

**Class 7 (English)**  
**2. Into Thin Air**  
**Sec.1 The Inexperienced Ghost**

**Summary:-**

This particular extract is taken from 'The Story of the Inexperienced Ghost' written by H.G Wells. In this a man, Clayton is narrating an incident of his encounter with a ghost that took place the last night at a club. He is narrating all this to his friends Wish, Sanderson, Evans and the narrator of this lesson. Clayton tells his friends who have come to meet him at the club, how he met a ghost last night. Initially they did not believe Clayton and made fun of him, but they seemed to believe him when he gave detailed description about the ghost. He told the ghost was transparent. He was lean and had a small head with very short hair. He was wearing a short jacket and trousers which were frayed at the heels. On being asked by Clayton, the ghost told him that he had come there to haunt the place. In response to this, Clayton scolded him and said that that was not the right place for the ghosts to haunt as people stay there with their children. It might scare the kids. The ghost said that he did not want to come to that place. In fact he wanted to return back from the club but he couldn't because he had forgotten the last set of moves that would help him to go back from there. Clayton helped the ghost by encouraging him to keep trying until he gets to the correct moves. Finally he got the moves right and succeeded in returning back to the place from where he had come. Yet, Clayton's friends did not believe him completely. So to convince them Clayton told them that he could replicate the moves which the ghost was doing to disappear from there. And he began to do that. Wish was very afraid as he thought this would really make Clayton

disappear from there if he copied the moves correctly. Clayton kept trying the moves. His friends were getting tensed. And when he made his last gesture which could vanish him, he said NO because he was just telling a story to them. He had not met any ghost that night.

### A. Word meanings:-

1. scrubby- very short
2. turn-down collar- a collar worn folded down as on a formal shirt
3. frayed- with threads that are starting to come apart
4. emitted- let out
5. peevishly- easily annoyed
6. as obstinate as a mule- very stubborn
7. ceased even to breathe- stopped breathing

### B. Tick the most appropriate options:-

1. d                      2. b                      3. d                      4. a

### C. Answer the questions:-

**Q.1** *"The mess he had made of haunting had saddened him terribly."*  
**Who had made a mess of haunting? How had he done it? Why was he sad?**

**Ans.** The ghost whom Clayton met had made a mess of haunting and this made the ghost sad. He made a mess of it because he had not successfully haunted any place and had also forgotten the moves to return to where he came from.

**Q.2.** *"Clayton,"* said I, *"you're a very good liar."* **Why did the narrator say this?**

**Ans.** The narrator said Clayton was a very good liar because he almost believed the incident that Clayton narrated about his encounter with a ghost.

**Q.3. “This sort is not going to snatch Clayton into the world of darkness.” Who says this and why? What sort of thing is he talking about?**

**Ans.** Evans says these words. When Evans says ‘this sort’, he is referring to Clayton recreating the ghost’s movements. By saying this, he is dismissing Wish’s fear that Clayton may disappear in real.

## **D. Answer the questions:-**

**Q.1 How did Clayton convince his friends that he had seen a real ghost?**

**Ans.** Clayton convinced his friends that he had seen a real ghost by giving a very detailed description of his encounter. He was even ready to replicate the movements which made the ghost disappear.

**Q.2 Did Clayton help the ghost find his way back? How?**

**Ans.** Yes, Clayton helped the ghost to find his way back by encouraging the ghost to try out the movements he remembered. When the ghost insisted that he did not want the narrator to watch him, he turned away to let the ghost continue trying.

## **E. Answer the questions:-**

**Q.1 *We laughed and Clayton looked offended. Offended means insulted. Why was Clayton offended by their laughter?***

**Ans.** Clayton was offended by their laughter because his friends did not believe what he had told them.

**Q.2. “There’s some little thing that has slipped me and I can’t get back.” Slipped me here means slipped from my mind. What little thing had been forgotten by the ghost?**

**Ans.** The ghost had forgotten the final set of moves that would help him return to where he came from.

**Q.3. “I said in a tone of friendly superiority.” A tone of superiority is to speak proudly as though you are better than the person you are speaking to. What does friendly superiority mean? Why do you think Clayton spoke like this to the ghost?**

**Ans.** Clayton spoke in a tone of friendly superiority because he wanted the ghost to follow his advice without getting offended. He wanted the ghost to believe him and trust his words and advice.

**F. Match the columns to make similes:- ( solve it in the book only)**

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

**G. Punctuate the sentences correctly. (First one is solved for you)**

1. we can see ghosts in that house

Ans. We can see ghosts in that house.

2. can we see ghosts in that house

3. when do we have monsoons in india

4. do we have monsoons in india

5. this is a good place to start

6. is this a good place to start

7. ar you going to shimla for your holidays

8. I am going to shimla for holidays