

KS4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE/LITERATURE

TITLE: GCSE (NEAB) Wide Reading Coursework using 'The Red Room' by H. G. Wells and 'The Darkness Under the Stairs' by Lance Salway.

MARKING CRITERIA

See attached sheet by Andrew Moore
(<http://www.shunsley.eril.net/armoore/gcse/calindex.htm#GCSE>)

RESOURCES

Both stories are published in *Ghost Stories* selected by Susan Hill, Longman. I don't know anything about Lance Salway but the story was originally published in 1988.

Both stories involve the main character confronting fear in a neglected old house. In both stories there are repeated references to cold, darkness and fear.

This isn't a scheme of work with suggested activities and lesson plans. I use these stories with students who have to complete this piece of coursework outside the classroom. Most find it accessible (and most are disappointed in the ending of 'The Red Room') but it's reasonable easy to make comparisons. I get them to read the stories through once on their own and then go through the notes with them. We go through the questions together and then it's straight into the essay!

I'm sure this could be stretched over half a term with a gentle introduction to the genre and perhaps a piece of creative writing on the way. Meanwhile, I hope these sheets are of use!