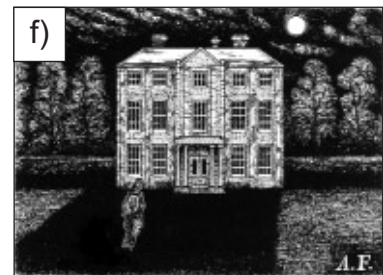
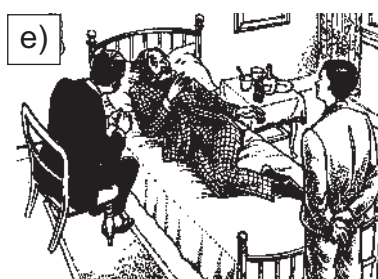


# The House in the Picture and Abbot Thomas' Treasure

M. R. James

## A Before Reading

1 Match these pictures from the book with the sentences. Guess which story they come from.



- 1) 'Mr Somerton was ill. He was lying on his bed. He was very cold. His face was very pale. His hands were shaking.'
- 2) "'It's a terrible picture, sir,' said the servant. 'I looked at it and I saw this black thing. I saw its white bones. It's a skeleton, sir! It's horrible!'"
- 3) "'This is very strange!' Mr Williams said to himself. 'Is the figure walking towards the house?'"
- 4) 'But Mr Somerton did not look at the engravings carefully. He wanted to go down into the well.'
- 5) 'The parcel was from Mr Britnell.'
- 6) 'He started to remove the black paint from the bottom of Job's cloak.'

2 Look at pages 4 and 5. What kind of stories is M.R. James most famous for?

**B While Reading**

- 3 Look at the picture of the house:  
 a) on page 10. Who saw this picture?  
 b) on page 13. Who saw this picture?  
 c) on page 16. Who saw this picture?  
 d) on page 18. Who saw this picture?  
 e) on page 22. Who saw this picture?
- 4 What does A. F. mean?

**ABBOT THOMAS' TREASURE**

- 5 Here is the picture on page 37.  
 a) Where is this window?  
 b) Where did the window come from?  
 c) Why does Mr Somerton know about the window?  
 d) Mr Somerton wanted to find the treasure. Sections of this window helped him. Draw a circle round each of these sections. One circle is drawn for you.



- 6 Who said what? Write Geo (George) or Gr (Gregory) or S (Somerton) in each of the boxes.

- 'Now we must find the well.'
- 'There are stairs down to the water.'
- 'We will come back tonight.'
- 'I will find the treasure in the well.'
- 'Somebody is up there.'
- 'You have come. Thank you, sir.'
- 'Something is trying to find me.'
- 'Please try to tell me about it.'
- 'I screamed and fell off the stair.'
- 'You woke the guardian.'
- 'We will go to the abbey now.'

**C After Reading Both Stories**

- 7 Look at the five pictures of Anningley Hall on pages 10, 13, 16, 18 and 22. You are the ghost, Jack Gawdy. Tell your story in five paragraphs. Here is the first paragraph.

It is April 1802. It is the middle of the night. There is no moon and it is very dark. I am standing on the lawn in front of Anningley Hall. Arthur Francis is inside the house with his baby son. I was the last person in the Gawdy family. Soon Arthur Francis will be the last person in the Francis family.

- 8 Write a message in Abbot Thomas' code. Be very careful! These notes will help you.
- Choose a message with an even number of letters. The message should be at least 60 letters long.
  - Write down all the letters of the message. Do not leave any spaces between them.
  - Divide the message exactly into two halves.
  - Look carefully at pages 46 to 51 again. Now write the two halves of the message again. Where must you leave spaces? Where must you add letters? What must you do next?