

Death & superstition

Details

A Who practiced these funeral superstitions in the American South and Appalachia? Write widows (*W*) or all mourners (*AM*).

- W 1. Didn't eat sweets.
 ___ 2. Didn't let steps squeak.
 ___ 3. Didn't marry for two years.
 ___ 4. Sang only hymns.
 ___ 5. Sat up with the body.
 ___ 6. Stopped all the clocks.
 ___ 7. Wore black for one year.

Complex sentences

B Match the beginning of each sentence with its correct ending.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>g</u> 1. If a clock stops on its own, | a. keep the soul company. |
| ___ 2. If a step squeaks while the body is under the roof, | b. good luck. |
| ___ 3. Family members sit up all night with the deceased to | c. more than one year. |
| ___ 4. If a person dies at night, | d. the grave should be dug the next day. |
| ___ 5. Graves face east to | e. somebody in the family will die in the next year. |
| ___ 6. A widow gives away her colored clothing for | f. face the rising sun. |
| ___ 7. A widow does not speak to a man until | g. another person will die soon. |
| ___ 8. A widow does not mourn for | h. the grave is filled. |

Similarity in meaning

C Compare the meaning of each pair of words. Write same (*S*) or different (*D*).

- D 1. *court* (par. 8) / *marry* (par. 8)
 ___ 2. *coffin* (par. 1) / *hearse* (par. 1)
 ___ 3. *forbidden* (par. 8) / *allowed* (par. 8)
 ___ 4. *superstition* (par. 2) / *belief* (par. 3)
 ___ 5. *excavated* (par. 5) / *dug* (par. 5)
 ___ 6. *ritual* (par. 2) / *tradition* (par. 1)
 ___ 7. *resurrection* (par. 6) / *recreation* (par. 8)
 ___ 8. *mourning* (par. 8) / *grieving* (par. 1)

Chapter Two

Main ideas

A Complete the story chart with the phrases and sentences from the box.

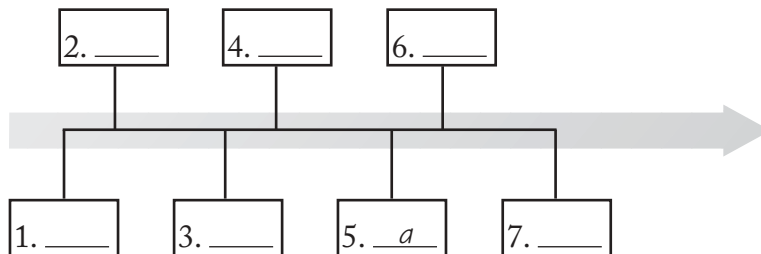
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> after George's return from Europe | <input type="checkbox"/> George realizes he must live without his wife. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George reads a letter about his wife. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> two brothers, George and Leo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> George's apartment in New York | |

Characters	<i>two brothers, George and Leo</i>
Location	
Time	
Action	
Result	

Sequencing

B Write the letter of each event in order on the time line.

- George looks for his wife in England.
- George goes to Europe.
- George reads a letter from Mary Ann Patterson.
- George talks to Leo about starting life again.
- Mary Ann Patterson cuts Barbara's hair.
- George's wife Barbara dies.
- George gets angry at his wife in Italy.



Context clues

C Unscramble these words from the reading. Use the clues to help you.

- odlcnocnee* condolence = expression of sorrow or loss (lines 1–10)
- riitcerf* _____ = great (lines 11–20)
- osirtaprt* _____ = pictures (lines 21–30)
- satyfna* _____ = dream (lines 31–40)
- bbypoalr* _____ = almost certainly (lines 41–46)

CHALLENGE

D Underline all the compound nouns in the reading.

Funeral Blues; The Chariot

Paraphrasing

A Check (✓) the correct paraphrase.

- Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
("Funeral Blues," verse 2, line 3)
 a. Let everyone know he is dead,
 b. Decorate his funeral in a beautiful way,
- The stars are not wanted now; put out every one;
("Funeral Blues," verse 4, line 1)
 a. Night has changed into day now; life must go on;
 b. I can't look at beautiful things because I feel so sad;
- Because I could not stop for Death,
He kindly stopped for me;
("The Chariot," verse 1, lines 1–2)
 a. I didn't think about death, but I died anyway;
 b. I am stronger than death because I will live forever;

Inferencing

B Which poet probably made each statement? Mark each statement Wylan Hugh Auden (*WHA*) or Emily Dickinson (*ED*).

- WHA 1. Death is final.
_____ 2. There is life after death.
_____ 3. Death is natural and gentle.
_____ 4. Someone close to me has died recently.

Phrasal verbs

C Find the phrases in *italics* in the poems. Circle the meaning of each phrase.

- Cut off* the telephones ("Funeral Blues," verse 1, line 1)
a. answer b. disconnect c. use
- Bring out* the coffin ("Funeral Blues," verse 1, line 4)
a. show b. return c. hide
- The stars are not wanted now: *put out* every one. ("Funeral Blues," verse 4, line 1)
a. watch b. show c. don't show
- Pack up* the moon ("Funeral Blues," verse 4, line 2)
a. destroy b. remove c. look at
- Sweep up* the wood ("Funeral Blues," verse 4, line 3)
a. remove b. cut c. clean
- I had *put away* / My labor ("The Chariot," verse 2, lines 2 and 3)
a. hurried b. stopped c. started again