

The Murder at the Vicarage

Agatha Christie

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 1 (Chapters 1–8)

1 Comprehension

Are these sentences true or false? Rewrite any that you think are false.

- 1 Len sees Lawrence Redding and Mrs Protheroe kissing.
- 2 Miss Marple does not have a sense of humour.
- 3 Anne Protheroe was ugly.
- 4 Anne Protheroe was not in love with Lawrence Redding.
- 5 Len told Lawrence Redding to leave St Mary Mead.
- 6 Colonel Protheroe was shot in the head.

2 Grammar

All the following verbs appear in Part 1 of the text. Choose the correct past form of the verb to complete each sentence.

stride	fall	suspect	frighten	confess
--------	------	---------	----------	---------

- 1 She _____ to the killing.
- 2 He _____ over to the man lying on the floor.
- 3 She _____ over the body.
- 4 He _____ the girl in broad daylight.
- 5 No one _____ her as being the murderer.

3 Comprehension

Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Hawes is the new:
 - a) priest
 - b) mayor
 - c) curate
- 2 Colonel Protheroe is a:
 - a) policeman
 - b) churchwarden
 - c) pastor
- 3 The story takes place on a Wednesday at the:
 - a) post office
 - b) vicarage
 - c) office
- 4 The collection bag contained a:
 - a) pound
 - b) cheque
 - c) pen
- 5 Colonel Protheroe was killed with (a):
 - a) knife
 - b) pistol
 - c) poison

4 Vocabulary

Find seven words connected to the church.

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

5 Follow-up activity

Now complete the sentences with the correct word from the wordsearch.

- 1 A _____ carries out marriages, baptisms and funerals.
- 2 The vicar delivered a good _____.
- 3 The _____ enjoyed his job.
- 4 The _____ was a beautiful old building.
- 5 They sent a _____ around the congregation.
- 6 The _____ is less experienced than a vicar.
- 7 The _____ was in the centre of the small village.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 2 (Chapters 9–16)

1 Comprehension

Are these sentences true or false? Rewrite any that you think are false.

- 1 Miss Marple is as strong as any Chief Constable.
- 2 Colonel Protheroe left a note.
- 3 Lawrence Redding went to the Blue Boar with Dr Stone for a drink.
- 4 There were fingerprints on the note that Colonel Protheroe left.
- 5 Mrs Lestrangle didn't go to see Colonel Protheroe the night before he was killed.
- 6 Anne Protheroe is cleared of the murder.

2 Grammar

Complete the sentences from the first page of Chapter 10 with the correct word from the box.

barrow news stepmother excitement grand put up

- 1 Isn't the _____ awful?
- 2 A girl wants a bit of _____.
- 3 She's too _____ to talk to a girl who has to work to earn money.
- 4 Is he at the _____ now?
- 5 I wouldn't _____ with it.
- 6 Well, who would be happy with a _____?

Now see if you can find the page where the sentences appear.

3 Grammar

Circle the correct answer.

- 1 She was shaking/shaken/shook all over.
- 2 He was frowned/frowning/frown.
- 3 He was not allowed to hunting/poach/fighting.
- 4 The man march/marched/marching into the room.
- 5 She gave evidence/evidences at the trial.
- 6 Her intuitions/intuition served her well.

4 Vocabulary

Find six words that relate to crime.

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

5 Follow-up activity

Now complete the six sentences with the correct words from the wordsearch. The sentences do not relate to the text.

- 1 There were no _____ at the crime scene.
- 2 She made sure that she had an _____ in order not to be a suspect.
- 3 The _____ was a shock to the whole family.
- 4 The _____ took place at five o'clock in the evening.
- 5 It was a single _____ aimed at the girl.
- 6 There was not a single _____ to help them solve the murder.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 3 (Chapters 17–24)

1 Comprehension

Are these sentences true or false? Rewrite any that you think are false.

- 1 Len receives four notes.
- 2 Griselda had been in love with Lawrence.
- 3 Dennis doesn't want to join the Navy.
- 4 Griselda didn't receive a note from Anne Protheroe.
- 5 Miss Protheroe was looking for her little red hat.
- 6 Mary said she heard a shot.

2 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the correct word.

evidence weapon inquest verdict pistol medical certificate

- 1 The coroner was in charge of the _____.
- 2 Quite a few people gave _____.
- 3 They discovered the murder _____.
- 4 The _____ was that the man was guilty.
- 5 The _____ was found near the body.
- 6 The lady had provided a _____.

3 Comprehension

Choose the correct sentence.

- 1
 - a) Dr Haydock believed Colonel Protheroe had been shot between 6.20 and 6.30.
 - b) Dr Haydock believed Colonel Protheroe had been shot between 7.20 and 7.30.
 - c) Dr Haydock believed Colonel Protheroe had been shot between 6.10 and 6.15.
- 2
 - a) It was thought that because of the clock the time of death was 6.22.
 - b) It was thought that because of the clock the time of death was 6.30.
 - c) It was thought that because of the clock the time of death was 6.40.
- 3
 - a) Monday was the day of the murder.
 - b) Thursday was the day of the murder.
 - c) Wednesday was the day of the murder.
- 4
 - a) Gladys Cram was going into the woods with a bicycle.
 - b) Gladys Cram was going into the woods with a pram.
 - c) Gladys Cram was going into the woods with a suitcase.

4 Comprehension

Match the two parts of the sentence.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 This time I noticed | a and in one minute the suitcase was open. |
| 2 I returned to the vicarage | b some small branches were broken. |
| 3 I picked it up | c and put it in my pocket. |
| 4 He had brought several keys with him | d I immediately heard a familiar voice. |
| 5 When I reached the lane | e and found my curate. |

5 Grammar

Insert the correct verb into each sentence using the past tense form.

load wipe off blackmail hear open

- 1 She had _____ nothing.
- 2 She _____ the pistol with bullets.
- 3 The old woman _____ the fingerprints _____ the door handle.
- 4 Mrs Lestrangle _____ Protheroe.
- 5 Len _____ a second letter.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 4 (Chapters 25–32)

1 Comprehension

Are the sentences true or false? Rewrite the false ones.

- 1 Miss Cram is not happy to be at the police station.
- 2 Miss Marple is usually wrong.
- 3 Two ladies wanted to see Len.
- 4 Miss Cram said she had never taken a suitcase to the woods.
- 5 Robbery is important compared to murder.
- 6 Mrs Protheroe called at about half-past six to borrow a gardening magazine.

2 Language

Choose the correct option.

- 1 Hawes had been ill with
a) malaria b) fever c) sleeping sickness
- 2 Miss Marple had ___ Lawrence Redding all along.
a) suspected b) wanted c) followed
- 3 Miss Marple said, 'I know that in books it is the most ___ person.'
a) unlikely b) likely c) least likely
- 4 I gave her the second ___ letter I had received.
a) anonymous b) poisonous c) nasty
- 5 There was that church money that
a) appeared b) disappeared c) reappeared

3 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

pills	unconscious	explodes	trap	accused
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- 1 Picric acid _____ if you drop something heavy on it.
- 2 When Mr Hawes was _____ he put this letter into his pocket.
- 3 We might be allowed to set a little _____.
- 4 Mrs Sadler had seen him changing the _____ in Mr Hawes' box.
- 5 Lawrence Redding and Anne Protheroe were _____ of the murder and found guilty.

4 Comprehension

Which of the sentences is true?

- 1
 - a The murderers were Lawrence Redding and Anne Protheroe.
 - b The murderer was Miss Cram.
 - c The murderer was Mr Hawes.
- 2
 - a Miss Marple helped solve the murder.
 - b Miss Marple didn't help to solve the murder.
 - c Miss Marple was not much help in solving the murder.

3

- a Lawrence Redding and Mrs Protheroe were not found guilty in court.
- b Lawrence Redding and Mrs Protheroe were found guilty in court.
- c Only Lawrence Redding was found guilty in court.

4

- a Griselda is not expecting a baby.
- b Griselda is expecting a baby.
- c Miss Marple doesn't know Griselda's secret.

5 Vocabulary

Find six words for different types of officers in the British police force.

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

Now rank the police officers in order of superiority, with 1 being the highest rank.

- _ Chief Inspector
- _ Sergeant
- _ Inspector
- _ Chief Superintendent
- _ Superintendent
- _ Police Constable

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ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Part 1 (Chapters 1–9)

1 Comprehension

- 1 True
- 2 False. Miss Marple does have a sense of humour.
- 3 False. Anne Protheroe was beautiful.
- 4 False. Anne Protheroe was madly in love with Lawrence Redding.
- 5 True
- 6 True

2 Grammar

- 1 She confessed to the killing.
- 2 He strode over to the man lying on the floor.
- 3 She fell over the body.
- 4 He frightened the girl in broad daylight.
- 5 No one suspected her as being the murderer.

3 Comprehension

- 1 curate
- 2 churchwarden
- 3 vicarage
- 4 pound
- 5 pistol

4 Vocabulary

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

5 Follow-up activity

- 1 A vicar carries out marriages, baptisms and funerals.
- 2 The vicar delivered a good sermon.
- 3 The churchwarden enjoyed his job.
- 4 The vicarage was a beautiful old building.
- 5 They sent a collection bag around the congregation.
- 6 The curate is less experienced than a vicar.
- 7 The church was in the centre of the small village.

Part 2 (Chapters 9–16)

1 Comprehension

- 1 True
- 2 True
- 3 True
- 4 False. There were no fingerprints on the note that Colonel Protheroe left.
- 5 False. Mrs Lestrangle went to see Colonel Protheroe the night before he was killed.
- 6 True

2 Grammar

- 1 Isn't the news awful?
 - 2 A girl wants a bit of excitement.
 - 3 She's too grand to talk to a girl who has to work to earn money.
 - 4 Is he at the barrow now?
 - 5 I wouldn't put up with it.
 - 6 Well, who would be happy with a stepmother?
- The sentences appear on page 31 of the reader.

3 Grammar

- 1 She was shaking/shaken/shook/ all over.
- 2 He was frowned/frowning/frown.
- 3 He was not allowed to hunting/poach/fighting.
- 4 The man march/marched/marching into the room.
- 5 She gave evidence/evidences at the trial.
- 6 Her intuitions/intuition served her well.

4 Vocabulary

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

5 Follow-up activity

- 1 There were no fingerprints at the crime scene.
- 2 She made sure that she had an alibi in order not to be a suspect.
- 3 The death was a shock to the whole family.
- 4 The murder took place at five o'clock in the evening.
- 5 It was a single shot aimed at the girl.
- 6 There was not a single clue to help them solve the murder.

Part 3 (Chapters 17–24)

1 Comprehension

- 1 True
- 2 True
- 3 True
- 4 False. Griselda received a note from Anne Protheroe.
- 5 False. Miss Protheroe was looking for her little yellow hat.
- 6 False. Mary didn't hear anything.

2 Vocabulary

- 1 The coroner was in charge of the inquest.
- 2 Quite a few people gave evidence.
- 3 They discovered the murder weapon.
- 4 The verdict was that the man was guilty.
- 5 The pistol was found near the body.
- 6 The lady had provided a medical certificate.

3 Comprehension

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

4 Comprehension

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

5 Grammar

- 1 heard
- 2 loaded
- 3 wiped off
- 4 blackmailed
- 5 opened

Part 4 (Chapters 25–32)

1 Comprehension

- 1 True
- 2 False. Miss Marple is usually right.
- 3 False. Three ladies wanted to see Len.
- 4 True
- 5 False. Robbery is unimportant compared to murder.
- 6 True

2 Language

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

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3 Vocabulary

- 1 Picric acid explodes if you drop something heavy on it.
- 2 When Mr Hawes was unconscious he put this letter into his pocket.
- 3 We might be allowed to set a little trap.
- 4 Mrs Sadler had seen him changing the pills in Mr Hawes' box.
- 5 Lawrence Redding and Anne Protheroe were accused of the murder and found guilty.

4 Comprehension

- 1 a
- 2 a
- 3 b
- 4 b

5 Vocabulary

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

- 6 Police Constable
- 5 Sergeant
- 4 Inspector
- 3 Chief Inspector
- 2 Superintendent
- 1 Chief Superintendent