

WIDE READING ESSAY QUESTIONS

Consider these points before planning your essay.

- 1) How do the stories conform to a typical Victorian ghost story? Consider the setting and how the presence of something supernatural is suggested.
- 2) How are the settings of the stories similar?
- 3) How is the Red Room described?
- 4) How does Andrew know that there is something wrong under the stairs?
- 5) Are the stories written in the first (I) or the third (He) person - what difference does this make?
- 6) What do the writers do at the beginning of the stories to make readers want to know more?
- 7) How does the narrator feel about the Red Room when he enters the Red Room?
- 8) There is a short period of calm before the narrator becomes very frightened. Why would the writer do this - how does this make the next part of the story more intense?
- 9) Can you identify the use of this technique in 'The Darkness under the Stairs'?
- 10) What images are used in the stories to describe the feeling of fear in the stories?
- 11) What words are used to describe the houses where 'the ghosts' are?
- 12) How are the other people in 'The Red Room' described? In what ways is the narrator a contrasting character?
- 13) How are the other characters in the Salway story described? What effect does this have?
- 14) How effective do you find the endings of the stories?