

The Witness for the Prosecution and other stories

Agatha Christie

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Witness for the Prosecution

1 Vocabulary

Find the words in the grid to match definitions 1–14.

e	v	i	d	e	n	c	e	g	u	l	p
j	j	u	r	y	i	n	v	s	c	a	r
b	g	e	w	i	t	n	e	s	s	w	o
e	u	r	h	c	r	t	x	p	c	y	s
a	i	v	a	l	i	p	r	r	a	e	e
l	l	p	r	g	a	m	e	e	r	r	c
i	t	l	e	w	l	e	v	t	c	s	u
b	y	a	v	w	x	l	c	e	a	c	t
i	n	v	e	s	t	m	e	n	t	e	i
a	l	i	n	y	o	s	e	d	p	r	o
t	r	g	g	c	h	a	r	g	e	c	n
r	e	w	e	n	p	c	l	i	e	n	t

- This proves you were somewhere else when a crime happened. _____
- This describes someone who has done a crime.

- The mark left on the skin after a wound has got better.

- The person who a professional person or organization is doing some work for. _____
- If the police say someone has done something illegal.

- Information used to prove that something is true.

- Money put into something like a bank or business to increase its value. _____
- To try to make people believe that something is true, although it is not. _____
- Someone who appears in court to say what they know about a crime. _____
- When a judge listens to evidence and decides whether a person is guilty of a crime. _____
- Hurting someone because they have hurt you.

- The lawyers who try to prove that a charged person is guilty. _____
- In a court, this is the group of people who have been chosen from the public to listen to the facts about a crime and to decide whether a person is guilty or not.

- Before the trial, this person will try to find evidence and witnesses to prove a person is either guilty or not guilty. _____

2 Comprehension

Unscramble the names of the characters in the story. Then match each one to their description.

- dronlea elov _____
- lyiem chenfr _____
- maroeni gleerih _____
- tajen zenmaiekc _____
- rm namyheer _____

- Mr Vole's lawyer.
- A rich, elderly lady who asks Leonard Vole to help her with her investments.
- The witness for the prosecution who says Leonard came home later than he said he did.
- The man charged with murder.
- Emily French's maid who thinks Leonard Vole murdered Miss French.

3 Comprehension

Put the names of the characters in the correct columns in the table below.

Mr Mayherne Janet Mackenzie Sir Charles Leonard Vole Romaine Heilger The woman in Shaw's Rents	
Prosecution	Defence

4 Comprehension

Answer these questions.

- What is Mr Mayherne's habit?
.....
- What does Mr Mayherne think is the problem with Romaine being Leonard's only alibi?
.....
- Why does Romaine say she can be a witness for the prosecution?
.....
- What does the woman in Shaw's Rents give Mr Mayherne? How does it help Leonard Vole?
.....
.....
- Who was the woman in Shaw's Rents?
.....
- Why did Romaine do what she did?
.....

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Rajah's Emerald

1 Comprehension

Order these events (1-18) as they appear in the story.

- ___ Merrilees finds James at the beach hut.
- ___ Lord Campion recognises Merrilees as his driver, Jones.
- ___ James tries to use the public changing rooms.
- ___ Grace and the Sopworths go back to the hotel for lunch.
- ___ James tells Lord Campion the truth.
- ___ James goes to Kimpton-on-Sea.
- ___ James finds the emerald in the pocket of his trousers.
- ___ James and Merrilees go into the police station.
- ___ James reads a book telling him to be more dynamic.
- ___ James realises that he is wearing the wrong trousers.
- ___ James changes in a private beach hut.
- ___ James tells Grace that he's going to Lord Campion's house for lunch.
- ___ James pretends the emerald is at his boarding house.
- ___ James realizes Merrilees is not a police officer and so must be the thief.
- ___ James, Grace and the Sopworths decide to go for a swim.
- ___ James gets dressed in a hurry.
- ___ James puts the emerald in Merrilee's pocket.
- ___ James sees Grace with the Sopworths.

2 Listening

James reads about the stolen emerald in a newspaper. He then thinks about how it got into his pocket. Complete the section of the story with the words in the box.

Then listen to check your answers.

beach hut police Rajah pocket house
Lord Campion trousers emerald

He found some money and bought a paper. He quickly found the story. *Burglar takes Famous Historical Emerald at Lord Edward Campion's. Rajah of Maraputna Very Upset.* The facts were simple. ¹_____ had had several friends at his ²_____ the evening before. The ³_____ had gone to get the ⁴_____ to show to someone and had found it missing. The ⁵_____ had been called, but so far they had no idea who had taken it. James let the paper fall to the ground. It was still not clear to him how the emerald had come to be in the ⁶_____ of an old pair of ⁷_____ in a ⁸_____, but it was obvious now that the police would think that his story was suspicious. What should he do?

3 Language

Match the words to make new nouns. Then use them to complete the sentences from the story.

boarding	coat
beach	rooms
changing	side
house	huts
rain	house
lunch	time
sea	guests

- 1 On the left-hand side, there was an old pair of grey trousers, a man's jumper, and a _____.
- 2 While he was staying in a horrible _____ about a mile and a half from the seafront, Grace had instead found friends staying at the very expensive Esplanade Hotel by the sea and had gone to stay with them!
- 3 One of the other _____ must be the thief.
- 4 It was _____, and the beach was almost empty.
- 5 'I'm afraid you can't come in with us, James – you'll have to go along to the public _____ over there.'
- 6 Why should the rich have private _____ and be able to swim any time they choose without waiting in a queue?
- 7 Who had persuaded him to come to this fashionable _____ resort?

4 Comprehension

In the book James reads it tells him that:

There is a time to be honest, but there are also times when it is better not to be quite so honest.

Can you name three times in the story when James is not quite so honest?

- 1
- 2
- 3

It also says:

A strong man does not always say everything he knows.

What doesn't James tell Lord Campion?

- 4

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Philomel Cottage

1 Grammar

On pages 47 and 48, Agatha Christie tells us about Alix's life before she lived in Philomel Cottage.

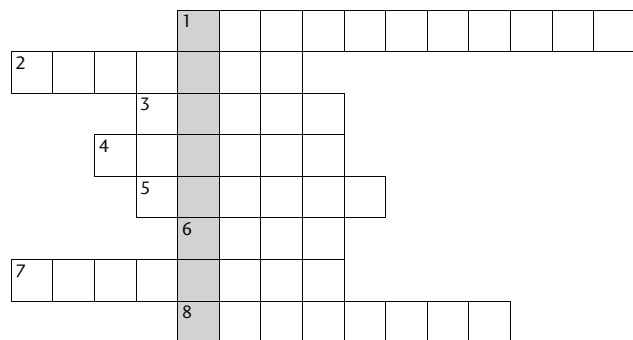
She had had a difficult life.

She uses the past perfect tense. Can you complete these sentences from the story using the past perfect tense of the verbs in brackets?

- 1 She _____ (have to) get a job in an office.
- 2 There _____ (be) one romance.
- 3 Suddenly, everything in Alix's life _____ (change).
- 4 A cousin she didn't know _____ (die).
- 5 She _____ (become) an independent woman.
- 6 Alix, in total surprise, _____ (fall) quickly in love.
- 7 Alix _____ (find) the way to make Dick want her.

2 Comprehension

Complete the puzzle to find the mystery word.



Clues

- 1 Gerald wants Alix to help him develop these.
- 2 Alix pretends to call this person.
- 3 Alix finds this in the flowers in the garden.
- 4 Alix is worried Gerald plans to kill her here.
- 5 Gerald believes that Alix has put this in his coffee.
- 6 Alix thinks that Gerald's scar is where he used to have one of these.
- 7 George.
- 8 Alix thinks Gerald is really this person.

Mystery word: _____

3 Comprehension

Who says these sentences? Who do they say them to?

- 1 The man's a stranger. You don't know anything about him.
.....
- 2 The price was two thousand.
.....
- 3 I've changed my mind. I don't want to do any photography tonight.
.....
- 4 Those steaks really are a matter of life or death.
.....
- 5 Do you know anything about poison?
.....
- 6 You've put poison in my coffee!
.....

4 Writing

Alix explains to the police what happened. Can you complete what she says?

I've been married to my husband ¹_____ for a ²_____. We live in ³_____ Cottage. I first became suspicious when our gardener, ⁴_____, told me that Gerald had said we were going to ⁵_____ when we weren't and that Gerald had bought the house for ⁶_____ thousand pounds when he told me it was ⁷_____ thousand pounds. That evening, Gerald was planning for us to go to the ⁸_____ to do some ⁹_____ but he changed his mind when I told him what George had said. The next day I searched his things and I found an old ¹⁰_____ with a story about a famous swindler called ¹¹_____ who killed his wives for their money. I thought Gerald looked like the man in the photo – and he had a ¹²_____ in the same place as the murderer had had a mole. When Gerald came home with a ¹³_____ I knew he was going to kill me that evening. I pretended to call the ¹⁴_____ but really I called ¹⁵_____ and asked him to come immediately. To stop Gerald from taking me to the cellar, I told him a story – I said I had put ¹⁶_____ in two ex-husbands' ¹⁷_____. Gerald thought I'd done the same to him and he had a heart attack and died – he must have had a weak ¹⁸_____.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Actress

1 Comprehension

Match the characters from the story to their descriptions below.

Jake Levitt	Olga Stormer	Miss Jones	Danahan
Sir Richard Everard	Margaret Ryan		

- _____ is an actress who used to be called Nancy Taylor.
- _____ is Olga Stormer's assistant.
- _____ tries to get money from Olga Stormer.
- _____ is an actress who looks a bit like Olga Stormer.
- _____ is an important MP who is going to marry Olga Stormer.
- _____ is Olga Stormer's manager.

2 Vocabulary

Match the words in the box with their definitions.

trap	strangle	cord	charge	trance	shabby
------	----------	------	--------	--------	--------

- when someone seems to be asleep, but they can see and hear things _____
- a trick to make someone say or do something they do not want to say or do _____
- to kill someone by tightly squeezing their throat _____
- old, dirty or untidy _____
- a strong, thick string _____
- when the police say that someone has done something illegal _____

3 Comprehension

Use the words from activity 2 to complete the summary of the story. Be careful, you may have to change the tense of the verbs.

When a ¹_____ man sees the famous actress Olga Stormer in a play at the theatre, he recognises her as Nancy Taylor – who killed a man when she was a young girl. She was never ²_____ for the killing. He decides to send her a letter saying he will tell the newspapers about her past if she doesn't give him money. She knows this will be the end of her career and that of the important man she is about to marry. So, she invites Levitt to her home but it is a ³_____. She asks Margaret Ryan, an actress who has the same hair as her, to come to dinner. She explains she can put Margaret in a ⁴_____, but she actually drugs her. Then she paints Margaret's face purple, ties her arm to make it go cold and feel dead, and puts a red ⁵_____ around her neck: it looks like Margaret has been ⁶_____.

Choose the best ending to complete the text:

- A** Levitt arrives at Olga's home, but Olga's not there. He finds Margaret's body and believes Olga has killed her and is making it look as if he did it. A policeman comes in and sees him with the body. He charges Levitt with the murder.
- B** Levitt arrives at Olga's home, but Olga's not there. He finds Margaret's body and believes Olga has killed her and is making it look as if he did it. A maid comes in and sees him with the body. He runs as fast as he can and decides he has to leave the country.
- C** Levitt arrives at Olga's home, but Olga's not there. He finds Margaret's body and believes Olga has killed her and is making it look as if he did it. A maid comes in and sees him with the body. He shoots the maid and then tells the newspapers about Olga's past.

4 Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

- Who was Nancy Taylor? _____
- Who was the 'dead body'? _____
- Who was the maid? _____

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The Witness for the Prosecution

1 Vocabulary

e	v	i	d	e	n	c	e			l	p
	j	u	r	y						a	r
	g	w	i	t	n	e	s	s	w	o	
	u				r				p	c	y
a	i					i			r	a	e
l	l		r		a			e	r	r	c
i	t		e		l			t			u
b	y		v					e			t
i	n	v	e	s	t	m	e	n	t	s	i
			n					d			o
			g	c	h	a	r	g	e		n
			e			c	l	i	e	n	t

- 1 alibi
- 2 guilty
- 3 scar
- 4 client
- 5 charge
- 6 evidence
- 7 investment
- 8 pretend
- 9 witness
- 10 trial
- 11 revenge
- 12 prosecution
- 13 jury
- 14 lawyer

2 Comprehension

- 1 Leonard Vole d
- 2 Emily French b
- 3 Romaine Heilger c
- 4 Janet Mackenzie e
- 5 Mr Mayherne a

3 Comprehension

Prosecution	Defence
Janet Mackenzie	Leonard Vole
Romaine Heilger	Mr Mayherne
	Sir Charles
	The woman in Shaw's Rents

4 Comprehension

- 1 He cleans his glasses and coughs when he's thinking.
- 2 The jury won't believe a loving wife; they'll think she'd do anything to get her husband off.
- 3 She says she's not actually married to Leonard.
- 4 Love letters from Romaine to a man called Max.
- 5 Romaine
- 6 She knows Leonard is guilty and she thinks this is the only way people will think he is innocent.

The Rajah's Emerald

1 Comprehension

- 11
- 16
- 5
- 8
- 17
- 1
- 9
- 15
- 2
- 10
- 6
- 18
- 13
- 12
- 4
- 7
- 14
- 3

2 Listening

- 1 Lord Campion
- 2 house
- 3 Rajah
- 4 emerald
- 5 police
- 6 pocket
- 7 trousers
- 8 beach hut

3 Language

- 1 raincoat
- 2 boarding house
- 3 house-guests
- 4 lunchtime
- 5 changing rooms
- 6 beach huts
- 7 seaside

4 Comprehension

- 1 He doesn't report that he has found the emerald to either the police or to the Rajah.
- 2 He doesn't tell Merrilees that knows he's not from the police but is actually a thief.
- 3 He doesn't tell the police officer the whole truth (he only tells Lord Campion).
- 4 He doesn't tell him about the cycling club badge he recognised.

Philomel Cottage

1 Grammar

- 1 had had to
- 2 had been
- 3 had changed
- 4 had died

- 5 had become
- 6 had fallen
- 7 had found

2 Comprehension

```

      p h o t o g r a p h s
    b u t c h e r
      d i a r y
    c e l l a r
      p o i s o n
        m o l e
    g a r d e n e r
      l e m a i t r e
  
```

Mystery word: philomel

3 Comprehension

- 1 Dick Windyford to Alix
- 2 George, the gardener, to Alix
- 3 Gerald to Alix
- 4 Alix to 'the butcher' Dick Windyford
- 5 Alix to Gerald
- 6 Gerald to Alix

4 Writing

- 1 Gerald
- 2 month
- 3 Philomel
- 4 George
- 5 London
- 6 two
- 7 three
- 8 cellar
- 9 photography
- 10 newspaper
- 11 Lemaitre
- 12 scar
- 13 spade
- 14 butcher
- 15 Dick
- 16 poison
- 17 coffee
- 18 heart

The Actress

1 Comprehension

- 1 Olga Stormer
- 2 Miss Jones
- 3 Jake Levitt
- 4 Margaret Ryan
- 5 Sir Richard Everard
- 6 Danahan

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

2 Vocabulary

- 1 trance
- 2 trap
- 3 strangle
- 4 shabby
- 5 cord
- 6 charge

3 Comprehension

- 1 shabby
- 2 charged
- 3 trap
- 4 trance
- 5 cord
- 6 strangled

B

4 Comprehension

- 1 Olga Stormer
- 2 Margaret Ryan
- 3 Olga Stormer