

## 4.50 From Paddington

*Agatha Christie*

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

#### Part 1 (Chapters 1–7)

##### 1 Comprehension

Are the following sentences true or false? For those which are false, give the correct answer.

- \_\_\_ Mrs McGillicuddy took the 4.50 train from Paddington after Christmas shopping in London.
- \_\_\_ She saw a man hitting a woman on another train running parallel to hers.
- \_\_\_ Sergeant Cornish investigated the incident Mrs McGillicuddy saw on the train but his inquiries had no result.
- \_\_\_ Miss Marple decided to ask Mrs McGillicuddy to work undercover at Rutherford Hall so she could investigate.
- \_\_\_ Emma Crackenthorpe looked after her elderly father at Rutherford Hall.
- \_\_\_ Lucy, James and Alexander found a dead woman in a sarcophagus in an old building at Rutherford Hall.
- \_\_\_ Miss Marple interviewed the Crackenthorpe family about the dead woman.
- \_\_\_ The police think the dead woman was murdered and could have been French.

##### 2 Language

Put the following verbs in the article below:

found hidden built moved interviewing left thought  
lived investigating surrounded leading identified thrown

#### BODY FOUND IN BRACKHAMPTON

Police are today \_\_\_\_\_ the mystery surrounding the body of a woman \_\_\_\_\_ in a sarcophagus in the grounds of Rutherford Hall.

The woman is \_\_\_\_\_ to have been strangled sometime before Christmas and her body \_\_\_\_\_ in the sarcophagus. As the grounds of the Hall are \_\_\_\_\_ by a railway track, the police think the body may have been \_\_\_\_\_ out of a moving train and \_\_\_\_\_ on the embankment and then later \_\_\_\_\_ by the murderer.

Rutherford Hall, \_\_\_\_\_ in 1884 by rich biscuit manufacturer Josiah Crackenthorpe, is now \_\_\_\_\_ in by his son Luther and granddaughter Emma. Police are \_\_\_\_\_ all family members and workers at the Hall for their inquiries and Inspector Craddock of Scotland Yard is \_\_\_\_\_ the investigation.

The dead woman, thought to be aged between 30 and 35 and possibly foreign, hasn't been \_\_\_\_\_ yet.

Anyone with information which could help the police is asked to telephone London 35648.

##### 3 Vocabulary

Put the name of a character with the right description.

Think of a synonym (word with a similar meaning) for the underlined words.

Character	Description	Synonym
1	As well as being very <u>bright</u> , she was also <u>sensible</u> .	
2	She's neither good-looking, nor <u>plain</u> .	
3	He had a large chin and small, <u>lively</u> eyes.	
4	She was as <u>sharp</u> and as clever as it is possible to be.	
5	He's so <u>mean</u> .	
6	He looked <u>bohemian</u> and proud of it.	

##### 4 Odd one out

Decide which word doesn't describe the following characters:

<b>Lucy</b>	graduate	successful	French	aged 32
<b>Harold</b>	a gentleman	tall	mean	dark
<b>Emma</b>	beautiful	middle-aged	kind	dark
<b>Cedric</b>	cheerful	big	married	a painter
<b>Miss Marple</b>	difficult	fragile	clever	old
<b>Mr Crackenthorpe</b>	old	grey-haired	generous	thin

##### 5 Language

The words in the sentences are jumbled up; rewrite them in the correct order.

1 only / part / Emma / Rutherford Hall / and / live / Mr Crackenthorpe / in / of

2 son / killed / eldest / was / Mr Crackenthorpe's / war / the / in / Edmund

3 Rutherford Hall / the / stays / during / Alexander / at / holidays

4 some / a / bush / found / Lucy / fur / rose / on

5 barn / statue / Mr Crackenthorpe / collection / in / has / the / a

6 Dr Quimper / sarcophagus / dead / recognize / the / in / woman / doesn't / the

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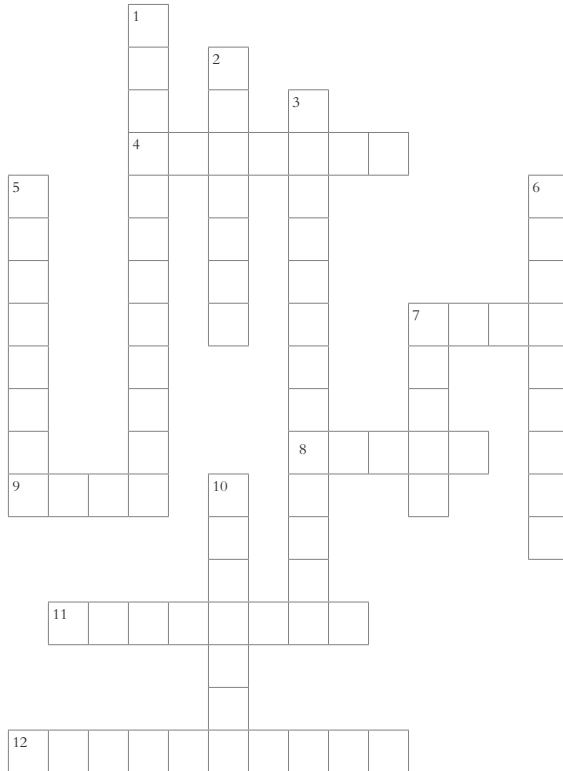
*Agatha Christie*

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

#### Part 2 (Chapters 8–14)

##### 1 Vocabulary

Complete the crossword using the clues.



##### Across

- 4 someone from another country
- 7 a legal document concerning inheritance
- 8 evidence
- 9 boring, grey
- 11 what Josiah Crackenthorpe manufactured
- 12 gold coins

##### Down

- 1 something private, secret
- 2 anxious
- 3 what Bryan did during the war
- 5 busy
- 6 a classical dancer
- 7 a woman whose husband has died
- 10 true, not fake or false

##### 2 Comprehension

Answer the following questions:

- 1 What does Josiah Crackenthorpe's will say about Rutherford Hall?
- 2 What happened to Edmund, Luther Crackenthorpe's eldest son?

- 3 Does Bryan Eastley enjoy his office job?
- 4 What does Inspector Craddock think about Alfred's clothes?
- 5 Why did Martine write to the Crackenthorpe family?
- 6 Who would like to marry Lucy?
- 7 Why does Inspector Craddock go to Paris?

##### 3 Language

On page 34 Lucy describes Bryan as friendly-looking. Match a word from box 1 with a word from box 2 to form a compound adjective, like 'friendly-looking'. Use this new adjective to describe the following from the story. There are some clues in brackets to help you.

- 1 Rutherford Hall ..... (in poor condition)
- 2 Mr Crackenthorpe *well-off* and ..... (rich, not fat)
- 3 Harold ..... (with good clothes)
- 4 A train carriage/ ..... ticket
- 5 Cedric ..... and ..... (poor quality clothes, happy)
- 6 Lucy ..... (busy)

Box 1		Box 2	
well	second	down	dressed
cheaply	hard	off	class
run	well	dressed	working
cheerful	thin	faced	looking

##### 4 Language

Match the two halves of the sentences and put the verbs in their correct simple past form:

For example: sentence 2 with **f**, verb cooked.

1 Inspector Craddock _____ (give) Wimbourne, the family lawyer	<b>a</b> ...to cheer Emma up.
2 Lucy _____ (cook) Yorkshire pudding to go	<b>b</b> ...to tell the police all about Martine.
3 Cedric _____ (come) to Rutherford Hall	<b>c</b> ...then he would inherit part of the Crackenthorpe's fortune.
4 Inspector Craddock _____ (notice) Alfred's suit _____ (be)	<b>d</b> ...some confidential information.
5 Alexander and James _____ (hunt)	<b>e</b> ...very cheap.
6 Dr Quimper _____ (advise) Emma	<b>f</b> ...with the meat.
7 If Martine _____ (can) prove her son is Edmund's	<b>g</b> ...for clues.

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### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

#### Part 3 (Chapters 15–20)

##### 1 Comprehension

Write in the correct answers:

**A** Who...

- ...makes a fuss? \_\_\_\_\_
- ...attends a Catering Club dinner? \_\_\_\_\_
- ...was involved in some small crimes? \_\_\_\_\_
- ...says she is rather romantic? \_\_\_\_\_
- ...suspects Mr Crackenthorpe had been poisoned? \_\_\_\_\_
- ...prepares cocktails to help the family stop arguing? \_\_\_\_\_

**B** Put the underlined words with the correct meaning.

word	meaning
	unnecessary behaviour about something
	quite
	alcoholic drinks, often with fruit
	to be part of something
	believes a certain person has done something wrong
	a company or business which produces meals for other people

##### 2 Vocabulary

Use the clues and the word search below to find the missing words.

Word	Clue
I _ _ _ _ _	To receive money or property from someone when they die.
P _ _ _ _	Evidence confirming that something is true or exists.
I _ _ _ _ _ _	Investigations, interviews.
A _ _ _ _	Saying where you are and what you were doing when a crime was committed.
B _ _ _	A large building used for storing things.
U _ _ _ _	Angry, sad or annoyed.
F _ _ _ _ _	Very angry.
I _ _ _ _ _	An investigation to help the police understand how a person died.
M _ _ _ _ _	The reason for committing a crime.
A _ _ _ _ _	When you make a suggestion/give an opinion to help someone.
S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _	Feeling ill when you've eaten something bad.
A _ _ _ _ _	A strong poison which can kill.

Q	R	V	Z	F	O	O	R	P	Y	O	I	A	P
C	M	W	S	F	A	L	I	B	I	J	K	A	H
U	D	T	Q	E	I	C	F	Y	G	O	J	P	I
Z	K	V	B	X	M	N	A	D	V	I	S	E	N
A	G	U	Y	J	Q	V	P	Z	H	L	R	D	H
E	W	B	O	T	S	E	U	Q	N	I	T	C	E
C	L	E	V	I	T	O	M	E	S	I	M	V	R
I	D	S	E	I	R	I	U	Q	N	I	T	P	I
N	Y	S	T	O	M	A	C	H	U	P	S	E	T
E	U	Z	K	L	U	N	R	A	B	J	Q	H	E
S	B	C	I	K	P	O	F	U	R	I	O	U	S
R	P	Y	G	N	S	T	S	H	W	B	L	R	U
A	A	C	M	P	E	D	K	J	O	F	Q	Z	E
Q	Y	B	C	L	T	E	V	A	H	M	N	I	G

##### 3 Language

The words from exercise 3 above can all be found in this summary. Find 5 factual mistakes in the summary and correct them.

*Just before Christmas the Crackenthorpe family attended an inquest of a strangled woman found in a barn on their property. The police have been making many inquiries and have tried to find a motive for this murder. Some of the family members were upset when they were asked to give an alibi for their whereabouts on 15<sup>th</sup> December. They have all denied knowing anything about this murder. It is thought that the dead woman may have been German, although there is not enough proof yet to confirm this.*

*Because the body was found at Rutherford Hall, the Police think there may be a link with the Crackenthorpe family. Harold Crackenthorpe's children will inherit a fortune when he dies and it could be possible he was poisoned with arsenic at Christmas. Mr Crackenthorpe was furious when he later found out all his family, including himself, had had a stomach upset due to poisoning. Following the death of Emma Crackenthorpe, the police have advised the rest of the family to be careful.*

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

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**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 4 (Chapters 21–27)**

**1 Comprehension**

Put these events from the story in the right order:

- a \_\_\_ Harold dies.
- b \_\_\_ A woman's body is found in a sarcophagus at Rutherford Hall.
- c \_\_\_ Edmund marries Martine.
- d \_\_\_ Mrs McGillicuddy recognizes Dr Quimper.
- e \_\_\_ The family eats curry and suffers from food poisoning.
- f \_\_\_ Emma receives a letter from Martine wanting to meet the family.
- g \_\_\_ Albert dies.
- h \_\_\_ Edmund is killed during the war.
- i 1 Mr Crackenthorpe inherits a fortune and moves into Rutherford Hall (in 1928).
- j \_\_\_ Miss Marple starts investigating and Lucy begins working at Rutherford Hall.
- k \_\_\_ Mrs McGillicuddy sees a woman being strangled on a train.

**2 Comprehension**

Put these question words in the questions below and then write the answer to each question:

What	Why	How many	Where
Whose	Why	When	

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ does Cedric seem so cheerful when Lucy sees him writing in bed?  
.....
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ pills does Harold have to take?  
.....
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ does Lady Stoddart-West want to see Emma?  
.....
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ did Lady Stoddart-West move to England?  
.....
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ does Emma have to tell Inspector Craddock?  
.....
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ fingerprints are on the pill box?  
.....
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ was Bryan hidden during the war?  
.....

**3 Vocabulary**

Lucy does a lot of cooking for the Crackenthorpes; put the following food items, all in the story, in the correct category.

curry	mushroom soup	jelly	rice pudding	apple tart
roast beef	potatoes	chocolate cake	roast chicken	
bread and cheese	coffee cake	Yorkshire pudding		
fish sandwiches	Spanish omelette			

Starter	Main course	Dessert/sweet	Snack/tea
		Apple tart	

Can you add some more examples of typical British dishes?

**4 Language**

Miss Marple is explaining the mystery.

'... so, Dr Quimper had known the family for a long time \_\_\_\_\_ knew they were rich. He was quite fond of Emma \_\_\_\_\_ he couldn't marry her because he was already married and his wife wouldn't divorce him. \_\_\_\_\_ why he decided he had to kill her. \_\_\_\_\_ he wrote a letter to Emma pretending to be Martine; he knew all about Edmund's wife \_\_\_\_\_ Emma had confided in him. Then he killed his wife on the train and hid her in the sarcophagus. \_\_\_\_\_ he encouraged Emma to tell the police about Martine so everyone would think Martine was the dead woman. At Christmas he started suggesting that someone was trying to poison Mr Crackenthorpe and \_\_\_\_\_ he poisoned all the family by putting arsenic in the curry. \_\_\_\_\_ for him, Mrs McGillicuddy recognized him as the murderer \_\_\_\_\_ he had his hands around my throat. You see, I was only pretending to choke, Lucy would never serve sandwiches with bones in them!...'

Put these words in the spaces above:

because	later	but	and	first	that's	when
unluckily	after	that				

Miss Marple has made a mistake with one piece of information in her account. Write down here what is incorrect. ....

**5 Grammar**

On page 101 Miss Marple says that Emma will soon forget Dr Quimper.

She uses 'will' as she's making a prediction about the future.

- 1 What else does she say Emma will do? .....
  - 2 Who, in your opinion, does Miss Marple think Lucy will marry? .....
- Inspector Craddock asks 'So, Miss Marple, what is the happy ending?' Make predictions about what you think some of the characters will do.
- 1 Maybe Miss Marple will .....
  - 2 Cedric will probably .....
  - 3 I think Mr Crackenthorpe will .....

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### ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

#### Part 1 (Chapters 1–7)

##### 1 Comprehension

- True
- False. She saw a man strangling a woman.
- True
- False. She asked Lucy Eyelesbarrow to work undercover.
- True
- True
- False. No, Inspector Craddock interviewed the family.
- True

##### 2 Language

investigating, found, thought, hidden, surrounded, thrown, left, moved, built, lived, interviewing, leading, identified

##### 3 Vocabulary

Character	Description	Synonym
1 Lucy	As well as being very <b>bright</b> , she was also <b>sensible</b> .	intelligent, aware (having good sense)
2 Emma	She's neither good-looking, nor <b>plain</b> .	ordinary, undistinguished
3 Mr Crackenthorpe	He had a large chin and small, <b>lively</b> eyes.	energetic
4 Miss Marple	She was as <b>sharp</b> and as clever as it is possible to be.	intelligent (quick to notice things)
5 Mr Crackenthorpe	He's so <b>mean</b> .	miserly, (not) generous
6 Cedric	He looked <b>bohemian</b> and proud of it.	unconventional

##### 4 Odd one out

Lucy – French  
Harold – mean  
Emma – beautiful  
Cedric – married  
Miss Marple – difficult  
Mr Crackenthorpe – generous

##### 5 Language

- Emma and Mr Crackenthorpe only live in part of Rutherford Hall.
- Mr Crackenthorpe's eldest son Edmund was killed in the war.
- Alexander stays at Rutherford Hall during the holidays.
- Lucy found some fur on a rose bush.
- Mr Crackenthorpe has a statue collection in the barn.

- Dr Quimper doesn't recognize the dead woman in the sarcophagus.

#### Part 2 (Chapters 8–14)

##### 1 Vocabulary

###### Across

- foreign
- will
- proof
- dull
- biscuits
- sovereigns

###### Down

- confidential
- worried
- fighter pilot
- occupied
- ballerina
- widow
- genuine

##### 2 Comprehension

- The will says Rutherford Hall mustn't be sold.
- He was killed during World War II.
- No, he doesn't, he says he's not good at that sort of thing.
- He thinks Alfred's clothes are cheap.
- She wanted to meet them.
- Mr Crackenthorpe and Alfred.
- He thought Martine could be a dancer there (called Anna).

##### 3 Language

- Rutherford Hall *run-down*
- Mr Crackenthorpe *well-off and thin-faced*
- Harold *well-dressed*
- A train carriage/ticket *second-class*
- Cedric *cheaply-dressed and cheerful-looking*
- Lucy *hard-working*

##### 4 Language

- Sentence:
- & d, gave
  - & f, cooked
  - & a, came
  - & e, noticed, was
  - & g, hunted
  - & b, advised
  - & c, could

#### Part 3 (Chapters 15–20)

##### 1 Comprehension

###### A

- Mr Crackenthorpe
- Harold
- Alfred
- Miss Marple
- Dr Quimper
- Lucy

###### B

word	meaning
<i>fuss</i>	unnecessary behaviour about something.
<i>rather</i>	quite
<i>cocktails</i>	alcoholic drinks, often with fruit
<i>involved</i>	to be part of something
<i>suspects</i>	believes a certain person has done something wrong
<i>catering</i>	a company or business which produces meals for other people

##### 2 Vocabulary

Word	Clue
<i>inherit</i>	To receive money or property from someone when they die.
<i>proof</i>	Evidence confirming that something is true or exists.
<i>inquiries</i>	Investigations, interviews.
<i>alibi</i>	Saying where you are and what you were doing when a crime was committed.
<i>barn</i>	A large building used for storing things.
<i>upset</i>	Angry, sad or annoyed.
<i>furious</i>	Very angry.
<i>inquest</i>	An investigation to help the police understand how a person died.
<i>motive</i>	The reason for committing a crime.
<i>advise</i>	When you make a suggestion/give an opinion to help someone.
<i>stomach upset</i>	Feeling ill when you've eaten something bad.
<i>arsenic</i>	A strong poison which can kill.

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Q	R	V	Z	F	O	O	R	P	Y	O	I	A	P
C	M	W	S	F	A	L	I	B	J	K	A	H	
U	D	T	Q	E	I	C	F	Y	G	O	J	P	A
Z	K	V	B	X	M	N	A	D	V	I	S	P	N
A	G	U	Y	J	Q	V	P	Z	H	L	R	D	H
E	W	B	O	T	S	E	U	Q	N	T	C	E	
A	L	E	V	I	T	O	M	E	S	I	M	V	R
I	D	S	E	I	R	I	U	Q	N	T	P	I	
N	Y	S	T	O	M	A	C	H	U	P	S	E	V
E	U	Z	K	L	A	R	A	B	J	Q	H	E	
S	B	C	I	K	P	O	F	U	R	I	O	U	S
R	P	Y	G	N	S	T	S	H	W	B	L	R	U
W	A	C	M	P	E	D	K	J	O	F	Q	Z	E
Q	Y	B	C	L	T	E	V	A	H	M	N	I	G

### 3 Language

Just before Christmas the Crackenthorpe family attended an inquest of a strangled woman found in a barn on their property. The police have been making many inquiries and have tried to find a motive for this murder. Some of the family members were upset when they were asked to give an alibi for their whereabouts on 15<sup>th</sup> December. They have all denied knowing anything about this murder. It is thought that the woman may have been German, although there is not enough proof yet to confirm this.

Because the body was found at Rutherford Hall, the Police think there may be a link with the Crackenthorpe family. Harold Crackenthorpe's children will inherit a fortune when he dies and it could be possible he was poisoned with arsenic at Christmas. Mr Crackenthorpe was furious when he later found out all his family, including himself, had had a stomach upset due to poisoning. Following the death of Emma Crackenthorpe, the police have advised the rest of the family to be careful.

- 1 It was just after Christmas, not before.
- 2 The murder was committed on the 20<sup>th</sup>, not the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 3 The woman was French, not German.
- 4 Luther, not Harold.
- 5 Alfred, not Emma.

## Part 4 (Chapters 21–27)

### 1 Comprehension

- 1 i
- 2 c
- 3 h
- 4 f
- 5 k
- 6 j
- 7 b
- 8 e
- 9 g
- 10 a
- 11 d

### 2 Comprehension

- 1 Why – because he's planning how he'll spend his inheritance.
- 2 How many – two.
- 3 Why – she wants to tell Emma she's Martine.
- 4 When – after the war had finished.
- 5 What – that Lady Stoddart-West is Martine.
- 6 Whose – Emma's.
- 7 Where – in Lady Stoddart-West's house.

### 3 Vocabulary

Starter	Main course	Dessert/sweet	Snack/tea
Mushroom soup	Roast beef Roast chicken Yorkshire pudding Potatoes Spanish omelette Curry	Apple tart Jelly Rice pudding	Chocolate cake Coffee cake Fish sandwiches Bread and cheese

### 4 Language

'...so, Dr Quimper had known the family for a long time **and** knew they were rich. He was quite fond of Emma **but** he couldn't marry her because he was already married and his wife wouldn't divorce him. **That's** why he decided he had to kill her. **First** he wrote a letter to Emma pretending to be Martine; he knew all about Edmund's wife **because** Emma had confided in him. Then he killed his wife on the train and hid her in the sarcophagus. **Later/after that** he encouraged Emma to tell the police about Martine so everyone would think Martine was the dead woman. At Christmas he started suggesting that someone was trying to poison Mr Crackenthorpe and **later/after that** he poisoned all the family by putting arsenic in the curry. **Unluckily** for him, Mrs McGillicuddy recognized him as the murderer **when** he had his hands around my throat. You see, I was only pretending to choke, Lucy would never serve sandwiches with bones in them!...

**Miss Marple's mistake:** The family was poisoned with arsenic put in the cocktails, not the curry. Dr Quimper put the arsenic in the curry which was left, **after** the family had eaten, because it was going to be analyzed.

### 5 Grammar

Answers will vary.