



# The Turn of the Screw **Indicative Content**

1. What effect does the first story have on its audience?

**It enraptures them, holding its audience 'round the fire, sufficiently breathless'. The fireside setting might accentuate the chilling nature of the story. Everyone listens intently 'except the obvious remark that it was gruesome'. It otherwise appears to stun them into silence, provoking meditation from our narrator and Douglas, and the telling of a less effective story from another member of the group. The contrast with this 'not particularly effective' second story serves to reinforce the impact of the first.**

*Answers should reference text and attempt to explain the effect of language and/or authorial techniques.*

2. Where is the story being told?

**It is a stereotypically Gothic setting, round the fire of an old house on Christmas Eve.**

3. What impression are you given of Douglas' story?

**Douglas' story is made to seem extraordinary by the way it has imprinted itself on the narrator's mind: "I can see Douglas there before the fire..." Furthermore, a sense of trepidation is teased out by the observation that Douglas is not following the second story, suggesting that he is preoccupied by his own. The foreboding is reinforced by Douglas making everybody wait before he "brought out what was in his mind", as if it's something he is anxious about releasing. However, the introductory information that his story involves "TWO children" promises that it will be twice as scary as the first "gruesome" story that made such an impact. Douglas' dominant stance before the fire "looking down at his interlocutor" and the revelation that nobody till now has heard the story only serves to reinforce the fear factor.**

*Answers should reference text and attempt to explain the effect of language and/or authorial techniques.*