

# A Pocket Full of Rye

*Agatha Christie*

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Part 1 (Chapters 1–8)

#### 1 Vocabulary

Complete the phrases using the words in the box.

hold	stand	living	spell	dare	forge	off
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- 1 under someone's \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 make a \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ a cheque
- 4 'How \_\_\_\_\_ you!'
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ up to
- 6 break \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ a grudge

#### 2 Vocabulary

Look at the word families in the boxes below. Add the words in the box to the correct word family. Some boxes can have more than one word.

anxious	forge	comfortingly	kettle	nonsense	fearless
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Adjectives: glamorous, outrageous, _____, _____
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Abstract nouns: bitterness, loyalty, _____
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Nouns: saucer, cereal, _____
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Adverbs: recklessly, deliberately, _____
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Verbs: hesitate, shrug, _____
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#### 3 Comprehension

Are the sentences true or false? Correct any which you think are false.

- 1 Rex Fortescue drinks the same tea as everyone else at work.
- 2 Both doctors think he has been poisoned.
- 3 Rex Fortescue didn't say anything before he died.
- 4 Inspector Neele thinks the name of the house is significant.
- 5 Rex and Adele have three children together.
- 6 Mary Dove is very upset to hear about Rex Fortescue's death.
- 7 Rex and Percival had a big argument at work once.
- 8 Mary Dove tells Neele exactly what Rex had to eat and drink.

#### 4 Comprehension

Complete this summary of the story with the words in the box.

weedkiller	poison	taxine	poisonous	berries
yew trees	arsenic			

Rex Fortescue dies after he swallows some (1) \_\_\_\_\_. The doctor at the hospital thinks it is an interesting case, because he says people usually use (2) \_\_\_\_\_. He discovers that Rex has been poisoned by (3) \_\_\_\_\_, which comes from (4) \_\_\_\_\_. There had been a recent case of children using (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from this tree to make pretend tea. Jennifer Fortescue asks if the killer used (6) \_\_\_\_\_, which is another (7) \_\_\_\_\_ substance.

#### 5 Grammar

Complete the extracts using the correct narrative tense.

##### Past simple:

I \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a secretarial course and then a job as a shorthand typist. I \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the wrong business, and \_\_\_\_\_ (start) on my present career.

##### Past perfect:

Neele questioned her and discovered that she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in a private house first and after that \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in various cafés. She \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to Yewtree Lodge in September. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) there two months.

#### 6 Grammar

Match the phrases to make descriptions.

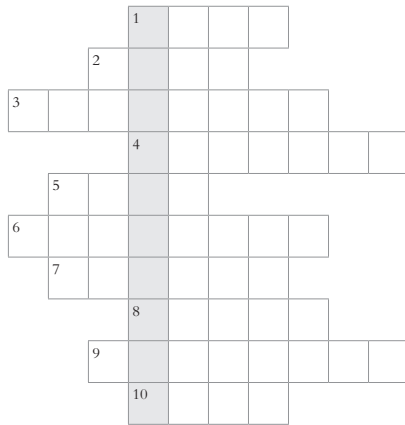
1 He was always	a he was looking forward to something exciting.
2 He never seemed to me	b had been drinking.
3 I thought he	c very secretive.
4 It seemed like	d openly about them.
5 Recently he'd been talking	e really ill.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 2 (Chapters 9–13)**

**1 Vocabulary**

Complete the puzzle. What is the mystery word shown in the grey squares?



- 1 a plant which is like a very small tree
- 2 something that helps you find the answer to a puzzle or mystery
- 3 to kill someone by squeezing their throat so tightly that they are unable to breathe
- 4 to show that what you believe is definitely true
- 5 not real
- 6 feeling uncertain about something
- 7 small, delicate, or pretty
- 8 words which sound the same; a short poem
- 9 being married but having a relationship with another person
- 10 being able to think and behave normally, not being mentally ill

**2 Vocabulary**

Solve the anagrams. Then write the words in the correct sentences.

csonse	pslgmie	ndyiaec	sciuru	sepanwo
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
etcusps	trifonpot	yrtapn		
_____	_____	_____		

- 1 I think I caught a \_\_\_\_\_ of somebody through the window.
- 2 He left a large \_\_\_\_\_ in the mud outside.
- 3 Let's have something to eat – would you like tea and \_\_\_\_\_?
- 4 I am very \_\_\_\_\_ to know your secret!
- 5 The main \_\_\_\_\_ has escaped!
- 6 Look in the \_\_\_\_\_ for more tea.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ is a very dangerous poison.
- 8 Countries developed new \_\_\_\_\_ after the Second World War.

**3 Grammar**

Match the phrasal verbs to the correct meaning.

1 tear up – He tore up Adele's letter angrily.	a to travel to a place, often from another country
2 bring up – I was brought up on nursery rhymes.	b to be raised from a child
3 pick up – Mary picked up the tray and took it in.	c to leave a place
4 look up – She looked up into the dark, handsome face.	d to look happier
5 go out – She's gone out without permission.	e to rip something into smaller pieces
6 light up – Lance's attractive face lit up with laughter.	f to lift something, e.g. from the floor
7 come over – I came over to England three months ago.	g to lift your head so you are looking at something higher than you
8 go on – What goes on behind it, I wouldn't like to say.	h to happen, often in secret

**4 Grammar**

Choose the correct modifiers to complete the sentences from the story.

- 1 She never looks \_\_\_\_\_ clean. (always / completely)
- 2 Men didn't take \_\_\_\_\_ notice of her. (much / very)
- 3 She was \_\_\_\_\_ stupid too. (also / rather)
- 4 The explanation had been \_\_\_\_\_ easy. (to / too)
- 5 That seems \_\_\_\_\_ unlikely. (some / most)
- 6 She felt comfortable with this \_\_\_\_\_ unhappy-looking girl. (rather / more)
- 7 It was the clothes peg that made me so \_\_\_\_\_ angry. (very / much)
- 8 It was \_\_\_\_\_ a cruel thing to do! (so / such)

**5 Comprehension**

Match these sentences to the person who might say them.

1 I have to make sure the police don't find those letters!	a Mrs Crump
2 Gladys needs to come back here and help me in the kitchen.	b Mary Dove
3 I didn't know Percival's brother was so attractive.	c Miss Ramsbottom
4 I'm delighted to see my brother again.	d Inspector Neele
5 I'm sure Gladys knows more than we realize.	e Vivian Dubois
6 I found some useful information in Gladys's room.	f Elaine Fortescue

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 3 (Chapters 14–21)**

**1 Vocabulary**

Read the clues and complete the words.

- 1 someone who has and controls a lot of money and uses it to make more money: c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 2 to say that something is not true: d \_ \_ \_
- 3 betting money on the result of a game, a race or competition: g \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4 in a dangerous way: r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 5 the situation where a person or company cannot pay their debts: b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 6 doing a particular task without being forced to do it: v \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 7 an extremely sad event or situation: t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 8 to tell someone that you believe they did something wrong or dishonest: a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**2 Vocabulary**

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

trust fund depressed objection knitting action  
anti-social stocks solicitor

- 1 He doesn't get on with other people, he's quite \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 You should ask a \_\_\_\_\_ for advice if you are making a will.
- 3 She's been unhappy for a long time, I think she's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 My aunt is \_\_\_\_\_ lots of clothes for the new baby.
- 5 Ella works in the City selling \_\_\_\_\_ and shares.
- 6 He says he's a vegetarian, but he has no \_\_\_\_\_ to eating fish!
- 7 Annabelle is very lucky, she has a \_\_\_\_\_ to live on.
- 8 Many soldiers were killed in \_\_\_\_\_ in the war.

**3 Grammar**

Write the questions in the correct order. Be careful – some of them use question tags.

- 1 anybody / did / you / see / Mr Wright / this / on / walk / ?
- 2 you / meet / did / where / nephew / my / ?
- 3 wasn't / horse-racing / a / was / he / man / he / ?
- 4 money / then / happens / that / to / what / ?
- 5 promise / what / make / you / did / them / ?
- 6 relations / any / come / see / her / to / do / of / her / ?
- 7 know / who / you / don't / is / you / it / ?
- 8 a / unhappiness / you've / lot / had / you / haven't / of / ?

**4 Grammar**

Complete the summary with the words in the box.

may might have have to maybe ought must

Inspector Neele thinks that Vivian (1) \_\_\_\_\_ gone through the garden to the side door. Then (2) \_\_\_\_\_ he waited until tea was over before going to find Adele. He decided he (3) \_\_\_\_\_ speak to Jennifer. 'I'm afraid we (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ask more questions,' he said. Jennifer told him that Adele had made a new will, and that she said everybody (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to have a will. Next, Neele speaks to Lance and Pat about the blackbirds. Lance tells him about the Blackbird Mine, and says that Aunt Effie (6) \_\_\_\_\_ be able to help him.

**5 Comprehension**

Answer the questions.

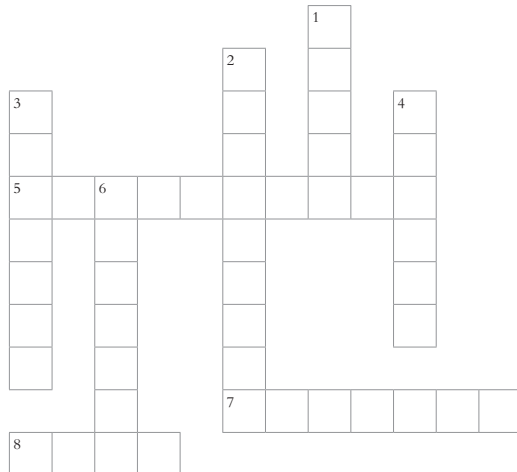
- 1 Who did Mr Fortescue go to the Blackbird Mines with?  
.....
- 2 What happened when Mrs MacKenzie came to Yewtree Lodge?  
.....
- 3 What does Gerald say he did on the night of Adele's murder?  
.....
- 4 How did Pat's first two husbands die?  
.....
- 5 Does Miss Ramsbottom trust Lance and Percival?  
.....
- 6 What does Percival hope Lance is going to do?  
.....
- 7 What does Mrs MacKenzie say about her family when Neele visits her?  
.....
- 8 Who does Jennifer think the murderer is?  
.....

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 4 (Chapters 22–27)**

**1 Vocabulary**

Read the clues and complete the crossword puzzle.



**Across**

- 5 a person who helps to commit a crime
- 7 a feeling of great satisfaction when you get something you want
- 8 to kill a person as a punishment for a crime, using a rope

**Down**

- 1 proof that you were somewhere else when a crime was committed
- 2 someone who is blamed for something that is not their fault
- 3 a metal that is used to produce nuclear energy and weapons
- 4 your own opinion about something which you cannot prove but think is true
- 6 someone who works with finance and investments

**2 Comprehension**

Put these events in the correct time sequence.

- a \_\_\_ Rex dies in hospital.
- b \_\_\_ Lance poisons Adele's tea.
- c \_\_\_ Gladys gets a job at Yewtree Lodge.
- d \_\_\_ Albert rings Gladys to say he will visit her.
- e \_\_\_ Gladys meets Albert on holiday.
- f \_\_\_ Albert (Lance) strangles Gladys in the garden.
- g \_\_\_ Gladys puts taxine in Rex's marmalade.
- h \_\_\_ Mary Dove sees someone in the garden.

**3 Comprehension**

Answer the questions.

- 1 What does Gladys think she is giving Mr Fortescue?  
.....
- 2 Why does Lance want more money?  
.....

- 3 Why did Lance choose to kill Gladys?  
.....
- 4 Why is the Blackbird Mine now worth a lot of money?  
.....
- 5 What does Jennifer give to Mary Dove?  
.....
- 6 What coincidence does Neele discuss with Mary Dove?  
.....
- 7 Why is Gladys's letter late in reaching Miss Marple?  
.....
- 8 What final piece of evidence does Gladys give to Miss Marple?  
.....

**4 Comprehension**

In this section, Lance and Percival discuss the family business. Draw the following table and examples on the board, and ask students to complete it with their opposing points of view:

	Percival	Lance
<b>Does he want to work in the business?</b>	Yes – he has worked in it for many years	
<b>How does he think the business should be run?</b>		They should take more risks with money
<b>How does he feel about his brother?</b>		
<b>What does he think about his father?</b>		

**5 Grammar**

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box.

hear make fail murder see not live meet be tell

- 1 All these items \_\_\_\_\_ a strange kind of pattern in the back of his mind.
- 2 'She took one tray in with the tea on it, then she \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ something.'
- 3 'But she \_\_\_\_\_ longer than a month after her husband's death.'
- 4 Miss Marple never \_\_\_\_\_ to surprise him!
- 5 'Are you saying that Gladys deliberately \_\_\_\_\_ Rex Fortescue?'
- 6 'She \_\_\_\_\_ him last summer at a holiday camp.'
- 7 'I don't know what story he \_\_\_\_\_ her to explain the rye.'
- 8 'There \_\_\_\_\_ unexplained calls that day.'

**ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)**

**Part 1 (Chapters 1–8)**

**1 Vocabulary**

- 1 spell
- 2 living
- 3 forge
- 4 dare
- 5 stand
- 6 off
- 7 hold

**2 Vocabulary**

adjectives: anxious, fearless  
 abstract nouns: nonsense  
 nouns: kettle  
 adverbs: comfortably  
 verbs: forge

**3 Comprehension**

- 1 False. He drinks special tea from a separate pot.
- 2 True
- 3 False. He said something had been put in his tea.
- 4 True
- 5 False. Rex has three children from a previous marriage.
- 6 False. She is very calm.
- 7 True
- 8 True

**4 Comprehension**

- 1 poison
- 2 weedkiller
- 3 taxine
- 4 yew trees
- 5 berries
- 6 arsenic
- 7 poisonous

**5 Grammar**

- 1 took
- 2 decided
- 3 was
- 4 started
- 5 had been
- 6 had worked
- 7 had come
- 8 had been

**6 Grammar**

- 1 c
- 2 e
- 3 b
- 4 a
- 5 d

**Part 2 (Chapters 9–13)**

**1 Vocabulary**

- 1 bush
- 2 clue

- 3 strangle
  - 4 confirm
  - 5 fake
  - 6 doubtful
  - 7 dainty
  - 8 rhyme
  - 9 adultery
  - 10 sane
- Mystery word: blackbirds

**2 Vocabulary**

- 1 glimpse
- 2 footprint
- 3 scones
- 4 curious
- 5 suspect
- 6 pantry
- 7 cyanide
- 8 weapons

**3 Grammar**

- 1 e
- 2 b
- 3 f
- 4 g
- 5 c
- 6 d
- 7 a
- 8 h

**4 Grammar**

- 1 completely
- 2 much
- 3 rather
- 4 too
- 5 most
- 6 rather
- 7 very
- 8 such

**5 Comprehension**

- 1 e
- 2 a
- 3 b
- 4 f
- 5 c
- 6 d

**Part 3 (Chapters 14–21)**

**1 Vocabulary**

- 1 capitalist
- 2 deny
- 3 gambling
- 4 reckless
- 5 bankruptcy
- 6 voluntary
- 7 tragedy
- 8 accuse

**2 Vocabulary**

- 1 anti-social
- 2 solicitor
- 3 depressed
- 4 knitting
- 5 stocks
- 6 objection
- 7 trust fund
- 8 action

**3 Grammar**

- 1 Did anybody see you on this walk, Mr Wright?
- 2 Where did you meet my nephew?
- 3 He was a horse-racing man, wasn't he?
- 4 Then what happens to that money?
- 5 What did you make them promise?
- 6 Do any of her relations come to see her?
- 7 You know who it is, don't you?
- 8 You've had a lot of unhappiness, haven't you?

**4 Grammar**

- 1 might have
- 2 maybe
- 3 must
- 4 have to
- 5 ought
- 6 may

**5 Comprehension**

- 1 He went with Mr MacKenzie.
- 2 She said she wanted revenge for her husband's death. She said she would bring her children up to get revenge.
- 3 He went for a walk by himself.
- 4 Her first husband was killed in the war and her second shot himself.
- 5 No, she doesn't.
- 6 He hopes he will leave the country and go somewhere exciting.
- 7 She says her son is dead and she has no contact with her daughter because she didn't do as she was told.
- 8 She thinks it is Mr Crump.

**Part 4 (Chapters 22–27)**

**1 Vocabulary**

**Across**

- 5 accomplice
- 7 triumph
- 8 hang

**Down**

- 1 alibi
- 2 scapegoat
- 3 uranium
- 4 theory
- 6 city man

# A Pocket Full of Rye

*Agatha Christie*

## 2 Comprehension

- 1 e
- 2 c
- 3 g
- 4 a
- 5 d
- 6 h
- 7 f
- 8 b

## 3 Comprehension

- 1 She thinks she is giving him a truth drug.
- 2 So he can have a good life with Pat, who he loves.
- 3 To make the murders fit the nursery rhyme and to make it look like the MacKenzies did it.
- 4 Because uranium has been discovered there.
- 5 £500, which she gets from selling a necklace.
- 6 The fact that burglaries happen in houses where she has worked, and that the burglars know where the valuables are kept.
- 7 It went to the wrong house.
- 8 A photo of Albert: Lance

## 4 Comprehension

	<b>Percival</b>	<b>Lance</b>
<b>Does he want to work in the business?</b>	Yes – he has worked in it for many years	No – but he says he wants to be involved to annoy Percival
<b>How does he think the business should be run?</b>	Cautiously and without spending a lot of money	They should take more risks with money
<b>How does he feel about his brother?</b>	He doesn't like him	He doesn't like him
<b>What does he think about his father?</b>	He had been behaving in a crazy way	He shouldn't be bullied by Percival

## 5 Grammar

- 1 made
- 2 saw/heard
- 3 didn't live
- 4 failed
- 5 murdered
- 6 met
- 7 told
- 8 were