The Family Legacy - Student Handout

### Pre-Reading

*You’re going to read the first part of a horror story called “The Family Legacy”, it involves:*

* *A father*
* *A son*
* *An old house*

*With your partner, make some predictions about what will happen in the story.*

### Reading

*Read the story, ignore the gaps, see if your predictions were correct.*

Roger trudged up the drive of the ancient hall, the seat of his family’s power for over two centuries. It stood on the top of the hill looking down over the land around, a 1. ………………(SYMBOL) effigy of the family’s grasp over the local 2. ……………. (POPULATE). Finally it was his, the jewel in the crown of his 3. ……………… (INHERIT) after his father’s passing the previous week. In the end, the death of the formidable patriarch of the family had been far from the 4. ……………… (PAIN) transition we all hope for, screaming night terrors, lashing out 5. ……………… (VIOLENT), catching his 6. ………………(SUSPECT) carers off-guard, until the final descent into silent 7. …………… (MAD) It was something that had befallen the last three generations of men in his family, a thought that he pushed to the back of his mind as a/an 8. ………………. (VOLUNTEER) shudder ran down his spine.

But it was over, and he could now envisage the 9. ……...…….. (REALISE) of all the 10. ……………… (BOY) hopes and dreams he had had for this 11. ……………….. (CRUMBLE) pile of stone and wood. As he approached the ancient 12. ………………..(WOOD) door, he took the old iron key from his pocket and unlocked it with a 13. ……………….. (SATISFY) thunk. As he stepped across the threshold his 14. ……………….. (FOOT) echoed throughout the house in a/an 15. ……………….. (SETTLE) way. What struck Roger immediately were the reminders of his father’s 16. ……………….. (QUESTION) taste in decorations; floor to ceiling oil paintings of 17. ……………….. (NOTE) ancestors and the heads of various animals mounted on the walls. He relished the thought of finally 18. ……………….. (CLUTTER) the whole place. No sooner had this thought crossed his mind than around the corner came an almost 19. ……………….. (PERCEIVE) breath of air, which flowed through the ground floor, as if the house itself was reacting to a/an 20. ……………….. (INVITATION) guest. The door slammed shut behind Roger, he heard a loud “clang” as the heavy old key hit the stone of the porch outside. Suddenly gripped by panic he grabbed the door handle and pulled with all his 21. ……………….. (STRONG) but to no avail. A sudden sense of 22. ……………….. (CONFINE) enveloped him, but what really set his nerves jangling and a creeping sense of 23. ……………….. (EXIST) dread curling up his back was the voice calling down the stairs from his father’s study….

### Word Formation

*Now look at the gaps, try to predict what type of word is needed, then attempt to transform the root words to fit the context.*

### Language Analysis

1. How does the writer make the story creepy?
2. Find two examples of onomatopoeia in the text.
3. Find and underline the sentence with “around the corner”
   1. What do you notice about the syntax?
4. Look for impressive collocations with the following words:

| 1. Power………………………………………... 2. Grasp………………………………………... 3. Jewel………………………………………... 4. Patriarch………………………………………... 5. Catching………………………………………... 6. Madness………………………………………... 7. Mind………………………………………... 8. Spine………………………………………... 9. Hopes and dreams…………………………… | 1. Footsteps………………………………………... 2. Taste………………………………………... 3. Relish………………………………………... 4. Guest………………………………………... 5. Door………………………………………... 6. Panic………………………………………... 7. Strength………………………………………... 8. Sense………………………………………... 9. Nerves ………………………………………... |
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### Production

*Write the next paragraph of the story. Try to use:*

* Inversions:
  + No sooner…. than….
  + Hardly/Barely/Scarcely….. when
* An inversion of place:
  + Into the river jumped the boys.
  + At the top of the stairs sat a black cat.
* Spooky language:
  + A shiver down the spine
  + unsettling/creepy/etc.