



Key Stage 3

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives
Year 9 Pack 2

Insert

The Sources that follow are:

Source A: 20th Century non-fiction

Ghostbuster shatters the myth about Phantoms by Jack Pleasant

A newspaper article published in the 1980s.

Source B: 19th Century literary non-fiction

From Matter to Spirit

An extract from a book by Sophia Elizabeth de Morgan, published in 1863.

**Please turn the page over
to see the Sources**

Source A

20th Century non-fiction: a newspaper article called *Ghostbuster shatters the myths about Phantom* in which the writer, Jack Pleasant, interviews a ghost-hunter.

Ghostbuster shatters the myth about phantoms

by Jack Pleasant

1 Ghostly piano music in the middle of the night was terrifying the occupants of an old house, but
ghost hunter Andrew Green soon solved the mystery. His clues were mouse droppings and
rodent teeth marks inside the piano. He was convinced that mice gnawing felt pads attached to
the piano wires were causing the 'music' and, of course, he was proved right when a few traps
5 caught the culprits and their nightly performances ceased.

'As much as 98% of the hundreds of ghost investigations I've carried out have proved to have
non-occult¹ explanations,' said Mr Green as we chatted in his old cottage, appropriately next to
the churchyard at Mountfield in East Sussex. 'Once, four reports from motorists claiming to
have seen a ghost at a particular spot turned out to be simply a woman's dress left out on a
10 clothes line.'

It's that inexplicable two per cent that intrigues him. Like poltergeist² activity. The frighteningly
violent effects of this type of haunting have been experienced by several people, particularly
13 families with adolescent children.

14 The ghost-hunter claims that on one startling occasion, he actually watched a bowl of oranges
15 rise unaided off a sideboard, as if a clever magician had made his assistant float into the air.
The bowl then shattered into pieces as it plummeted to the ground and oranges bounced all
round the room. In another investigation, he and the family involved saw a heavy clock
mysteriously transport from one end of the mantelpiece to the other and back again. But he is
convinced that such occurrences have nothing to do with the spirits of the dead. He believes
20 they are caused by a type of energy we don't yet understand which is generated by tense
21 human emotions.

The typical poltergeist situation, he says, is a family who have recently moved house. The
husband and wife are probably worried about having to change jobs and shortage of money
because of the expense of moving. The young children are nervously trying to settle into new
25 schools. It all adds up to a tense, emotional atmosphere – and such peculiar effects as he
witnessed himself.

Not that Mr Green disbelieves in ghosts or that some people see them. It's simply that they are
electro-magnetism, he says, electrical impulses given off by people at times of stress.
Somehow this electrical energy remains in the area and from time to time manifests itself in the
30 form of an image.

Seeming to support his belief that ghosts are not spirits of the dead are his experiences with
'living' ones.

'I've investigated a number of cases where people have seen ghost-like figures of individuals
who were very much alive at the time, though elsewhere,' he says. 'Some people running an
35 old bakery reported seeing a ghostly shape by the ovens on a number of occasions.
Significantly, these sightings had only started after an old man who had worked in the bakery
for many years had retired. When he died some months later, they ceased. I believe that after

his retirement the old man had sat around with his former workplace constantly in his thoughts, and so strong was his yearning to be back that in some strange way his image was projected there. When he died, the cause of his 'haunting' no longer existed and it stopped.'

40

He has even been called out to investigate ghostly smells, like the posh London dental surgery where staff and patients often smelled bacon and eggs. There were no kitchens near enough to explain it, but again there was an explanation - the surgery had once been, Green discovered, the kitchen of a big house.

45 'It seems possible,' he says, 'that the hundreds of rashers of bacon and eggs cooked there years before had impregnated their smell in the chimney.'

As well as the sophisticated equipment he uses for ghost-hunting, such as tape-recorders, infra-red cameras and thermometers, he usually takes along a ruler and a bag of flour.

'The flour is to detect human footprints if I think a hoax is being carried out,' he says.

Glossary:

occult¹ – supernatural, not scientific

poltergeist² – a type of ghost that causes objects to move

Source B

19th Century literary non-fiction: an extract from a book called *From Matter to Spirit* in which the writer, Sophia Elizabeth de Morgan, published the results of her research into people who could communicate with the spirit world.

1 I now offer a trustworthy account, which has come to my own knowledge, of an appearance to someone present at the time of death.

Many years ago, Mrs D-----, a person in humble life, but of tried and proved truthfulness, and rather matter of fact, said to me in a conversation about ghosts and ghost-seeing, 'I never saw
5 a ghost, but I have seen a spirit rise.'

'If you tell me what you saw,' I said, 'I will write it as you speak, and will beg you to sign your name.'

This she did, and the present account is copied from her own words as I wrote them, and she put her signature:-

10 'When I was sixteen years old, I was nursing a child of seven who had been ill since his birth with disease of the head. He had been for some days expected to die, but was quite sensible. About noon I left him in a little back parlour on the ground floor. His mother and a friend were with him. I was returning from the kitchen to the child, and had just reached the top of the staircase, when I saw, coming from the door of the room, the form of a little child. It did not step
15 on the ground, but immediately went up over the staircase and disappeared from me. The bed on which the sick child had been lying was close to the door of the room, and that door was not more than about a foot from the top of the staircase which I came up. As I entered the room, his mother said, 'He is just gone.' The figure that I saw was a little child, fair and fresh-looking, and perfectly healthy. It looked fatter and younger than the little sick boy, and had a very
20 animated, happy expression. It was like a living child, only so light.'

Compare the above account of a vision by a girl of sixteen with the following narration of an imperfect vision of the same kind, which occurred, later in life, to the same person.

'More than twenty years after that, I was sitting up with the mother of a child who had been ill three or four days with fits. It was no more than two years old. The mother had one arm under
25 the child's head. I was on the other side of the bed, lying by the side of the baby, and the fire was burning brightly on the same side of the room as that on which the mother sat. Suddenly I saw the fire darkened by something that seemed to flutter or move backwards and forwards before it. I noticed this to the mother, who was between the bed and the fire; but she did not see it, and declared that the fire was bright. The fits left the child about six o'clock, and it lay
30 perfectly still till it had ceased to breathe about half-past ten. I saw the darkening of the fire for an hour before the child died, and the instant it expired the fire was distinctly visible.'

The seer of the above was an uneducated woman who could not account for the variation in her two visions, and who had certainly never heard of the different degrees of opening of the spirit sight. To me, therefore, the account of the second vision confirmed the truth of the first.
35 Had she invented both stories, she would most likely have made the second instance appear the most striking and wonderful. But she was not given to invention. I have known this woman for many years and her character for truthfulness is quite above suspicion.

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Source B – *From Matter to Spirit*, Sophia Elizabeth De Morgan © London, Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts and Green, 1863

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