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Old Jack's Ghost Stories from England (1) sample
NOT FOR SALE

OLD JACK'S GHOST STORIES FROM ENGLAND (1)

Level 3 - A2/B1 Intermediate (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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Who is Old Jack?

Old Jack lives in the north of England. He is an old man now. He likes strange stories. He spends his days reading his books and visiting old places around the UK and Ireland. He likes to go to places where he can hear mysterious stories. He also likes to go to places with ghosts.

When Old Jack goes out, he sits quietly on buses, trains and in cafes. He listens to people talking. Sometimes, he hears some very interesting and unusual stories.

If you go to an old town in the north of England, and you see an old man, sitting very quietly and thinking very deeply, remember, this might be Old Jack. He will listen very carefully to your stories. But you won't know that he is listening. You will just think he is an old man sitting alone at the next table in the café or the pub. When he goes home, he will write the stories he has heard in his special ghost story book.

This book has six of Old Jack's ghost stories from England. Old Jack will tell you the six stories in his own words. He hopes you enjoy his mysterious stories, and he hopes that, if you visit England, you will go to some of the places in the stories, and return home with some interesting stories to tell your family and friends.

1. The Plumber's Story

Place: Treasurer's House, York, North Yorkshire

I'm Old Jack. My book of ghost stories starts in a very old city.

The Romans came here in AD71. That's nearly 2000 years ago. They called the city *Eboracum*. Later, the Vikings came. They called the city *Jorvick*, and today, we call it *York*.

York is a very historic city in North Yorkshire in the north of England. It has a cathedral (large church), called *York Minster*, and many old narrow streets. These streets have not changed for 1000 years. If you go to York today, you will see many tourists from around the world. They walk along the streets, take photographs and stop for a cup of tea in one of the small tea shops. It is a very popular tourist spot.

Of course, if you go to York, I recommend you visit York Minster, walk along the old Roman city walls and enjoy tea and shopping in the old streets. York is a very good place to buy presents for your family and friends. You will also get some wonderful photographs.

But there is another place I recommend. That place is behind York Minster, away from the busy tourist area. Walk down the quiet street behind the cathedral, and you will see the Treasurer's House.

In this house, you can see many old antiques and pieces of furniture. These items belonged to a private owner who lived here around a hundred years ago. However, long before this time, until 1547, the house contained expensive and important religious items and treasures from York Minster.

The Treasurer's House has a history of 2000 years. It also has a ghost story. I think this is one of England's strangest and most interesting ghost stories.

Let's go back to 1953. The Treasurer's House is old, and needs some repairs. In the cellar, the room under the house, a young plumber is checking the water pipes. The floor of the cellar is not smooth, so he must be very careful. One part of the cellar floor is low. The other part of the floor is high.

The lights are on, and he is working very hard. He hears a sound.

What was that? he thinks. It sounds like a horn, or a trumpet.

Maybe it is a car on the road outside, he thinks. He continues to work. Then, he hears the sound again. This time, the sound is louder.

He looks around the cellar. The sound of the horn, or trumpet, is growing much louder.

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