

Language Paper 2

Home Learning
Booklet

Sources A & B

Source 1a

SOURCE A - 21st Century non-fiction

Alain de Botton is a philosopher, writer and television presenter. Here, he gives his thoughts about travelling abroad in an article that was published in a travel magazine.

THE ART OF TRAVEL

Awakening early on that first morning, I slipped on the dressing gown provided and went out on to the veranda¹. In the dawn light the sky was a pale grey-blue and, after the rustlings of the night before, all the creatures and even the wind seemed in deep sleep. It was as quiet as a library. Beyond the hotel room stretched a wide beach which was covered at first with coconut trees and then sloped unhindered towards the sea. I climbed over the veranda's low railings and walked across the sand. Nature was at her most benevolent². It was as if, in creating this small horseshoe bay, she had chosen to atone³ for her ill-temper in other regions and decided to display only her munificence⁴. The trees provided shade and milk, the floor of the sea was lined with shells, the sand was powdery and the colour of sun-ripened wheat, and the air – even in the shade – had an enveloping, profound warmth to it so unlike the fragility of northern European heat, always prone to cede⁵, even in midsummer, to a more assertive, proprietary⁶ chill.

I found a deck chair at the edge of the sea. I could hear small lapping sounds beside me, as if a kindly monster was taking discreet sips of water from a large goblet. A few birds were waking up and beginning to career through the air in matinal⁷ excitement. Behind me, the raffia roofs of the hotel bungalows were visible through gaps in the trees. Before me was a view that I recognised from the brochure: the beach stretched away in a gentle curve towards the tip of the bay, behind it were jungle-covered hills and the first row of coconut trees inclined irregularly towards the turquoise sea, as though some of them were craning their necks to catch a better angle of the sun.

Yet this description only imperfectly reflects what occurred within me that morning, for my attention was in truth far more fractured and confused than the foregoing paragraphs suggest. I may have noticed a few birds careering through the air in excitement, but my awareness of them was weakened by a number of other, incongruous and unrelated elements, among these, a sore throat that I had developed during the flight, a worry at not having informed a colleague that I would be away, a pressure across both temples and a rising need to visit the bathroom. A momentous but until then overlooked fact was making its first appearance: that I had inadvertently brought myself with me to the island.

It is easy to forget ourselves when we contemplate pictorial and verbal descriptions of places. At home, as my eyes had panned over photographs of Barbados, there were no reminders that those eyes were intimately tied to a body and mind which would travel with me wherever I went and that might, over time, assert their presence in ways which would threaten or even negate the purpose of what the eyes had come there to see. At home, I would concentrate on pictures of a hotel room, a beach or a sky and ignore the complex creature in which this observation was taking place and for whom this was only a small part of a larger, more multi-faceted task of living.

¹ Veranda - a roofed platform along the outside of a house, level with the ground floor

² Benevolent - well-meaning or kindly

³ Atone - make amends or repair

⁴ Munificence - generosity

⁵ Cede - give up power

⁶ Proprietary - ownership

⁷ Matinal - relating to or taking place in the morning

Source 1b

SOURCE B - 19th Century non-fiction

The text is an extract adapted from a travel narrative written by Mary Shelley. In a series of letters she recounts her experiences whilst abroad with family and friends. In this extract she begins in the town of Linz and enjoys the River Danube, takes a train to Gmunden, breaking the journey at Lambach to visit the Traun waterfall.

RAMBLES IN GERMANY AND ITALY, IN 1840, 1842 AND 1843

Letter III

Monday September 5th

- The train of the railroad started at two in the afternoon for Gmunden: we thus had a few hours to spare. One of our party climbed the heights above Linz, to feast his eyes on the view which had enchanted me the preceding evening. There is no circumstance in travelling, consequent on my narrow means that I regret so much, as my being obliged to deny myself hiring a carriage when I
- 5 arrive in a strange town, and the not being able to drive about everywhere, and see everything. I wandered about the town, and stood long on the bridge, drinking in the beauty of the scene, till soul became full to the brim with the sense of delight. The river is indeed magnificent; with speed, yet with a vastness that makes speed majestic, it hurries on the course assigned to it by the Creator. Never, never had I so much enjoyed the glory of the earth. The Danube gives Linz a superiority over
- 10 a thousand scenes otherwise of equal beauty. Standing on the bridge, above is a narrow pass, hedged in by high sombre rocks, and the river sweeps, darkening as it goes, beneath the gloomy shadows of the cliffs; below, it flows in a mighty stream through a valley of wide expanse, till you lose sight of it at the base of distant mountains. I should liked to have stayed some days a Linz: I grieved also not to be going by stream to Vienna.
- 15 Our drive by the railroad to Gmunden was delightful. We had a little carriage to ourselves. Our road lay through a valley watered by a stream, and adorned by woods; it was a secluded home-felt scene; while the high distant mountains redeemed it from tameness. After the sandy deserts of Prussia, and the burnt-up country round Dresden, the freshness and green of a pastoral valley, the murmur of streams and rivulets, the delightful shadow of the trees, imparted a sense of peace and amenity
- 20 that lapped me in Elysium¹. We changed the train at Lambach, a quiet shady village. We had bargained that we should be allowed to visit the falls of the Traun on our way. It was evening before we reached the spot, and the falls are nearly a mile from the road; we had no guide but were told we could not miss the way. Our path lay through a wood, and as the twilight deepened we sometimes doubted whether we had gone astray through the gloom of the thicket. You know that
- 25 a mile of unknown road, with some suspicion hovering in the mind as to whether you are in the right path, becomes at least three, or rather one feels as if it would never end. We came at last to the brink of the precipice above the river and descended by steps cut in the rock. We thus reached the lower part of the fall. With some difficulty, it being late, the Miller was found, and meanwhile we clambered to the points of rock from which the cascade is viewed. It was dim twilight, with the
- 30 moon quietly moving among the summer clouds, and shedding its silver on the waters. The river winding above through a wooded ravine comes to an abrupt rocky descent, over which it falls with foam and spray. The drought had reduced the supply of water; a portion also carried off for the purpose of traffic – a wooden canal being constructed to allow the salt barges to ascend and descend the Traun without interruption from the cascade. This canal is on an inclined plain and it

¹ Elysium - a state of perfect happiness

35 would be very delightful to rush down: we could not, as there was no boat; but for six swanzikers (six
eightpences) the sluices² were shut and the water blocked up, turned to feed and augment³ the fall.
The evening hour took from the accuracy of our view, but added immeasurably to its charm; the
mysterious glittering of the spray beneath the moon; the deep shadows of the rocks and trees; the
soft air and dashing water – here was the reward for infinite fatigue and inconvenience; here we
40 grasped an hour which, when the memory of every discomfort has become almost a pleasure, will
endure as one of the sweetest in life.

Source 2a

Source A

21st Century non-fiction: an online article from *The Guardian* newspaper from 2012 called *Why Japan prefers pets to parenthood*. The writers give examples of why people in Japan prefer owning pets to having children of their own.

Why Japan prefers pets to parenthood

Ruth Evans and Roland Buerk. Friday 8 June 2012



- 1 In a smart and expensive neighbourhood of Tokyo, Toshiko Horikoshi relaxes by playing her grand piano. She's a successful eye surgeon, with a private clinic, a stylish apartment, a Porsche¹ and two pet pooches: Tinkerbelle, a chihuahua², and Ginger, a poodle. "Japanese dog owners think a dog is like a child," says Horikoshi. "I have no children, so I really love
5 my two dogs."

Many Japanese women like Horikoshi prefer pets to parenthood. Startlingly, in a country panicking over its plummeting birthrate, there are now many more pets than children. While the birthrate has been falling dramatically and the average age of Japan's population has been steadily climbing, Japan has become a pet superpower. Official estimates put the pet
10 population at 22 million or more, but there are only 16.6 million children under 15.

Tinkerbelle and Ginger have their own room and a wardrobe full of designer clothes. They have jumpers, dresses, coats and fancy dress outfits, neatly hung on jewelled hangers; hats, sunglasses and even tiny shoes. Horikoshi says she shops for her dogs most weekends and they get new clothes each season.

- 15 In Japan designer labels such as Chanel, Dior, Hermès and Gucci offer luxury dog products. This canine couture³ doesn't come cheap. A poodle pullover can cost £160 or more. In many parts of Tokyo, it is easier to buy clothes for dogs than for children. Boutiques sell everything from frilly frocks to designer jeans, from nappies to organic nibbles, and smart "doggie bags" and buggies or pushchairs to transport them in.

- 20 Japan has arguably the world's most pampered pooches⁴. Tiny lapdogs such as miniature
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dachshunds⁵, poodles and chihuahuas are particularly popular because most people in Tokyo – one of the most densely populated cities in the world – live in small apartments. And there's a growing market in services and treats for pets.

25 The pet industry is estimated to be worth more than £8.2bn a year and has expanded into gourmet dog food stores, hot spring resorts, yoga classes and restaurants where dogs sit on chairs to eat organic meals.

In his one-room flat in a Tokyo suburb, Jiro Akiba feeds treats to his dog Kotaro, a miniature dachshund, weighing only 3.4kg. His name means "first-born son". "He's like a first baby for us, so that's why we decided to call him Kotaro," says Akiba. "It's good to have a dog if you
30 don't have a baby, because it is quite fun to take care of him like a baby."

One young man we spoke to had dressed his dog up in a white hoodie and jeans, shoes and sunglasses because, he said, he wanted his dog to look "cute, cool and tough". His proud owner said he hoped his dog's look might attract young women, but so far he hadn't met anyone to share his life with.

35 Economic stagnation has hit young men particularly hard. More than 10 million people aged between 20 and 34 still live with their parents. They can't afford to get married and start a family, but for the odd luxury or treats for their dogs, they can – and do – splash out.

Smart buggies and designer doggie bags are essential for any self-respecting dog like Kotaro. "My dog really hates to go out with his feet," says Akiba. "Kotaro doesn't like walking
40 at all."

For dogs in urgent need of exercise after a lifetime being pushed or carried around, there are spas and hot springs, which look identical to the ones for humans. For £65 a session, an attendant in a wetsuit will give Kotaro one-to-one swimming lessons, relaxing bubble
45 baths, body massages using aromatherapy oils, deep-pore cleansing and mud packs, and even flossing or manicure services. Many dogs are "regulars" who come at least once a week – running up annual bills of £3,200 or more.

In Tokyo, it is easier for Horikoshi to find a canine daycare centre for Tinkerbell and Ginger than it would be to find a nursery place for a child. If Akiba and his partner decide to go on holiday, they can pay £70 a night to leave Kotaro in a dog hotel.

Glossary:

Porsche¹ – a very expensive, sporty car

chihuahua² – a very small breed of dog

Canine couture³ – expensive clothes and fashion items for dogs

pooches⁴ – informal term for dogs

dachshund⁵ – a small dog with a long back and short legs

Source 2b

Source B

Battersea Dog's Home in London is respected for saving thousands of stray dogs each year. When it was first established in the 19th century, it was called 'The Home for Lost and Starving Dogs'.

A storm of indignation and ridicule has been aroused due to the opening of the "Home for Lost and Starving Dogs." Really it would seem that by some people any help given to suffering dogs is considered a crime, and they think it is perfectly acceptable to allow the poor animals to die of persecution and starvation in the streets.

- 5 The "Home for Lost and Starving Dogs" owes its origin to a lady by the name of Tealby. She had for some time been in the habit of collecting the poor animals which she found in the streets, in a starving state, in her own neighbourhood, and paying a person so much a week for each until they were recovered, and new homes could be obtained for them.

- 10 Surely no one will venture to deny that the dog deserves this care at our hands? For of all animals, the dog, I think, may without doubt be the most domestic, the most intelligent, and the most exclusively devoted to man. He is entirely dependent upon us, and gives up his whole life, with all its energies and all its instincts, to our service. His master possesses his whole heart. He attaches himself with the most unselfish love to him and to his family: be the master a king or a beggar, happy or miserable, kind or cruel.

- 15 Now, I would ask, what more dreadful cruelty and inhumanity could men be guilty of than allowing hundreds of animals so utterly and entirely dependent upon us for food as the dog is, to die of lingering starvation in the streets?

- 20 In the case of the poor dog there is no dishonesty, no pretence, theirs is real suffering; and I confess I cannot understand how any person can witness the dejected, pleading look of a starving dog without being deeply affected by it. All around life is bustle and activity, whilst these poor abandoned animals, every one possessing a heart ready to expand with such love and gratitude to a benefactor¹ as few are capable of feeling, are lost and starving, are battered and persecuted and left to die a most painful and lingering death. The object of this Home for Lost and Starving Dogs is to afford a remedy for this great and too abounding misery.

- 25 Every dirty little ragamuffin² boy I am sorry to say, seems to take the greatest pleasure in pelting³ and persecuting these poor outcast animals. Destitute⁴ and poor, he is forced to scrape a living and takes revenge on all poor animals unfortunate enough to cross his path. He is driven to beg, or steal until a lucky windfall provides him with money. He is a dirty, houseless, poor little gutter prowler⁵.

- 30 At that point we step in, receive the poor animal into the Home, feed him and take care of him, and restore him to his master if he be sought after, or, if not, exert ourselves to obtain another kind master for him. I may here just make a passing remark, that no distinction is made; every homeless dog, be his race or condition what it may, is received into the Home when brought there.
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Source 3a

Source A

21st century non-fiction: an article from *The Guardian* called *McDonald's fined for exploiting child labour* in which the writer reports on the problem of McDonald's illegally employing school-aged children.

McDonald's fined for exploiting child labour

An investigation shows that school-aged children are being exploited, even in the UK.

- 1 A McDonald's restaurant has been fined more than £12,000 for employing schoolchildren illegally, forcing them to work overtime and late on school nights.

A franchise¹ of the fast-food restaurant in Camberley, Surrey, was found guilty of working teenagers late into the night on school days, often without rest breaks.

- 5 employment officers from Surrey county council found more than 50 breaches of the law.

The firm that runs the franchise, Ikhya Enterprises, was fined £12,400 by magistrates at Woking after being found guilty of 20 offences.

- 10 The breaches of regulations involved schoolchildren aged 15 and 16. One 15-year-old had worked 16 hours on a Saturday, seven hours over the legal limit. Another 16-year-old had worked from 5pm until 2am on a school day, when legally she should not have
12 worked after 7pm.

- 15 Ian Hart, the council's child employment officer, said: "This is one of the biggest prosecutions in the illegal employment of schoolchildren and it is refreshing that the court has taken such a tough stance. Employers have to be aware that we will not compromise our statutory duty to protect the children of Surrey and that we will take appropriate action."

- Mr Hart visited two McDonald's restaurants in Camberley earlier this year after a complaint from a parent and found that none of the young employees had work permits.
20 McDonald's said in a statement that it only hired workers above school-leaving age.

The owner of the franchise in Camberley, Kevin Izatt, has been told to stop employing children under school leaving age.

- A McDonald's statement said: "We expect our franchisees and managers to maintain the highest standards in all restaurants. We are deeply disappointed that this was not
25 the case in this instance.

"In court, Kevin Izatt explained that he did have a manual system in place to prevent infringements, however there had been a lack of follow up. He has children of his own and seriously regrets this lapse."

30 The TUC², which earlier this year said up to 500,000 schoolchildren could be working illegally, said a firm like McDonald's had a special responsibility to ensure that youngsters were not distracted from school work.

Glossary:

franchise¹ – a business run by different people or organisations under the same name.

TUC² – Trades Union Congress, a body representing trades unions across the UK.

Source 3b

Source B

In this Source, a journal entry by Sydney Smith from 1819, the writer introduces his views on the subject of child labour and chimney sweeps. He then proceeds to provide evidence heard by a Parliamentary Enquiry on the subject.

- 1 An excellent and well-arranged dinner is a most pleasing occurrence, and a great triumph of civilised life. The hour of dinner, in short, includes everything of gratification which a great nation glories in producing.

- In the midst of all this, who knows that the kitchen chimney caught fire half an
5 hour before dinner! And that a poor little wretch¹, of six or seven years old, was sent up in the midst of the flames to put it out? We could not, previous to reading this evidence, have formed a conception of the miseries of these poor wretches, or that there should exist, in a civilised country, a class of human beings destined to such extreme and varied distress. We will give here a short
10 account of what is developed in the evidence before the two Houses of Parliament.

Boys are made chimney sweepers at the early age of five or six.

- 'Little boys for small flues²', is a common phrase on the cards left at the door by itinerant chimney sweepers. Flues made to ovens and coppers are often less
15 than nine inches square; and it may easily be conceived, how slender the frame of that human body must be, which can force itself through such an aperture³.

The following is a specimen of the manner in which they are taught this art of climbing chimneys:

Questions are asked by a member of the Parliamentary Committee set up to investigate how boys are being mistreated when forced to work as chimney sweeps. The answers are in the boy's own words.

- MP⁴: Do you remember being taught to climb chimneys?
- 20 Boy: Yes.
- MP: What did you feel upon the first attempt to climb a chimney?
- Boy: The first chimney I went up, they told me there was some plum
pudding⁵ and money up at the top of it, and that is the way they
enticed me up; and when I got up, I would not let the other boy get
25 from under me to get at it, I thought he would get it; I could not get up, and shoved the pot and half the chimney down into the yard.
- MP: Did you experience any inconvenience to your knees, or your elbows?
- Boy: Yes, the skin was off my knees and elbows too, in climbing up the
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30 new chimneys they forced me up.

MP: How did they force you up?

Boy: When I got up, I cried about my sore knees.

MP: Were you beat or compelled to go up by any violent means?

35 Boy: Yes, when I went to a narrow chimney, if I could not do it, I durst⁶ not go home; when I used to come down, my master would well beat me with the brush.

In addition the Parliamentary Committee interviewed an adult (a master⁷) who employed the boy chimney sweeps:

MP: Have you known, in the course of your practice, boys stick in chimneys at all?

40 Master: Yes, I have assisted in taking boys out when they have been nearly exhausted.

MP: Did you ever know an instance of its been necessary to break open a chimney to take the boy out?

Master: O yes.

MP: Frequently?

45 Master: Monthly, I might say; they often say it was the boy's neglect.

MP: Why do they say that?

50 Master: The boy's climbing shirt is often very bad; the boy coming down, if the chimney be very narrow, and numbers of them are only nine inches, gets his shirt rumped underneath him, and he has no power after he is fixed in that way with his hand up.

MP: Does a boy frequently stick in the chimney?

Master: Yes; I have known more instances of that the last twelve month than before.

MP: Do you ever have to break open in the inside of a room?

55 Master: Yes, I have helped to break through into a kitchen chimney in a dining room.

MP: Do you know how the Boys are generally treated along with the Chimney Sweepers?

Master: Very badly indeed in some Places; in other places, they are very well.

- 60 MP: For the most Part are they ill or well lodged⁸?
- Master: Very bad indeed; some have no more than One Blanket, some a Bit of Straw⁹, and some a few Sacks to lie on.
- MP: What Sort of Clothing are they generally allowed?
- 65 Master: According to the Masters; some Masters use the Boys pretty well as to giving them Clothes, other Masters altogether keep them Months and Months before they are washed to the Skin.

The MP's questioning then alternates between the Boy and the Master.

- MP: During the Winter-time, when the Boys go out on their Duty, have they Shoes and Stockings?
- 70 Boy: If I go out with a Journeyman¹⁰ in the Morning, if I have got bad Chilblains¹¹, and if I cannot get on fast enough, I must off with my Shoes, or they will knock me down with their Hand, an I must run through the snow without Shoes, which I have done many times.
- MP: Do you know of the Boys being subject to any Accidents?
- 75 Master: Yes, I have known one at Temple Bar¹²: I came myself, and went up to him, but it was too late; the Boy was lost through a woman forcing him up, it was his Mistress; he was not thoroughly learned, and he stuck himself in, and it was the Death of him; it was up Devereux Court, Temple Bar; he was dead.

Glossary:

wretch¹ – a very poor child

flues² – a chimney

aperture³ – an opening/hole

MP⁴ – a Member of Parliament

plum pudding⁵ – a dark, fruit pudding

durst⁶ – dare not

master⁷ – an old name for an employer

well lodged/ill lodged⁸ – well looked after or badly looked after.

a Bit of Straw⁹ – straw was used for bedding

Journeyman¹⁰ – a workman/tradesman who travels around the country looking for work.

Source 4a

Source A

20th Century non-fiction: a newspaper article called *Ghostbuster shatters the myths about Phantom* in which the writer, Jack Pleasant, interviews a ghost-hunter.

Ghostbuster shatters the myth about phantoms

by Jack Pleasant

1 Ghostly piano music in the middle of the night was terrifying the occupants of an old house, but
ghost hunter Andrew Green soon solved the mystery. His clues were mouse droppings and
rodent teeth marks inside the piano. He was convinced that mice gnawing felt pads attached to
the piano wires were causing the 'music' and, of course, he was proved right when a few traps
5 caught the culprits and their nightly performances ceased.

'As much as 98% of the hundreds of ghost investigations I've carried out have proved to have
non-occult¹ explanations,' said Mr Green as we chatted in his old cottage, appropriately next to
the churchyard at Mountfield in East Sussex. 'Once, four reports from motorists claiming to
have seen a ghost at a particular spot turned out to be simply a woman's dress left out on a
10 clothes line.'

It's that inexplicable two per cent that intrigues him. Like poltergeist² activity. The frighteningly
violent effects of this type of haunting have been experienced by several people, particularly
13 families with adolescent children.

14 The ghost-hunter claims that on one startling occasion, he actually watched a bowl of oranges
rise unaided off a sideboard, as if a clever magician had made his assistant float into the air.
15 The bowl then shattered into pieces as it plummeted to the ground and oranges bounced all
round the room. In another investigation, he and the family involved saw a heavy clock
mysteriously transport from one end of the mantelpiece to the other and back again. But he is
convinced that such occurrences have nothing to do with the spirits of the dead. He believes
20 they are caused by a type of energy we don't yet understand which is generated by tense
21 human emotions.

The typical poltergeist situation, he says, is a family who have recently moved house. The
husband and wife are probably worried about having to change jobs and shortage of money
because of the expense of moving. The young children are nervously trying to settle into new
25 schools. It all adds up to a tense, emotional atmosphere – and such peculiar effects as he
witnessed himself.

Not that Mr Green disbelieves in ghosts or that some people see them. It's simply that they are
electro-magnetism, he says, electrical impulses given off by people at times of stress.
Somehow this electrical energy remains in the area and from time to time manifests itself in the
30 form of an image.

Seeming to support his belief that ghosts are not spirits of the dead are his experiences with
'living' ones.

'I've investigated a number of cases where people have seen ghost-like figures of individuals
who were very much alive at the time, though elsewhere,' he says. 'Some people running an
35 old bakery reported seeing a ghostly shape by the ovens on a number of occasions.
Significantly, these sightings had only started after an old man who had worked in the bakery
for many years had retired. When he died some months later, they ceased. I believe that after

his retirement the old man had sat around with his former workplace constantly in his thoughts, and so strong was his yearning to be back that in some strange way his image was projected there. When he died, the cause of his 'haunting' no longer existed and it stopped.'

40 He has even been called out to investigate ghostly smells, like the posh London dental surgery where staff and patients often smelled bacon and eggs. There were no kitchens near enough to explain it, but again there was an explanation - the surgery had once been, Green discovered, the kitchen of a big house.

45 'It seems possible,' he says, 'that the hundreds of rashers of bacon and eggs cooked there years before had impregnated their smell in the chimney.'

As well as the sophisticated equipment he uses for ghost-hunting, such as tape-recorders, infra-red cameras and thermometers, he usually takes along a ruler and a bag of flour.

'The flour is to detect human footprints if I think a hoax is being carried out,' he says.

Glossary:

occult¹ – supernatural, not scientific

poltergeist² – a type of ghost that causes objects to move

Source 4b

Source B

19th Century literary non-fiction: an extract from a book called *From Matter to Spirit* in which the writer, Sophia Elizabeth de Morgan, published the results of her research into people who could communicate with the spirit world.

1 I now offer a trustworthy account, which has come to my own knowledge, of an appearance to someone present at the time of death.

Many years ago, Mrs D-----, a person in humble life, but of tried and proved truthfulness, and rather matter of fact, said to me in a conversation about ghosts and ghost-seeing, 'I never saw
5 a ghost, but I have seen a spirit rise.'

'If you tell me what you saw,' I said, 'I will write it as you speak, and will beg you to sign your name.'

This she did, and the present account is copied from her own words as I wrote them, and she put her signature:-

10 'When I was sixteen years old, I was nursing a child of seven who had been ill since his birth with disease of the head. He had been for some days expected to die, but was quite sensible. About noon I left him in a little back parlour on the ground floor. His mother and a friend were with him. I was returning from the kitchen to the child, and had just reached the top of the staircase, when I saw, coming from the door of the room, the form of a little child. It did not step
15 on the ground, but immediately went up over the staircase and disappeared from me. The bed on which the sick child had been lying was close to the door of the room, and that door was not more than about a foot from the top of the staircase which I came up. As I entered the room, his mother said, 'He is just gone.' The figure that I saw was a little child, fair and fresh-looking, and perfectly healthy. It looked fatter and younger than the little sick boy, and had a very
20 animated, happy expression. It was like a living child, only so light.'

Compare the above account of a vision by a girl of sixteen with the following narration of an imperfect vision of the same kind, which occurred, later in life, to the same person.

25 'More than twenty years after that, I was sitting up with the mother of a child who had been ill three or four days with fits. It was no more than two years old. The mother had one arm under the child's head. I was on the other side of the bed, lying by the side of the baby, and the fire was burning brightly on the same side of the room as that on which the mother sat. Suddenly I saw the fire darkened by something that seemed to flutter or move backwards and forwards before it. I noticed this to the mother, who was between the bed and the fire; but she did not see it, and declared that the fire was bright. The fits left the child about six o'clock, and it lay
30 perfectly still till it had ceased to breathe about half-past ten. I saw the darkening of the fire for an hour before the child died, and the instant it expired the fire was distinctly visible.'

The seer of the above was an uneducated woman who could not account for the variation in her two visions, and who had certainly never heard of the different degrees of opening of the spirit sight. To me, therefore, the account of the second vision confirmed the truth of the first.
35 Had she invented both stories, she would most likely have made the second instance appear the most striking and wonderful. But she was not given to invention. I have known this woman for many years and her character for truthfulness is quite above suspicion.
