

# The Body in the Library

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Part 1 (Chapters 1–4)

#### 1 Comprehension

Who says each of these sentences? Circle the correct option.

- ‘Mrs Bantry, there’s a body in the library.’  
Mary / Lorrimer
- ‘If I’ve got to have a murder in my house, I suppose I’ll have to try and enjoy it.’  
Dolly Bantry / Colonel Bantry
- ‘She’s very young.’ Colonel Melchett / Miss Marple
- ‘You’ve come to ask me if I’m missing a blonde?’  
Basil Blake / Colonel Bantry
- ‘I was really angry with her.’ Josie Turner / Raymond Starr

#### 2 Vocabulary

Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right.

invalid	a to kill someone by tightly squeezing their throat
village	b small, shiny circles that are sewn on clothes to decorate them
library	c the room in a large house where books are kept
strangle	d someone who is very ill or who has a disability and needs to be looked after by someone else
crude	e someone who does an activity as a hobby and not as a job
dyed	f something that has had its colour changed with a special liquid
fingernails	g a woman who looks after and entertains the guests at a club or hotel
sparkles	h a small group of houses in the countryside, usually with a church at its centre
amateur	i an organization for girls which teaches them different useful skills
girl guides	j the hard areas on the ends of your fingers
hostess	k something that is simple and not sophisticated
class	l a way to group people in a society

Now use the words to complete the sentences from the story.

- ‘I know Ruby wasn’t a lady, but she wasn’t \_\_\_\_\_ either.’
- ‘If you ask me, your wife’s going to try a little \_\_\_\_\_ detective work.’

- The \_\_\_\_\_ was large with one or two good family portraits on the walls.
- ‘The girl was \_\_\_\_\_ with the belt of her own dress.’
- ‘I’ve been dance and bridge \_\_\_\_\_ at the Majestic Hotel for three years.’
- The Inspector was warning Melchett about favouring his own \_\_\_\_\_.
- ‘Pamela Reeves, sixteen, went missing last night, had been at a meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_.’
- Her thin body was dressed in a cheap evening dress of white silk with \_\_\_\_\_.
- A girl with fashionably curly, \_\_\_\_\_ blonde hair.
- Her lips and \_\_\_\_\_ were painted blood red.
- Basil Blake’s cottage was just outside the \_\_\_\_\_.
- ‘Mr Jefferson is an \_\_\_\_\_. He gets upset rather easily.’

#### 3 Comprehension

Answer these questions.

- Who is Ruby Keene’s cousin?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who works in the film industry?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who lives in the village and is an amateur detective?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who is an invalid?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who is the tennis and dancing professional?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 4 Comprehension

Who is being described?

1

She seemed friendly and clever.

3

She was famous for her ability to connect simple events that happened in the village with more serious problems.

2

She was more popular with the older men than with the young ones.

4

He was very rude to Arthur recently.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 2 (Chapters 5–8)**

**1 Comprehension**

Put these events on the night of the murder in order.

- Mark, Josie, Adelaide and Mr Jefferson played bridge.
- Raymond called the phone in Ruby's room.
- Ruby sat with the Jefferson's.
- Ruby danced with George Bartlett.
- Josie and Raymond went up to Ruby's room to look for her.
- Josie danced with Raymond.
- Ruby danced with Raymond.
- Raymond came to ask Josie where Ruby was.

**2 Comprehension**

Who is each of these characters describing?

<p><b>1</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>An expert at solving mysteries ... An old lady with a sweet face.</p> </div> <p>Sir Henry</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>... not well educated but she has a clever mind ... honest.</p> </div> <p>Adelaide Jefferson</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>A powerful man ... not a weak invalid ... a strong character.</p> </div> <p>Colonel Melchett</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>An ambitious young woman who enjoys life.</p> </div> <p>Miss Marple</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>I didn't like her ... she was rather stupid ... she was always joining us.</p> </div> <p>Peter Carmody</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>... handsome ... not the sort of man I'd trust.</p> </div> <p>Colonel Melchett</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>... tall, slim good-looking with very white teeth ... very popular at the hotel.</p> </div> <p>Superintendent Harper</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>He's got black hair and looks a bit different ... works in the film industry.</p> </div> <p>Raymond Starr</p>

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Comprehension**

Answer these questions.

- 1 Why did Josie, Adelaide and Conway Jefferson have to wait for Mark Gaskell?  
.....
- 2 Why was Raymond upset?  
.....
- 3 Why did Ruby go upstairs?  
.....
- 4 Why does Mark Gaskell ask the police to keep Conway Jefferson 'as calm as you can'?  
.....
- 5 Why does George Bartlett want to speak to the police?  
.....
- 6 What did Conway Jefferson plan to do with Ruby?  
.....

**4 Vocabulary**

Fill in the missing letters to complete the items Slack finds in Ruby's room.

- 1 ti\_\_ \_\_ ues
- 2 p\_\_ \_\_ sh\_\_ \_\_
- 3 fin\_\_ \_\_ n\_\_ \_\_  
cl\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ s
- 4 \_\_ ink d\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ r\_\_ ss
- 5 l\_\_ tt\_\_ \_\_

**5 Comprehension**

Name all the people who are now investigating the murder. If they are professional detectives write P, if they are amateurs detectives write A.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Who has Mrs Dolly Bantry asked to help?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 Who has Conway Jefferson asked to help?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 3 (Chapters 9–12)**

**1 Comprehension**

Adelaide Jefferson wrote a telegram to Hugo McLean, but she made five mistakes. Underline and rewrite them.

Dear Hugo. Please come to the Danemouth Hotel at once. The girl, Josie, that Mark was planning to adopt has been murdered. She was shot and left in someone's kitchen. The police are here. Please come. Addie

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Comprehension**

Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Can you correct the false ones?

- 1 \_\_\_ Adelaide Jefferson and Mark Gaskell both have a lot of money.  
.....
- 2 \_\_\_ Mark Gaskell was late for the bridge game because he was driving in his car.  
.....
- 3 \_\_\_ Adelaide and Mark both have alibis for when Ruby was murdered.  
.....
- 4 \_\_\_ Addie was glad when Jeff met Ruby.  
.....
- 5 \_\_\_ The burnt out car belongs to Basil Blake.  
.....
- 6 \_\_\_ The police found a button from a Girl Guide's uniform in the car.  
.....

**3 Grammar**

Choose the correct option to complete these tag questions from the story.

- 1 Miss Marple: 'He's very good-looking, is / isn't he?'
- 2 Josie: 'It was lucky for Ruby, was / wasn't it?'

Rewrite sentences 1 & 2 to make them negative.

- 3 .....
- 4 .....

5 Read and decide which sentence is true (T).

- a \_\_\_ We use tag questions when we disagree with someone.
- b \_\_\_ We use tag questions when we want to make sure someone agrees with us.

**4 Grammar**

Read these conditional sentences from the story. Then answer the questions.

**A** Sir Henry: *If they married again, I think that he would have no more interest in them.*

**B** Addie: *If it had been some other kind of girl ... well, we would have understood it.*

- 1 Which conditional is used in each sentence?  
A .....
- B .....
- 2 Which sentence describes an imagined situation in the future?  
.....
- 3 Does Sir Henry think that it is likely that Addie and Mark might marry in the future?  
.....
- 4 Did Addie and Mark understand why Jeff liked Ruby?  
.....
- 5 Was Ruby a different kind of girl?  
.....

Now write conditional sentences using the following words and the conditional in brackets.

- 6 Ruby / not be / at the Majestic Hotel / not be murdered (third conditional)  
.....
- 7 Mark Gaskell / not played bridge / have an alibi (third conditional)  
.....
- 8 Miss Marple / find a clue / be able to solve the murder (second conditional)  
.....

# The Body in the Library

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Part 4 (Chapters 13–17)

#### 1 Comprehension

Miss Marple noticed two physical things about the body in the library that were different to the description of Ruby. She has written a note to Superintendent Harper about them. Can you complete it for her?

Dear Superintendent Harper,

This might be a surprise to you, but I don't think that the girl in the library was Ruby Keene. Two things are wrong, the first is that <sup>1</sup>..... and the second is that <sup>2</sup>.....

So, I think the body in the library is actually <sup>3</sup>..... and the body in the car is actually <sup>4</sup>..... It's all very interesting!

Miss Marple

#### 2 Listening

Decide which option completes each sentence. Then listen to Chapter 17 again to check your answers.

- The murderers wanted it to look like ... was the murderer.  
A Basil Blake B Conway Jefferson C Colonel Bantry
- Miss Marple thinks the real murderer must have been ... that the body was moved.  
A angry B annoyed C upset
- Miss Marple says two people would benefit from the girl's death...  
A Mrs Jefferson and her son  
B Mrs Jefferson and Mr Gaskell  
C Mr Gaskell and Josie Turner
- Miss Marple says the obvious motive was...  
A love B hate C money
- Both the people who had motives also had...  
A money B cars C alibis
- The one person involved in the crime that Miss Marple thought didn't have a motive was...  
A Basil Blake B Josie Turner C Mark Gaskell
- ... mentioned Somerset House to Miss Marple.  
A Josie Turner B Raymond Starr C Dinah Lee
- Miss Marple did not think that ... wanted to marry Adelaide.  
A George Bartlett B Raymond Starr  
C Hugo McLean

- Miss Marple knew that the body in the library couldn't be Ruby Keene because of her...  
A dress B hair C nails
- The one person who saw the body in the library and must have known that it wasn't Ruby was...  
A Conway Jefferson B Colonel Bantry C Josie Turner
- The body in the library was...  
A Ruby Keene B Josie Turner C Pamela Reeves
- The murderers needed Pamela's body to...  
A confuse the police B confuse Conway Jefferson  
C be in a film
- The dead body in the burnt out car was...  
A Pamela Reeves B Ruby Keene C Josie Turner
- ... told Miss Marple that Ruby's teeth went in and didn't stick out.  
A Conway Jefferson B Josie Turner C Mark Gaskell
- Josie tried to kill Conway Jefferson with ...



#### 3 Writing

Put these question words in the questions below. Then write the answer to each question.

How	What	Why	Who	What
	Why	Where	Why	

- \_\_\_\_\_ did Pamela Reeves agree to meet Mark Gaskell?  
.....
- \_\_\_\_\_ did Mark and Josie need Pamela Reeves?  
.....
- \_\_\_\_\_ did Mark and Josie plan for the police to suspect was the murderer?  
.....
- \_\_\_\_\_ did they put the dead body?  
.....
- \_\_\_\_\_ did Basil Blake do when he found the body in his cottage?  
.....
- \_\_\_\_\_ was similar about Mark and Josie, and Basil and Dinah?  
.....
- \_\_\_\_\_ did Josie try to murder Conway Jefferson?  
.....
- \_\_\_\_\_ did she have to kill him that night?  
.....

**ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)**

**Part 1 (Chapters 1–4)**

**1 Comprehension**

- 1 Mary
- 2 Dolly Bantry
- 3 Miss Marple
- 4 Basil Blake
- 5 Josie Turner

**2 Vocabulary**

- a strangle
- b sparkles
- c library
- d invalid
- e amateur
- f dyed
- g hostess
- h village
- i girl guides
- j fingernails
- k crude
- l class

- 1 crude
- 2 amateur
- 3 library
- 4 strangled
- 5 hostess
- 6 class
- 7 Girl Guides
- 8 sparkles
- 9 dyed
- 10 fingernails
- 11 village
- 12 invalid

**3 Comprehension**

- 1 Josie Turner
- 2 Basil Blake
- 3 Miss Jane Marple
- 4 Conway Jefferson
- 5 Raymond Starr

**4 Comprehension**

- 1 Josie Turner
- 2 Ruby Keene
- 3 Miss Jane Marple
- 4 Basil Blake

**Part 2 (Chapters 5–8)**

**1 Comprehension**

- 4, 6, 1, 3, 7, 8, 2, 5

**2 Comprehension**

- 1 Miss Marple
- 2 Conway Jefferson
- 3 Ruby Keene
- 4 Raymond Starr

- 5 Josie Turner
- 6 Josie Turner
- 7 Mark Gaskell
- 8 Basil Blake

**3 Comprehension**

- 1 He said he had some important letters to write.
- 2 Because Ruby was late for their second dance.
- 3 She said she had a headache.
- 4 Because his heart is weak and a shock could kill him.
- 5 Because he can't find his car.
- 6 Adopt her and leave her fifty thousand pounds in his will.

**4 Vocabulary**

- 1 tissues
- 2 pink shoes
- 3 fingernail clippings
- 4 pink dance dress
- 5 letters

**5 Comprehension**

- 1-5 Colonel Melchett P, Inspector Slack P, Superintendent Harper P, Miss Marple A and Sir Henry Clithering A. Inspector Palk was the local policeman at Gossington Hall, but he is not investigating the crime any more.
- 6 Miss Marple
- 7 Sir Henry Clithering

**Part 3 (Chapters 9–12)**

**1 Comprehension**

Dear Hugo. Please come to the Danemouth Hotel at once. The girl, Josie, that Mark was planning to adopt has been murdered. She was shot and left in someone's kitchen. The police are here. Please come.  
Addie

- 1 Majestic Hotel
- 2 Ruby
- 3 Jeff
- 4 strangled
- 5 library

**2 Comprehension**

- 1 F – Adelaide Jefferson and Mark Gaskell both have very little money.
- 2 T
- 3 T
- 4 T
- 5 F – The burnt out car belongs to George Bartlett.
- 6 T

**3 Grammar**

- 1 isn't
- 2 wasn't
- 3 He's not very good-looking, is he?
- 4 It wasn't lucky for Ruby, was it?
- 5 b

**4 Grammar**

- 1 Sentence A uses the second conditional, sentence B uses the third conditional
- 2 Sentence A
- 3 No
- 4 No
- 5 No
- 6 If Ruby had not been at the Majestic Hotel, she would not have been murdered.
- 7 If Mark Gaskell had not played bridge, he would not have had an alibi.
- 8 If Miss Marple found a clue, she would be able to solve the murder.

**Part 4 (Chapters 13–17)**

**1 Comprehension**

- 1 The girl's fingernails were bitten rather than being cut short.
- 2 Her teeth stuck out not in.
- 3 Pamela Reeves
- 4 Ruby Keene

**2 Listening**

- |     |      |      |
|-----|------|------|
| 1 A | 6 A  | 11 C |
| 2 B | 7 C  | 12 A |
| 3 B | 8 A  | 13 B |
| 4 C | 9 C  | 14 C |
| 5 C | 10 C | 15 C |

**3 Writing**

- 1 Why – Because she thought he was a film director and that he would put her in one of his films.
- 2 Why – To make it look as if 'Ruby' was killed earlier in the evening when they both had alibis.
- 3 Who – Basil Blake
- 4 Where – in Basil Blake's cottage
- 5 What – He moved it to Colonel Bantry's library in Gossington Hall.
- 6 What – Both couples were secretly married.
- 7 How – with a hypodermic needle
- 8 Why – Because Miss Marple had told him to tell Mark that he was changing his will the next day and leaving all his money to charity. They had to kill him while they would still get (inherit) his money.