

Chapter – 4 – A Shady Plot

Short Answer Type:-

1. Hallock's 'ghosts' were 'live propositions.' How could he pen down ghost special stories?
2. Was the narrator not in a position to contradict Jenkins?
3. John Hallock could never displease Jenkins. Why?
4. Bring out the irony in the statement: 'I did not specialize in ghost stories, but more or less, they seem to specialize in me.'
5. What happened when Hallock sat down at his desk and waited for ideas for ideas for his stories?
6. Why did the ghost materialize?
7. How did the narrator react to the slowly taking appearance of the ghost?
8. What did the ghost tell us about herself before she became a ghost?
9. What was the purpose behind organizing the writer's inspiration bureau? How does this bureau function?
10. Why did the ghost want people to stop using the Ouija Board?

Long Answer Type (Value Based):-

1. The foundation of any long lasting relationship is trust. Comment on this statement with reference to the character of Lavinia from the story 'A shady plot'.
2. The story of 'A shady plot' is woven around the theme of conjuring up the spirits of dead people in order to know the unknown. Do you think it is moral to conjure up spirits and disturb them to solve our problems?
3. When the Ouija board showed the name of John Hallock, Lavinia thought he was guilty of infidelity. Was Lavinia justified at the thence she took? Give reasons for your answer.
4. How does the lesson 'A shady Plot' remind us that man has no right to invoke the supernatural through Ouija boards, Tarot cards, etc to solve his problems, and that one should face life boldly and overcome difficulties using wit and intelligence.

5. Lavinia suspects Hallock of cheating her and threatens to leave him. She behaves like a typical wife and does not try to find out the details before taking such an extreme step. Do you think she was justified in taking such a step? What do you learn from her behavior?

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