thinks the children made a plan for Flora to leave the house to meet Miss Jessel.

Reader's own answer.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 1** They find Flora by the lake.

- 2 Model answers:**

Because she knows that Miss Jessel is dead.

Or

Because she realizes that the governess can see the ghost of Miss Jessel.

- 3** *Reader's own answer.*

- 4** The governess is talking to Flora. She means that Flora is possessed by Miss Jessel.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 1** Because Flora is ill and terrified by the thought of seeing the governess. She is also horrified about what Flora has been saying and what terrible language she uses. She goes to Flora's uncle in London.
- 2** She says she will stay for a day or two longer so Miles can tell her everything. (She means about the ghosts of Quint and Miss Jessel.) Before Miles sees his uncle, she wants him to understand how she has helped him.
- 3** *Reader's own answer.*

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 1** The governess sees the ghost of Peter Quint coming towards the window. She jumps up and gets hold of Miles so she can turn his back to the window and not let him see Quint.

- 2 Model answer:**

Maybe he is terrified of the governess's behaviour and questions. Maybe he is aware of the ghost outside the window and terrified of it. Maybe he realizes that the governess knows he is possessed, and he is wondering what is going to happen.

- 3 Model answers:**

Miles is talking to the governess and answering her question, "Who are you talking about?" by finally saying Peter Quint's name. He is calling her "you devil" because she has been forcing him to remember horrible things that happened when Peter Quint and Miss Jessel were alive.

Or

Miles is talking to Peter Quint. He feels or sees that Peter Quint is there, so he is shouting at the ghost and calling him, "you devil".

After-reading questions

- 1** The title is The Turn of the Screw, the title which Henry James gave the story.

Model answer:

It is a good title because the story really shows how the amount of terror is increased by having two children at the centre of it instead of just adults.

Or

It is a poor title because it is not very clear and does not tell us anything about the story.

- 2** *Reader's own answer.*

- 3** The governess was talking about her employer, but Mrs Grose is talking about Peter Quint.

- 4** *Reader's own answer.*

- 5** *Reader's own answer.*

Exercises

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 1 shiver when your body shakes for a moment because you are cold or frightened.
- 2 2 dreadful Something that is dreadful is very bad or horrible. If something is dreadfully boring or dreadfully long, for example, it is extremely boring or extremely long.
- 3 3 servant a person whose job is to cook and clean in someone's home
- 4 4 groan to make a long low sound with your voice because you are not happy about something
- 5 5 pause If you pause, you stop speaking or moving for a few seconds and then start again.
- 6 6 guardian someone who is responsible for a young person
- 7 7 tragic A tragic event makes people very sad because someone suffers or dies.
- 8 8 previous a previous person or thing was there before the one you are talking about
- 9 9 interrupt to say something that usually stops someone else from speaking
- 10 10 conditions things you must do, and things you can and cannot do

CHAPTER TWO

- 2 *Model answers:*
- 1 The governess travels to Bly in June, which is in the summer.
- 2 Bly is a country house near a village.
- 3 Bly is very unlike the home the governess grew up in, which was a small country parsonage.
- 4 The housekeeper and one child, Flora,

meet the governess when she arrives at Bly.

- 5 The governess does not sleep well during her first night at Bly.
- 6 Miles is not doing well at school because he has been expelled.
- 7 Flora probably hears the governess and Mrs Grose talking about Miles being expelled from school.
- 8 The previous governess left Bly at the end of the year for a short holiday, and she was not ill when she left.

CHAPTER THREE

- 3 1 Miles's innocence **made** the governess angry about the letter.
- 2 Mrs Grose asked the governess if she **was going** to talk to Miles about the letter.
- 3 The governess **used to** enjoy walking in the garden as the daylight faded.
- 4 The governess **used to** think about how she was making her employer happy.
- 5 It **was** terrifying for the governess to see the man on the tower.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 4 1 Mrs Grose asked the governess what she meant.
- 2 Mrs Grose asked the governess how she knew that Flora saw the figure.
- 3 The governess asked Mrs Grose if she believed her.
- 4 Mrs Grose asked the governess if that would prove how innocent Flora was.
- 5 Mrs Grose asked the governess if she would forgive Miles.

CHAPTERS SIX AND SEVEN

- 5 1 If anything strange **had happened**, the governess would have been more anxious.
- 2 If the children **hadn't behaved** so well, the governess wouldn't have felt that they loved her.

- 3 If the ghost of Peter Quint hadn't appeared, the governess **wouldn't have been** so shocked.
- 4 The governess would have known if Flora **had been telling** the truth.
- 5 The governess **wouldn't have known** what to do if Mrs Grose hadn't believed her about the ghosts.
- 6 "If you had been with either child during these last nights, you **would have understood** what I understand," said the governess.
- 7 The children **wouldn't have stopped** walking if the governess hadn't shrieked so loudly.

- 5 If he admits everything, he is saved.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 10 *Reader's own answers.*

Project work

Reader's own answers.

Essay questions

Reader's own answers.

CHAPTER NINE

- 6 1 e 2 f 3 b 4 d 5 c 6 a

CHAPTER TEN

- 7 1 peacefully
- 2 endless
- 3 obsession
- 4 loveliness
- 5 innocent
- 6 evil
- 7 uneasily
- 8 cheerful

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 8 1 b 2 c 3 a 4 c 5 b

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 9 1 Does she still say that she didn't see Miss Jessel yesterday?
- 2 She asks me every three minutes if you're coming in.
- 3 I realize now that he has a strange way of showing this.
- 4 She seemed troubled, and I did not know why.