

**Paper 2A:
Writers' Viewpoints
and Perspectives**



The Paranormal

Differentiated Workbook

SOURCE A



Adapted from Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle's "The Edge of the Unknown" (1930)

In this autobiographical extract Arthur Conan-Doyle, best-known for writing the Sherlock Holmes stories, gives an account of his personal beliefs in - and his experiences of - the supernatural.

1 One event happened some years ago. It was in my bedroom at Crowborough. I woke
2 in the night with a feeling that there was someone in the room, and that the
3 presence was not of this world. I was lying with my back to the room, wide awake,
4 but utterly unable to move. It was physically impossible for me to turn my body and
5 face this visitor. I heard footsteps across the room. I was conscious (without seeing it)
6 that someone was leaning over me, and then I heard a voice saying in a loud whisper,
7 "Doyle, I have come to tell you that I am sorry." A minute later my paralysis
8 disappeared and I was able to turn over but the room was dark and perfectly still. My
9 wife was fast asleep and knew nothing of what had just passed. It was no dream, I
10 was perfectly conscious all the time. My ghostly visitor gave no name, but I felt that it
11 was a certain individual whom I had tried to comfort when he was widowed. He
12 rejected my offer of support at the time and then died himself shortly afterwards. It
13 may well be that he wished to say sorry.

14 I had a second interesting experience some years ago. There was a church in the
15 neighbourhood which had the reputation of being haunted. The group consisted of
16 my wife and myself, my two sons, my daughter and a friend. It was ten o'clock when
17 we presented ourselves at the door of the church, where we were met by an elderly
18 priest. Swinging a lantern, he led the way to the choir end of the church where we all
19 sat down for the evening.

20 For two hours I had sat in the dark upon my hard seat when suddenly, quite
21 suddenly, something occurred which no one could explain away.

22 Roughly twenty feet away from me there was a dull haze of light, a sort of glowing
23 cloud, a foot or so wide, and about a man's height from the ground. We had been
24 rustling and whispering, but the sudden, complete silence showed me that my
25 companions were also seeing what I was. The light glimmered down, and hardened
26 into a definite shape--or I should say shapes--since there were two of them.

27 They were two perfectly clear-cut figures in black and white, with a dim glow all their
28 own. I thought they were both wearing priest's clothing. Whether they were facing
29 the altar or facing each other was more than I could say, but they were not misty
30 figures, they were solid shapes. For two or three minutes we all gazed at this amazing
31 spectacle. Then my wife spoke to the ghosts, saying: "Friends, is there anything which
32 we can do to help you?"

33 In an instant they were gone and we were peering into unbroken darkness with the
34 lights still flickering above.

SOURCE B

Adapted from *Discovery Channel News*, Oct 21st, 2011

DO GHOSTS EXIST?

- 1 Despite the efforts of thousands of real-life ghost hunters over the years, there is still
- 2 no evidence that ghosts exist. Usually, the types of evidence offered for the
- 3 paranormal fall into the following categories:

Personal Experiences

- 4 Ghost hunters often report personal feelings and experiences like, "I felt we were
- 5 being watched," or "I felt like something didn't want us there." They also describe,
- 6 for example, getting goose bumps upon entering a room or panicking at some
- 7 unseen presence. There's nothing wrong with personal experiences, but this is not
- 8 proof that ghost exists. It just proves that people get scared in dark, spooky places.

Orbs

- 9 Many ghost hunters and books on hauntings claim that ghosts can be photographed,
- 10 appearing as round white shapes called orbs. Many things cause orbs to appear in
- 11 photographs, including insects, dust and reflections from the camera flash. People
- 12 think orbs are proof of ghosts because they only appear in photographs and are
- 13 usually invisible to the naked eye. To those who don't know what causes orbs, they
- 14 can seem spooky, but there is nothing paranormal about them.

Ghost Equipment Results

- 15 Ghost investigators often use unscientific and unproven equipment in their search
- 16 for spirits. Some use psychics to try and communicate with ghosts. Others use high-
- 17 tech devices such as electromagnetic field detectors and infrared cameras. This
- 18 equipment is commonly sold as ghost hunting gear, but there is no logical or
- 19 scientific reason to use this equipment when looking for ghosts. EMF detectors
- 20 measure electromagnetic fields, not ghosts; infrared cameras reveal the infrared
- 21 spectrum, not ghosts. There is no evidence that ghosts have anything to do with
- 22 electromagnetic fields, infrared images or changes in room temperature!

Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVPs)

- 23 Most ghost hunters, including the "Ghost Hunters" team on TV, use handheld voice
 - 24 recorders in an attempt to capture a supposed ghost voice, or EVP. Often a ghost
 - 25 investigator will hold the recorder while standing in the middle of a room and speak
 - 26 to the supposed spirit. He will later listen to the recordings at high volume, listening
 - 27 for any faint murmurs, sounds or noises, which may be interpreted as ghost voices.
 - 28 For example, a ghost hunter may ask out-loud, "If there's a spirit here, what's your
 - 29 name?"
 - 30 Often the investigator will get no answer at all; other times, if the ghost hunters wait
 - 31 long enough they'll hear some random sound that could be interpreted as a faint,
 - 32 mumbled name. The problem is that microphones are very sensitive and may record
 - 33 anything from someone whispering in the next room, to the wind blowing outside.
- There is no proof that ghosts exist.



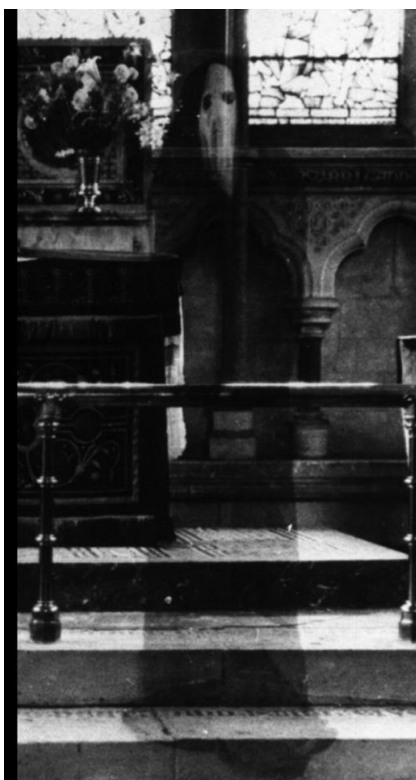
Q1: Read Source A, lines 13 to end.

TICK four statements below which are TRUE.

- Six people went on the ghost hunt to the haunted church
- The two ghostly figures seemed to glow
- The ghosts floated over the heads of the seated observers
- Conan-Doyle said the others also saw the two ghosts
- Conan-Doyle just imagined seeing the two ghosts
- The ghosts vanished when they were spoken to
- Conan-Doyle's wife scared the ghosts away

EXTENSION: Re-read SOURCE A, lines 22 to 28.

Label the image with words or phrases used to describe the ghosts in the church.



Q2: Write a summary to show the writers' different attitudes to ghosts.

What to do:

(1) Read the sentences below.

(2) Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the *Word Box* below.

The author of Source A clearly believes that ghosts exist. He gives _____ examples of his own personal experiences of the paranormal to explain why he believes in ghosts. The first example happened one _____ when he woke up and was not able to _____. He said he heard a man speak to him but when he rolled over to see who it was, _____ was there.

On another occasion, the author went one night with his family on a ghost hunt to a local _____ that was supposedly haunted. After sitting in the dark for two hours, suddenly two ghosts _____. The author says that the ghosts were real because _____ saw them before they vanished.

The author of Source B does not _____ in ghosts. Instead, he tries to explain why personal experiences cannot be trusted, and he explains what causes orbs to appear in _____. He also says that the equipment ghost hunters use has never proved that ghosts exist.

WORD BOX: Use each word only once.

photographs

church

night

believe

two

no-one

appeared

move

everyone

Q2: EXTENSION

Finish the sentences below, using your own words to write a summary of the writers' different attitudes to the paranormal.

The author of **Source A** believes in the paranormal and gives examples of ghostly encounters he has had. **His first experience** happened one night when

The writer's second encounter was with two ghosts. He and some members of his family had gone

However, the author of **Source B** clearly does **not believe** in the paranormal. He explains why personal experiences cannot be trusted. For example,

Also, he offers explanations for things like **'orbs' in photographs** that some people think is proof of ghosts. He says



Q3a: Refer to the extract below, taken from Source B.

Orbs

Many ghost hunters and books on hauntings claim that ghosts can be photographed, appearing as round white shapes called orbs. Many things cause orbs to appear in photographs, including insects, dust and reflections from the camera flash. People think orbs are proof of ghosts because they only appear in photographs and are usually invisible to the naked eye. To those who don't know what causes orbs, they can seem spooky, but there is nothing paranormal about them.

Ghost Equipment Results

Ghost investigators often use unscientific and unproven equipment in their search for spirits. Some use psychics to try and communicate with ghosts. Others use high-tech devices such as electromagnetic field detectors and infrared cameras. This equipment is commonly sold as ghost hunting gear, but there is no logical or scientific reason to use this equipment when looking for ghosts. EMF detectors measure electromagnetic fields, not ghosts; infrared cameras reveal the infrared spectrum, not ghosts. There is no evidence that ghosts have anything to do with electromagnetic fields, infrared images or changes in room temperature!

How does the writer use language to show he does not believe in ghosts?

What to do:

(1) **Highlight 3 sentences** that show the writer does not believe in ghosts.

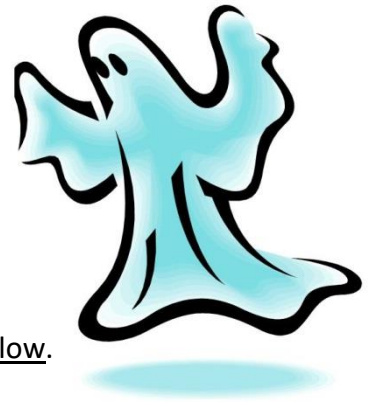
(2) **Write out** those 3 sentences below as quotations.

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

Q3b: Write Up



What to do:

- (1) Read the sentences below.
- (2) Fill in the blanks. Choose the correct word from the *Word Box* below.

The _____ uses language in interesting ways to convey his viewpoint to the reader. Clearly, he does not believe in _____ because he writes: ***“To those who don’t know what causes orbs, they can seem spooky.”*** This comment suggests that the writer does know what causes orbs in photographs, and he does not believe that it is ghosts. He claims that it is more likely to be: ***“insects, dust or reflections from the camera _____.”***

He also uses _____ to convey his attitude to ghosts.

For example, he writes:

“ghost investigators use unscientific and unproven equipment in their search for spirits.”

The adjectives “_____” and “_____” reveal his _____ attitude and disbelief in ghosts.

The writer also uses strongly expressed _____ to convey his disbelief in ghosts. For example, he says there is ***“no logical or scientific reason to use this equipment”*** when looking for ghosts.

WORD BOX: Use each word only once.

ghosts

adjectives

opinions

unproven

unscientific

author

negative

flash

Q3: EXTENSION



Use the PEE paragraph sentence stems below.

- (1) **Add relevant evidence** which proves the point
- (2) **Explain what the word** (or words) **helps the reader to understand.**

P The writer uses **adjectives** which show the reader that he does not believe

in ghosts or the supernatural.

Ev

In the text, we read: “ _____

_____”

Ex

The **adjectives** “ _____” and “ _____”

help the reader to understand _____

P

_____.

Ev

The writer also uses strongly expressed **personal opinions**.

One of the **opinions** he expresses is: “

Ex

_____.”

The words “ _____” help readers to

understand

