

Appointment with Death

Agatha Christie

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 1 (Chapters 1–9)

1 Comprehension

Match the person to the descriptions of the members of the Boynton family in Chapters 1–4.

B Mrs Boynton **L** Lennox **C** Carol **R** Raymond **G** Genevra

- 1 B large, swollen body
- 2 ___ nervous and excited
- 3 ___ exhausted with suffering, waiting for the end to come
- 4 ___ an attractive, musical voice
- 5 ___ tall, in his thirties
- 6 ___ strong personality
- 7 ___ thin, beautiful face
- 8 ___ nervous, can't relax, afraid
- 9 ___ dark, frightening and evil eyes
- 10 ___ pleasant-looking face
- 11 ___ smiling and calm
- 12 ___ sensitive and clever
- 13 ___ a slow, wheezing voice
- 14 ___ red-gold hair

2 Comprehension

Who says these sentences, and who do they say them to?

- 1 'I will remember that voice.'
- 2 'It's just like killing a mad dog, before it hurts anyone else.'
- 3 'That young man needs to be rescued.'
- 4 'Normally she doesn't like outsiders, but she's been very kind to me. She treats me like I'm part of the family.'
- 5 'That's what our lives are like – it's like being locked up in prison!'
- 6 'I can't. I don't have the courage.'
- 7 'You're really rather pathetic.'
- 8 'I never forget anything – an action, a name or a face...'
- 9 'They're taking me away! They want to kill me.'

3 Comprehension

- 1 What is carved into rock?
.....
- 2 Who is like a huge spider in the middle of a web?
.....
- 3 Why did Sarah arrange the holiday?
.....
- 4 Who used to work in a prison?
.....

- 5 Why is Mrs Boynton rich?
.....
- 6 What did Nadine do before she married Lennox?
.....
- 7 What kind of disease does Sarah think Mrs Boynton has?
.....
- 8 How long have Nadine and Lennox been married?
.....
- 9 Who was blocking Poirot's way into the lift?
.....

4 Language

'Anagrams' are a popular puzzle in the UK. To solve an anagram, we need to rearrange the letters of a phrase to find the missing word in the sentence. See the example below. All missing words have been taken from the Glossary. Then, once you have found the missing word, please read the sentence and decide who it is describing.

- e.g. [Mrs Boynton] seasonal pity = 'How can XXX hurt her own family like that?' said Sarah passionately.
- 1 [_____] I try belt = 'People would say we were crazy,' said XXX _____.
 - 2 [_____] lens owl = But at the centre of the group there was an old woman – with a large, _____ body.
 - 3 [_____] gene whiz = Then, in a slow, _____ voice, XXX spoke.
 - 4 [_____] each rhino zips = 'She may have a mental illness called _____... She is trying to escape her real life by living in a fantasy world'.
 - 5 [_____] memorable faint perm = 'As well as you, there's the archaeologist, Sir Manders Stone, and XXX a well-known _____'.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 2 (Chapters 10–12)

1 Writing

Read the statements about Lady Westholme. Decide whether they are true (T) or false (F), and correct the false statements.

e.g. F Her maiden name was unknown.

Her maiden name was Vansittart.

- 1 Lord Westholme was a clever man.
.....
- 2 He met his wife on a ship travelling back from America.
.....
- 3 After a long engagement they finally decided to get married.
.....
- 4 Lady Westholme originally believed her husband would be successful.
.....
- 5 She was chosen to be a Member of Parliament.
.....
- 6 She did not support women's rights.
.....
- 7 She was highly respected in the UK.
.....
- 8 She was a well-loved politician.
.....

2 Vocabulary

Find 13 new words in the grid below.
Many are in the glossary.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | M | D | C | K | F | P | O | I | S |
| C | A | E | H | I | E | L | K | P | A |
| R | L | S | A | E | G | N | T | U | C |
| U | A | F | T | R | D | M | R | T | R |
| E | R | S | T | E | I | Y | V | T | I |
| L | I | G | E | U | R | Q | A | E | F |
| F | A | B | R | I | C | F | G | E | I |
| M | A | R | Q | U | E | E | U | S | C |
| A | B | T | P | U | L | S | E | L | E |
| U | N | B | E | A | R | A | B | L | E |

3 Follow-up activity

Now guess what or who they refer to:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Miss Pierce | Dr Gerard |
| v_____ | m_____ |
| c_____ | |
| Mrs Boynton | the surroundings |
| c_____ | r_____ |
| p_____ | m_____ |
| | s_____ |
| | s_____ |
| camp servant | Lady Westholme |
| f_____ | m_____ |
| p_____ | u_____ |

4 Comprehension

- 1 Who complained about the tour car?
.....
- 2 Why did Sarah feel stupid for speaking to Mrs Boynton at the hotel?
.....
- 3 What did Miss Pierce use to do?
.....
- 4 What did they have to do at the village of Ain Musa?
.....
- 5 How did Mrs Boynton get from Ain Musa to Petra?
.....
- 6 What used to happen at the 'Place of Sacrifice'?
.....
- 7 Why did Ginevra stay in her tent in the afternoon?
.....
- 8 What was Miss Pierce reading after lunch?
.....

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 3 (Chapters 13–25)

1 Comprehension

- Who had an argument with Mrs Boynton?
.....
- What did Mrs Boynton say when Lady Westholme and Miss Pierce called up to her?
.....
- Why did Nadine think she may have killed Mrs Boynton?
.....
- Who thought an Arab prince sent a stranger into their tent to kidnap them?
.....
- What did Lennox say he told Mrs Boynton before she died?
.....
- What was in the small metal box that Miss Pierce picked up out of the stream?
.....
- How many people said they had a syringe?
.....

2 Language

Match the two fragments to make full words.

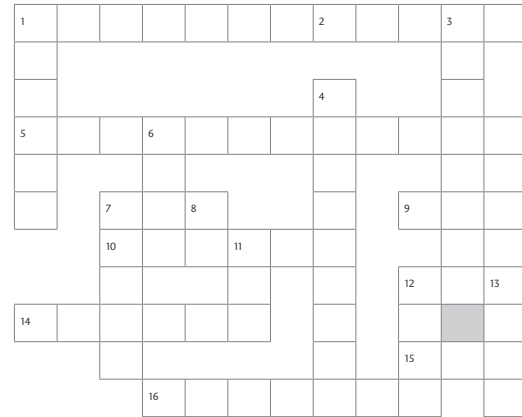
| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| syr <u>inge</u> _____ | ing |
| digi _____ | art |
| contain _____ | ist |
| he _____ | jecting |
| pi _____ | bag |
| medicine _____ | talin |
| wr _____ | inge |
| in _____ | n |

3 Writing

Now use the words from 2 to complete this adaptation of an important part of Dr Gerard's evidence to Poirot.

'When I got up in the morning, I found my _____ behind some bottles on my table. I'm sure it was not there the day before. And there was a mark on Mrs Boynton's _____ that could have been made by a _____. Carol Boynton says the mark was made by a _____. And finally, when I looked in my _____ I saw that some of my _____ was missing – and _____ someone with a large dose of this causes death by stopping the _____. ... Mrs Boynton was taking a medicine _____ this drug. If she took too much medicine over time, she may have died of digitalin poisoning – but a medical examination would not show it.'

4 Language



Across

- a large tent
- evidence that shows that something is true
- when someone's heart suddenly stops completely
- 'But they all know who ___ it!' said Col. Carbury.
- when you cry in a noisy way
- use a syringe to put a drug into your body
- small drops of water on grass in the morning
- something that is hard to solve
- 'the archaeologist, ___ Manders Stone'
- something used to inject drugs or take blood

Down

- a way of doing something
- take too much of a drug
- a medicine for the heart made from a common plant
- severely harm, damage, or spoil something
- you may feel like this if you are about to faint
- a 'disc jockey' or 'dinner jacket'...
- 'Col. Carbury had gentle blue ___s and a bald head'
- how much of a drug you should take at one time
- cautious because you are afraid of danger

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 4 (Chapter 26–Epilogue)

1 Comprehension

In Chapter 28, Poirot says that all the family has a good motive to want to kill their stepmother. Match the possible reasons to the person.

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| R = Raymond | C = Carol | N = Nadine |
|-------------|-----------|------------|

- _____ returned to the camp at 5.10, and spoke to her mother. There were no witnesses.
- _____ wanted Lennox to leave his mother, but knew that he was too exhausted to do it.
- _____ had talked about killing Mrs Boynton.
- _____ knew Lennox would inherit enough money to be free if his mother died.
- _____ might have been given the courage to kill Mrs Boynton by new love.
- _____ had a syringe, and medical training.
- _____ threw a syringe into the stream the following morning, very early.
- _____ was in a very nervous and excited state.

2 Follow-up activity

They then all lie for the same reason. What is it? Answer these questions:

- 1 Why does Raymond say his mother was alive when she was really dead?
.....
- 2 Why doesn't Carol tell everyone that their mother is dead?
.....
- 3 Why does Raymond admit that he was lying?
.....
- 4 When Nadine found that Mrs Boynton was dead, why didn't she say anything?
.....
- 5 Why does Lennox say he killed Mrs Boynton?
.....

3 Language

Sort the words in the box into their classes in the table below.

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| dead | die | died | death | deadly |
| innocent | innocence | proof | prove | (proven/) proved |
| cruel | cruelty | | | |
| suspicious | suspicion | suspect | suspected | |
| poison | poison | poisonous | poisoned | |
| involve | involvement | involved | involving | |
| exhaust | exhaustion | exhausted | exhausting | exhaustive |

| Noun | Verb | Past participle | Adjective(s) |
|-------|------|-----------------|--------------|
| death | die | died | dead deadly |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Choose one of the words above, and use the correct form. e.g. 'Do you really need to be *involved*?'

- 1 'As soon as I touched her I knew she was _____.'
- 2 'The way she spoke these words was so _____ that Sarah stepped back.'
- 3 'In a detective story you would definitely be the obvious _____!'
- 4 'It was such a dangerous and _____ climb.'

4 Comprehension

Can you put the chain of events in order?

- _____ She injected Mrs Boynton with the digitalin.
- _____ Mrs Boynton recognized Lady Westholme in the hotel in Jerusalem.
- _____ Mrs Boynton let her family go for a walk at Petra, so she could speak to Lady Westholme alone.
- _____ Poirot guessed Lady Westholme was lying because she couldn't have seen the servant so clearly.
- _____ First she went into Ginevra's tent by mistake, and Ginevra saw her.
- _____ Then she took the syringe from Dr Gerard's tent while he was ill with malaria.
- _____ Lady Westholme killed herself.
- _____ She returned to Miss Pierce and persuaded her that a servant had argued with Mrs Boynton.
- _____ Sarah realized Mrs Boynton had a kind of mental illness: she needed to control people.
- _____ That night she put the syringe back in Dr Gerard's tent.
- _____ Mrs Boynton met Lady Westholme a long time ago in an American prison.
- _____ She pretended to invite Mrs Boynton to join them for their walk.
- _____ Lady Westholme dressed up as a servant.

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Part 1 (Chapters 1–9)

1 Comprehension

- 1 B large, swollen body
- 2 R nervous and excited
- 3 L exhausted with suffering, waiting for the end to come
- 4 G an attractive musical voice
- 5 L tall, in his thirties
- 6 B strong personality
- 7 G thin, beautiful face
- 8 C nervous, can't relax, afraid
- 9 B dark, frightening and evil eyes
- 10 L pleasant-looking face
- 11 G smiling and calm
- 12 R sensitive and clever
- 13 B a slow, wheezing voice
- 14 G red-gold hair

2 Comprehension

- 1 Poirot to himself p. 1
- 2 Raymond to Carol p. 2
- 3 Sarah to herself p. 6
- 4 Mr Cope to Dr Gerard p. 12
- 5 Carol to Sarah p. 14
- 6 Lennox to Nadine p. 20
- 7 Sarah to Mrs Boynton p. 22
- 8 Mrs Boynton to Sarah p. 22
- 9 Ginevra p. 23

3 Comprehension

- 1 the famous rose-red city of Petra
- 2 Mrs Boynton
- 3 to help her forget her troubles (ending her engagement)
- 4 Mrs Boynton
- 5 her husband Elmer was a rich man, and he left all his money to her
- 6 trained as a nurse
- 7 one that makes her want to control people
- 8 about 4 years
- 9 Raymond

4 Language

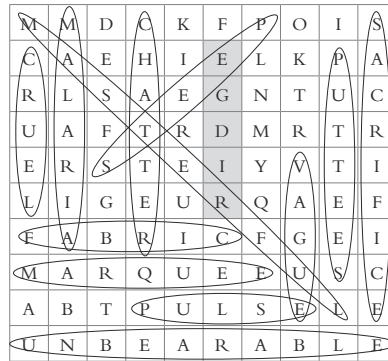
- 1 [Raymond] bitterly
- 2 [Mrs Boynton] swollen
- 3 [Mrs Boynton] wheezing
- 4 [Ginevra] schizophrenia
- 5 [Lady Westholme] Member of Parliament

Part 2 (Chapters 10–12)

1 Writing

- 1 F – He wasn't very clever.
- 2 T
- 3 F – They married soon after they met.
- 4 T
- 5 T
- 6 F – She believed women are as good as men.
- 7 T
- 8 F – Everyone respected her, but no one liked her.

2 Vocabulary



3 Follow-up activity

- Miss Pierce:** vague, chatter
Dr Gerard: malaria
Mrs Boynton: cruel, pulse
the surroundings: ridge, marquess, steep, sacrifice
camp servant: fabric, puttees
Lady Westholme: masterful, unbearable

4 Comprehension

- 1 Lady Westholme
- 2 She was sure other people, such as Lady Westholme, were close by and heard what she said.
- 3 teach young children
- 4 leave the car, and ride on horses
- 5 local servants had to carry her in a chair
- 6 animals were killed here to please the gods
- 7 Her mother told her she had to stay behind and sleep because of her headache.
- 8 a book called The Journey of Love – ‘an exciting story of romance and passion’

Part 3 (Chapters 13–25)

1 Comprehension

- 1 A tall, untidy local servant.
- 2 They said she just grunted.
- 3 Because she told Mrs Boynton she was going to leave Lennox, and go away with Mr Cope. Mrs Boynton got angry: perhaps it was too much for Mrs Boynton's heart.
- 4 Ginevra
- 5 That he had chosen Nadine, not his stepmother.
- 6 A syringe. Sarah said it was hers.
- 7 Three: Dr Gerard, Nadine and Sarah.

2 Language

syringe / digitalin / containing / heart / pin / medicine bag / wrist / injecting

3 Writing

‘When I got up in the morning, I found my syringe behind some bottles on my table. I’m

sure it was not there the day before. And there was a mark on Mrs Boynton's wrist that could have been made by a syringe. Carol Boynton says the mark was made by a pin. And finally, when I looked in my medicine bag I saw that some of my digitalin was missing – and injecting someone with a large dose of this causes death by stopping the heart. ... Mrs Boynton was taking a medicine containing this drug. If she took too much medicine over time, she may have died of digitalin poisoning – but a medical examination would not show it.’

4 Language



Part 4 (Chapter 26–Epilogue)

1 Comprehension

- C** returned to the camp at 5.10, and spoke to her mother. There were no witnesses.
N wanted Lennox to leave his mother, but knew that he was too exhausted to do it.
R / C had talked about killing Mrs Boynton.
N knew Lennox would inherit enough money to be free if his mother died.
R might have been given the courage to kill Mrs Boynton by new love.
N had a syringe, and medical training.
C threw a syringe into the stream the following morning, very early.
R was in a very nervous and excited state.

2 Follow-up activity

- They are all trying to protect someone they loved:
- 1 He was trying to protect Carol.
 - 2 She was trying to protect Raymond.
 - 3 To protect Sarah.
 - 4 To protect Lennox.
 - 5 To protect Nadine.

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3 Language

| Noun | Verb | Past participle | Adjective(s) |
|------------------------|---------|-------------------|---|
| death | die | died | dead/ deadly |
| innocence | | | innocent |
| proof | prove | proven/ proved | proven |
| cruelty | | | cruel |
| suspicion (suspect) | suspect | suspected | suspicious |
| poison | poison | poisoned | poisonous |
| involvement | involve | involved | involving |
| exhaustion | exhaust | exhausted | exhausted/ exhausting/ exhaustive |

- 1 'As soon as I touched her I knew she was dead'
- 2 'The way she spoke these words was so poisonous that Sarah stepped back.'
- 3 'In a detective story you would definitely be the obvious suspect!'
- 4 'It was such a dangerous and exhausting climb.'

4 Comprehension

- 1 Mrs Boynton met Lady Westholme a long time ago in an American prison.
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- 3 Mrs Boynton recognized Lady Westholme in the hotel in Jerusalem.
- 4 Mrs Boynton let her family go for a walk at Petra, so she could speak to Lady Westholme alone.
- 5 Lady Westholme dressed up as a servant.
- 6 First she went into Ginevra's tent by mistake, and Ginevra saw her.
- 7 Then she took the syringe from Dr Gerard's tent while he was ill with malaria.
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