

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 1 (Chapters 1–4)**

**1 Comprehension**

Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Sophia does not want to get married immediately because ...
  - a she has fallen in love with someone else.
  - b Charles isn't romantic enough.
  - c she is worried her grandfather's death will affect Charles' career.
- 2 Charles' father is ...
  - a the Assistant Commissioner for the London Police.
  - b an important police officer in Scotland.
  - c a doctor who can sign a death certificate.
- 3 Sophia climbed through a window to meet Charles because ...
  - a she lost her keys in the yard.
  - b she should stay in the house while the police are investigating her grandfather's death.
  - c she lives in a small crooked house, and it's just easier to leave by the window.
- 4 Sophia thinks she and Charles will be able to marry only if 'the right person' killed her grandfather. When she says 'the right person', she means ...
  - a Aristide's first wife.
  - b Aristide's second wife.
  - c Aristide's pharmacist, who gave him eyedrops that contained a poison called eserine.
- 5 Charles' father wants Charles to stay at *Three Gables* because ...
  - a he wants Charles to investigate Aristide's suspicious death.
  - b he thinks Charles should protect Sophia.
  - c Charles has an official connection: he is a police officer, like his father.
- 6 Aristide's house should have been called *Eleven Gables* because ...
  - a eleven is a lucky number in Greece.
  - b traditional English houses have many gables.
  - c the house is too big.

**2 Comprehension**

Fill in the gaps using the words below. You have to choose between the two forms of each word.

knowing / known   looking / look   of / for   fallen / fell  
 Greece / Greek   left / leaving   afterwards / after   supplied / supplying  
 successful / succeeded   making / made

Aristide Leonides left \_\_\_\_\_ and arrived in England when he was twenty-four. He started a restaurant, which

was very \_\_\_\_\_. Soon he owned seven or eight restaurants, all making money, and then he started a large business \_\_\_\_\_ food all over the country. Leonides had a natural ability \_\_\_\_\_ business and \_\_\_\_\_ money though of course he was always a bit dishonest. He had a strong personality, and though he was short and rather ugly, women always \_\_\_\_\_ in love with him. He married a woman from a well-\_\_\_\_\_ family in the country. Leonides built a rather ridiculous-\_\_\_\_\_ house at Swinly Dean and he and his wife lived there with their five children. Then his wife died, \_\_\_\_\_ him with five children, but three of them died. Now they all live together at the same house – *Three Gables*. There's also an old aunt, Miss Edith de Haviland, sister of the first Mrs Leonides. She always hated Aristide Leonides, but when her sister died she came to look \_\_\_\_\_ the children.

**3 Language**

The word 'crooked' in this story has several meanings (look in the Glossary if you are unsure). Find the word in each of the sentences below that you can replace with the word 'crooked' and keep the same meaning. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 The little old man found a bent penny on the ground. (You could say 'a *crooked* penny'.)
- 2 There was an old man and he went along a winding path.
- 3 It looked like a traditional little country house, but one that was the size of a castle. It had lots of twisted gables and wood timbers.
- 4 The painting of Aristide had sharp, but kind-looking dark eyes, and uneven shoulders.
- 5 Aristide was always a bit dishonest. He never actually broke the law, but he came close to doing so.
- 6 We're all tangled together and have grown up wrong.

**4 Comprehension**

Match the two halves of the sentences. The first one has been done for you.

<p><b><u>Aristide had diabetes and</u></b>                  The insulin came                  He had eyedrops                  Eserine can also                  Someone put the eserine in                  When Aristide was injected with the eserine                  Brenda is the obvious suspect</p>	<p>Aristide's insulin bottle. in small glass bottles.                  he died.  <b><u>needed insulin.</u></b>                  be used as a poison if it is injected.                  but there is no evidence. that contained a strong medicine called eserine.</p>
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# Crooked House

*Agatha Christie*

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Part 2 (Chapters 5–11)

#### 1 Comprehension

Where were these people when Aristide died? Match the person to the explanation.

Eustace & Josephine	Philip	Brenda	Clemency
Magda	Sophia	Roger	

- \_\_\_\_\_ was in the house; she gave Aristide the injection that killed him!
- \_\_\_\_\_ had been at work at the family company, then returned early and talked to Aristide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was downstairs in the library.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was driving home from a shopping trip to London with a friend.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was not at home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ were at home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was at work in London.

#### 2 Comprehension

This is a version of Brenda's story about how she met Aristide. Correct the eight mistakes.

Brenda used to work on an aeroplane as an air stewardess. One day she accidentally spilled coffee over Aristide. She was crying and he asked her to sit down. She said she could not because she was too busy. He told her she wouldn't have a problem, because he owned the airline! She was impressed by his power. Then she explained that she was going to try to adopt a baby, although she wasn't married. Aristide offered her a room in his home, so she could live respectably. Later, she found out that she was pregnant.

#### 3 Comprehension

We hear about Aristide's will on pages 21 and 40. Fill in the correct names below.

<i>Aristide Leonides' Will</i>		
<i>Money</i>	£100,000	for .....
	£50,000	for .....
<i>Property</i>	one third	for .....
	one third	for .....
<i>(in the bank)</i>	one third	for .....

#### 4 Comprehension

Read about Roger's story. Put the events in order. The first one has been done for you. One of the lines is untrue – can you find it?

- \_\_\_ a Roger didn't want his father to find out – he was too ashamed.

- \_\_\_ b Then he heard that Aristide had died.
- \_\_\_ c He wrote a letter to his bank telling them to give Roger money.
- \_\_\_ d He and Clemency decided they wanted to leave their stressful life in England.
- 1 e Aristide was fond of Roger.
- \_\_\_ f The company began to have problems.
- \_\_\_ g Roger was no good at business.
- \_\_\_ h He met with Roger on the day he died.
- \_\_\_ i He chose him to run his main company.
- \_\_\_ j He was so upset that he forgot to post the letter.
- \_\_\_ k Roger took the letter to show to Clemency.
- \_\_\_ l Roger stole money from the company.
- \_\_\_ m Aristide found out himself.

#### 5 Language

Replace the underlined words with phrases from the box that mean the same. All the words are in the glossary.

much in common	tangled	headquarters
get rid of	pass away	murmur

- Christmas seemed sad this year because my grandmother had just died.
- I could hear someone talking quietly behind me in the cinema.
- It's an international company, but the main office is in London.
- My MP3 player earphones keep getting knotted together! It takes me a long time to untie them every time I want to listen to music!
- I think my sister is going to split up with her boyfriend: they don't have many shared interests.
- I spilled coffee on my new jeans, and now I can't remove the stain.

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## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

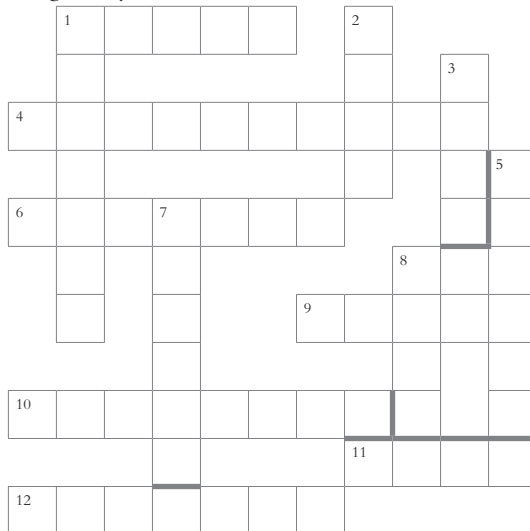
### Part 3 (Chapters 12–17)

#### 1 Comprehension

- 1 What does Charles' father say about the evidence a child gives?  
.....
- 2 Why does Charles' father ask Charles to look after Josephine?  
.....
- 3 Why is Josephine angry with Charles?  
.....
- 4 What does Josephine say about the letters Laurence and Brenda wrote to each other?  
.....
- 5 Why does Charles get worried when he hears the noise of a twig snapping?  
.....
- 6 Why does everyone in the family know that the eyedrops are poisonous if they go inside the body?  
.....
- 7 What does Magda decide to do with her daughter, Josephine?  
.....

#### 2 Language

Complete the crossword puzzle below. The words are all in the glossary. Some answers have two words.



#### Across

- 1 When you don't care, you s\_\_\_\_\_ your shoulders.
- 4 Josephine was hit on the head and had c\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Sophia s\_\_\_\_\_ed o\_\_\_\_\_ Nannie's problem.
- 9 Did Philip kill Aristide, so Roger would get the b\_\_\_\_\_?
- 10 Josephine was k\_\_\_\_\_ed o\_\_\_\_\_ at the end of Chapter 17.
- 11 Edith likes to k\_\_\_\_\_ to relax.

12 Sophia was a \_\_\_\_\_ when Charles said he had to return to London at the end of Chapter 16.

#### Down

- 1 Josephine likes to s\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_ by pretending she knows everything that happens in the house.
- 2 Charles heard a t\_\_\_\_\_ break when he was talking to Josephine in the garden.
- 3 Charles heard a loud s\_\_\_\_\_ as a branch broke.
- 5 Josephine likes to m\_\_\_\_\_ u\_\_\_\_\_ stories about people.
- 7 Mice often t\_\_\_\_\_ their nose, like Laurence.
- 8 Murderers are all v\_\_\_\_\_ – they like to show off.

#### 3 Comprehension

Use the words below to complete a shortened version of Aristide's letter to his lawyer.

business sense	secretly	best	generous
character	why	good judgement	thought unsure

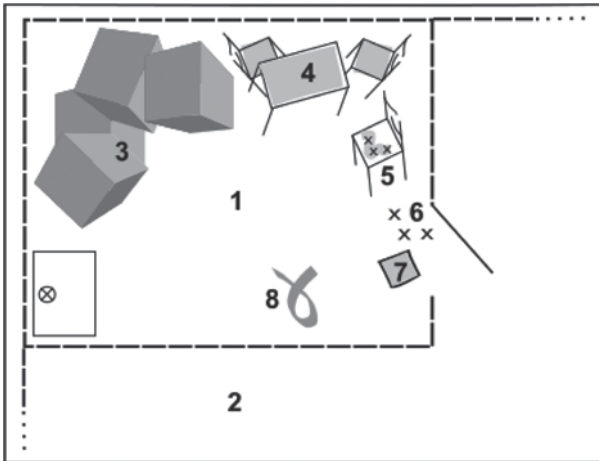
I am sorry that I have behaved so \_\_\_\_\_. Let me explain \_\_\_\_\_. I have always believed that in a family there is one strong \_\_\_\_\_ who looks after everyone else. In my family I was that person. But when I die, someone else must take care of the family. After much \_\_\_\_\_ I have decided that that neither of my sons is the right person to do this. My dearly loved son Roger has no \_\_\_\_\_. My son Philip is too \_\_\_\_\_ of himself and is hiding from life. Eustace, my grandson, is very young. Only my granddaughter Sophia has intelligence, \_\_\_\_\_ and courage – and is fair and \_\_\_\_\_. I believe she is the best person to take care of the family. I thought it \_\_\_\_\_ not to tell the family I was leaving everything to Sophia.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 4 (Chapters 18–25)**

**1 Comprehension**

Label the diagram. One label is missing – What is it?



**Key**

small yard	old wash-house	woollen scarf
old broken furniture	wooden boxes	
deep marks in the floor	a chair with mud on it	

- 1 old wash-house
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....

**2 Listening**

Mark the statements True or False. Listen to Chapter 20 to check your answers.

- 1 \_\_\_ Nothing was decided at the inquest.
- 2 \_\_\_ Dr Gray thought it was important for Magda to visit her daughter Josephine in the hospital.
- 3 \_\_\_ Roger and Clemency have decided to go to the Caribbean to start a new, quieter life.
- 4 \_\_\_ Edith de Haviland still wants to give Roger the money to save the company.
- 5 \_\_\_ Sophia wants to give Roger the money to save Associated Foods.
- 6 \_\_\_ Philip, Sophia's father, is very proud that Aristide chose Sophia to be the head of the family.
- 7 \_\_\_ When he hears Sophia's news, Eustace is very self-controlled and congratulates her warmly.
- 8 \_\_\_ Sophia has decided to give her mother Magda money to produce her play.

**3 Language**

Find the thirteen words from the last section of the story in the grid below. The first letters are all marked. Then see if you can write them in the correct places. Number four has been done for you.

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

- 1 The police found Josephine's room in a terrible \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Someone knocked Josephine out with a door \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Someone put a \_\_\_\_\_ on top of the door to the old wash-house.
- 4 Charles was angry, and **grimly** gave Brenda and Laurence's love letters to Inspector Taverner.
- 5 Josephine became a kind of monster, but Sophia still felt \_\_\_\_\_ for her.
- 6 The doctor thought Magda would just make a \_\_\_\_\_ if she saw Josephine in hospital.
- 7 When she offered to give him money to save the company, Roger gave Edith a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Philip felt \_\_\_\_\_ when he found Aristide had made Sophia the head of the family.
- 9 Philip felt that Aristide had never noticed or appreciated his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 Sophia gave Laurence the \_\_\_\_\_, because he was having an affair with Brenda.
- 11 Edith did not tell her family about her illness because she thought they would only make a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12 Charles was surprised he was so \_\_\_\_\_ – he had never seen that Josephine was the murderer.
- 13 Josephine was always so vain and self-\_\_\_\_\_.

**ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)**

**Part 1 (Chapters 1–4)**

**1 Comprehension**

- 1 C
- 2 A
- 3 B
- 4 B
- 5 A
- 6 C

**2 Comprehension**

Aristide Leonides left Greece and arrived in England when he was twenty-four. He started a restaurant, which was very successful. Soon he owned seven or eight restaurants, all making money, and then he started a large business supplying food all over the country. Leonides had a natural ability for business and making money though of course he was always a bit dishonest. He had a strong personality, and though he was short and rather ugly, women always fell in love with him. He married a woman from a well-known family and built a rather ridiculous-looking house at Swinly Dean and he and his wife lived there with their five children. Then his wife died, leaving him with five children, but three of them died. Now they all live together in the same house – *Three Gables*. There's also an old aunt, Miss Edith de Haviland, sister of the first Mrs Leonides. She always hated Aristide Leonides, but when her sister died she came to look after the children.

**3 Language**

- 2 There was an old man and he went along a **crooked** path.
- 3 It looked like a traditional little country house, but one that was the size of a castle. It had lots of **crooked** gables and wood timbers.
- 4 The painting of Aristide had sharp, but kind-looking dark eyes, and **crooked** shoulders.
- 5 Aristide was always a bit **crooked**. He never actually broke the law, but he came close to doing so.
- 6 We're all tangled together and have grown up **crooked**.

**4 Comprehension**

Aristide had diabetes and // needed insulin. The insulin came // in small glass bottles. He had eyedrops // that contained a strong medicine called eserine. Eserine can also // be used as a poison if it is injected. Someone put the eserine in // Aristide's insulin bottle. When Aristide was injected with the eserine, // he died. Brenda is the obvious suspect, // but there is no evidence.

**Part 2 (Chapters 5–11)**

**1 Comprehension**

Brenda was in the house; she gave Aristide the injection that killed him!  
Roger had been at working at the family company, then returned early and talked to Aristide.  
Philip was downstairs in the library.  
Magda was driving home from a shopping trip to London with a friend.  
Sophia was not at home.  
Eustace & Josephine were at home.  
Clemency was at work in London.

**2 Comprehension**

Brenda used to work in a tea shop as a waitress. One day she brought Aristide his lunch. She was crying and he asked her to sit down. She said she could not because she would lose her job. He told her she wouldn't have a problem, because he owned the restaurant! She was impressed by his power. Then she explained that she was going to have a baby, although she wasn't married. Aristide offered to marry her, so she could live respectably. Later, she found out that she wasn't really pregnant.

**3 Comprehension**

Money  
£100,000 for Brenda

Property  
1/3 for Roger  
1/3 for Philip  
1/3 for Sophia, Eustace, and Josephine

**4 Comprehension**

- 1 e Aristide was fond of Roger.
- 2 i He chose him to run his main company.
- 3 g Roger was no good at business.
- 4 f The company began to have problems.
- 5 a Roger didn't want his father to find out – he was too ashamed.
- 6 m Aristide found out himself.
- 7 h He met with Roger on the day he died.
- 8 c He wrote a letter to his bank telling them to give Roger money.
- 9 k Roger took the letter to show to Clemency.
- 10 b Then he heard that Aristide had died.
- 11 j He was so upset that he forgot to post the letter.
- 12 d He and Clemency decided they wanted to leave their stressful life in England.

Line l is untrue: Roger did not steal money from the company.

**5 Language**

- 1 Christmas seemed sad this year because my grandmother had just passed away.

- 2 I could hear someone murmuring behind me in the cinema.
- 3 It's an international company, but the headquarters are in London.
- 4 My MP3 player earphones keep getting tangled! It takes me a long time to untie them every time I want to listen to music!
- 5 I think my sister is going to split up with her boyfriend: they don't have much in common.
- 6 I spilled coffee on my new jeans, and now I can't get rid of the stain.

**Part 3 (Chapters 12–17)**

**1 Comprehension**

- 1 It is usually reliable, but often it can't be used in court.
- 2 He is afraid she knows too much. Maybe the murderer will try to hurt her.
- 3 Because he told the police about Roger's conversation with Aristide.
- 4 They're not real. She made them up.
- 5 Perhaps he thinks the murderer is in the garden listening to them.
- 6 Josephine asked Aristide one day why it said 'NOT TO BE TAKEN' on the bottle of eyedrops. Everyone heard the answer.
- 7 Send her to school in Switzerland.

**2 Language**

**Across**

- 1 shrug
- 4 concussion
- 6 sort out
- 9 blame
- 10 knock out
- 11 knit
- 12 anxious

**Down**

- 1 show off
- 2 twig
- 3 snap
- 5 make up
- 7 twitch
- 8 vain

**3 Comprehension**

I am sorry that I have behaved so secretly. Let me explain why. I have always believed that in a family there is one strong character who looks after everyone else. In my family I was that person. But when I die, someone else must take care of the family. After much thought I have decided that that neither of my sons is the right person to do this. My dearly loved son Roger has no business sense. My son Philip is too unsure of himself and is hiding from life. Eustace, my grandson, is very young. Only my granddaughter Sophia has intelligence, good judgement and courage – and is fair and

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generous. I believe she is the best person to take care of the family. I thought it best not to tell the family I was leaving everything to Sophia.

## Part 4 (Chapters 18–25)

### 1 Comprehension

- 1 old wash-house
- 2 small yard
- 3 wooden boxes
- 4 old broken furniture
- 5 a chair with mud on it
- 6 deep marks in the floor
- 7 stone door-stop
- 8 woollen scarf

### 2 Listening

- 1 True
- 2 False. He said Magda shouldn't go because she would make a scene, which isn't good for someone with concussion.
- 3 True
- 4 True
- 5 False. She thinks that would be a stupid thing to do.
- 6 False. He is jealous and angry.
- 7 False. He gets very angry and rushes out of the room.
- 8 False. She thinks it's a bad play and a waste of money.

### 3 Language

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

- 1 The police found Josephine's room in a terrible mess.
- 2 Someone knocked Josephine out with a door stop.
- 3 Someone put a booby trap on top of the door to the old wash-house.
- 4 [given]
- 5 Josephine became a kind of monster, but Sophia still felt pity for her.
- 6 The doctor thought Magda would just make a scene if she saw Josephine in hospital.

- 7 When she offered to give him money to save the company, Roger gave Edith a hug.
- 8 Philip felt humiliated when he found Aristide had made Sophia the head of the family.
- 9 Philip felt that Aristide had never noticed or appreciated his devotion.
- 10 Sophia gave Laurence the sack, because he was having an affair with Brenda.
- 11 Edith did not tell her family about her illness because she thought they would only make a fuss.
- 12 Charles was surprised he was so blind – he had never seen that Josephine was the murderer.
- 13 Josephine was always so vain and self-important.