

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

Федеральное государственное автономное образовательное
учреждение высшего образования «Национальный исследовательский
Нижегородский государственный университет им. Н. И. Лобачевского»

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A BOOK FOR READING

Учебно-методическое пособие

Рекомендовано методической комиссией Института филологии и журналистики
ННГУ для студентов, изучающих английский язык

Нижний Новгород
2019

УДК 811.111(075.8)
ББК Ш143.21я73
П 72

Рецензент: канд. психол. наук, доцент О. А. Немцова

П 72 **Пушкина Е.Н. A Book for Reading = Книга для чтения: учебно-методическое пособие.** – Нижний Новгород: Нижегородский госуниверситет, 2019. – 68 с.

Данное учебно-методическое пособие предназначено для развития навыков чтения англоязычных текстов художественной направленности, по уровню сложности соответствующих знаниям студентов второго года обучения. Работа состоит из шести глав и двадцати эпизодов с заданиями к каждому из них. Задания составлены с учётом того, что чтение является основой для развития устной речи. Итоговой формой работы над учебно-методическим пособием является дискуссия и викторина по содержанию прочитанного рассказа. Дополнительные задания направлены на дифференциацию значений наиболее часто употребляемых синонимичных слов, в использовании которых нередко допускаются ошибки. Включенные в пособие тексты могут служить материалом для самостоятельного чтения с последующей проверкой выполненных заданий во время аудиторных занятий.

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Нижегородский государственный
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Методическая записка

В основу работы положен неадаптированный, но несложный для понимания рассказ о первом расследовании молодого детектива афроамериканского происхождения. Рассказ поделён на главы и небольшие части, называемые эпизодами, основное содержание которых в той или иной мере отражается в заглавиях.

До начала работы над текстом необходимо ознакомиться с предтекстовыми вопросами, направленными на выявление основного смысла отрывка. Если после прочтения текста какой-либо из этих вопросов всё же вызывает затруднение, текст следует прочитать ещё раз.

Чтение текста не исключает использование словаря, однако в начале работы над эпизодом лучше ознакомиться с содержанием всего отрывка без словаря и уже после этого переводить последовательно одно предложение за другим. Перед текстом не приводится список используемых в нём слов с их переводом на русский язык, но самые важные или специфические слова содержатся в задании 1, где требуется сопоставить английское слово с его значением в русском языке.

Выполняя упражнение, в котором требуется дополнить предложение, следует сначала дать по памяти свой вариант и затем проверить его правильность по тексту.

В задании, где надо определить соответствие или несоответствие предложения тексту, помимо краткого ответа, требуется изменить предложение так, чтобы оно правильно отражало содержание текста.

Задание с формулировкой «Докажите, что ...» предполагает обращение не к отдельному предложению, а ко всему массиву текста. Доказательства могут быть найдены в описаниях, в авторских замечаниях, в речи персонажей, в словах и выражениях, имеющих отношение к характеру и манере поведения героев, в художественной детали, графических стилистических средствах и т. д.

Для выполнения заданий, ориентированных на формирование развернутого высказывания (*why-questions*) и дискуссию, следует повторить правила последовательности времён, употребление условных предложений, в особенности, нереального условия, а также грамматический материал, касающийся оформления косвенной речи во всех коммуникативных типах предложения (утверждение, отрицание, вопрос).

При проведении викторины по содержанию прочитанного рассказа группа делится на две команды, каждая из которых отвечает поочередно на предложенный вопрос. Побеждает команда, набравшая большее количество баллов (один балл равняется одному правильному ответу).

A Mystery Story

CHAPTER ONE

New Man in Town

Directions: Read the passages and do the tasks following them.

Episode 1. A Place to Live

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What was Dwight's educational background?
2. What part of the country was he going to work in?
3. Why did Dwight think he was lucky to find a place to live in Flagstaff?
4. What did he know about his landlady?
5. What was the attitude of the local police officers to their new colleague from New York?

I have always been well taken care of. Since my father died of a heart attack, my two older sisters and my mother have been taking care of me, their little boy. When my sisters got married and moved out of the apartment, it was just Mama and I sitting alone at night listening to the neighbors fight next door. When I finished college and went to the Police Academy, Mama was really proud. She thought that I would get a job in the city and would be able to stay next to her. But when recruiters came from Arizona, I was offered a job in Flagstaff.

It was a hundred and ten in the shade when I arrived in Flagstaff. The dust was thick around your ankles, and the sun was blinding. I got off the bus and stood in the middle of the street trying to decide which way to go. A taxi driver stuck his head out of his window and asked, "Where to, Mister?"

I had no answer for him, so he offered to take me to Mrs. Johnson's, a small house in the old part of the city. Mrs. Johnson's husband had died in the war, and her children had moved off to other cities. She rented rooms to single men and was very particular about whom she let stay in her house. Being a graduate of the Police Academy and a new employee on the police force in Flagstaff, I had no trouble getting a room. Mrs. Johnson was pleased to have me "protecting her from them", as she said. She seemed to define *them* as any unsavory element with designs on her property or life. Termites fell into this category, and I would spend the first weekend spraying under the house with insecticide.

Luck was with me: I had been in town only an afternoon, and I had already found a place to live. When I went to work the next morning, I knew my luck had changed. The other officers were all suspicious of the outsider from New York. They thought that their own honor was at stake. They thought I was going to come in and show them how to run a police station. They had to make sure that I understood that

they already knew how to run a police station. I had no argument with that. I was new, very new, to the profession. I had everything to learn.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to take care of smb.	a) выпускник
2. to die in the war	b) быть поставленным на карту
3. to rent rooms	c) приезжий, аутсайдер
4. graduate, <i>n</i>	d) сдавать комнаты
5. outsider	e) погибнуть на войне
6. to die of a heart attack	f) заботиться о ком-л.
7. to be particular about smth.	g) в тени
8. to be suspicious of smb.	h) быть щепетильным
9. to run a police station	i) руководить работой полицейского участка
10. in the shade	j) относиться к кому-л. с подозрением
11. to be at stake	k) умереть от сердечного приступа

2. True or false?

1. Dwight Smith graduated from Washington Police Academy.
2. In Flagstaff, he had difficulty in finding a place to live.
3. The officers of the police station in Flagstaff were not happy about the arrival of a detective from New York.
4. Mrs. Johnson's husband had moved to another city.
5. Dwight's landlady had no children.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. Luck was with me: ...
2. The other officers were suspicious of the outsider from New York: they thought ...
3. The dust was thick around your ankles and ...
4. I knew my luck ...

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Dwight had found a place to live
 - a) on the recommendation of his chief
 - b) on the advice of one of his colleagues
 - c) thanks to the taxi-driver
2. Mrs. Johnson rented rooms to
 - a) young married couples
 - b) unmarried men
 - c) families with a good reputation

3. Dwight's colleagues
 - a) were indifferent to the arrival of the newcomer
 - b) gave him a friendly welcome
 - c) were afraid that he would demonstrate his superiority over them

5. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *from, around, on, off, up, for, with, of*. One preposition may be used twice.

I looked ... the apartment where I had spent most ... my life. The window was open and the sounds ... the street mixed ... the talk show ... the radio that my mother always kept It seemed that she had even turned the volume ... to get her mind ... the fact that I was leaving. She sat in her favourite chair, the one I had to fix at least twice a year ... as long as I remember.

6. Find proofs to the following.

1. Dwight was lucky with the accommodation.
2. The police officers were not friendly to Dwight.
3. It was very hot in Flagstaff when Dwight arrived there.

7. What impression did the young detective produce on you? Give a description of the narrator using the words that characterize a person, such as *inexperienced, self-critical, modest, well-disposed, friendly, good-humoured, realistic, responsible, respectful, sensible, with a good sense of humour*, etc. Prove your points making reference to the text.

Episode 2. The Chief

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What kind of man was Dwight's chief?
2. Who paid a visit to the chief that morning?
3. Was the chief eager to hear the visitor out?
4. What was Dwight's reaction to the way his colleagues treated him?
5. Was the chief enthusiastic about his duties and the work of his subordinates?
6. What was the cardinal rule of the office?

My chief was very old-fashioned. He dressed in a uniform rather than in plain-clothes as we did during our training. But at least he let me wear what I wanted to wear. He was very conservative and did not like the officers on his force to have opinions that differed from his.

As I was waiting to meet him for the first time, I could hear the voice of a hysterical woman coming through the thin walls:

"But, Chief Hutch, I know it was no accident... none of them were, sir."

"Well, we have no proof, Mrs. Munsing, and we don't work here on suppositions and guesses, you know. We have to have facts in order to act."

"Yes, I know, sir, but I think that if you would just ask some questions..."

"Thank you, Mrs. Munsing, we'll get someone on it for you. Thank you very much for coming in here today and sharing your concerns with us." He showed her to the door, and as he passed me, he stopped and looked at my white shirt and tie. A smile crossed his face. "We're in Flagstaff, Detective Smith, not on Fifth Avenue. You're going to get pretty hot in that neck choker."

"Yes, sir."

"Now, Mrs. Munsing, you just go on back to Mr. Fitch's house, and my advice to you is not to mention that you came down here to see me."

"Oh, I wouldn't, sir. I wouldn't. And I don't want you to tell anyone that I came here. I might lose my job."

After she left, he stared at the door for a few minutes before turning to me. "Crazy old woman," he muttered under his breath. "Come with me."

He led me down a long corridor that had pictures of criminals pasted on the walls. We passed office after office and finally emerged in a long room without windows that had five desks. One of the desks was empty. He pointed to it. "That's yours." He then turned and walked out of the room.

I opened all my desk drawers and found them full of bits and pieces of paper and ends of pencils. There was dust on top of the desk which stood in the very middle of the room. I could hear everything that anyone said on all sides of me. Which wasn't much since everyone was trying hard to ignore me. I laughed to myself when I considered the reason for their coldness. In New York, people looked down on me because I came from a poor area of the city. Here, they look down on me because I come from the richest city in the world.

I opened the *Manual for Officers* that I found in the desk drawer, but before I could start it, a sergeant came in and told me the chief wanted to see me in his office on the double.

The chief was just as taciturn as the rest of the force. He sat behind a very small desk which made him look much bigger than he was. He didn't invite me to sit down nor did I ask if I could. I stood in front of his desk while he began to yell the rules of the office. The cardinal rule was DON'T MAKE TROUBLE. Don't look for trouble. Don't make waves.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. police chief	a) предположения
2. old-fashioned	b) случайность
3. suppositions	c) молчаливый
4. to look down on smb.	d) срочно, быстро
5. accident	e) старомодный
6. to look for trouble	f) смотреть свысока
7. taciturn	g) появиться
8. on the double	h) выкрикивать

9. to emerge
10. to yell

i) начальник полицейского участка
j) напрашиваться на неприятности

2. True or false?

1. The police chief did not encourage investigative work.
2. The chief got interested in Mrs. Munsing's words.
3. The police chief was wearing plainclothes.
4. The chief thought Mrs. Munsing to be a crazy woman.
5. Mrs. Munsing did not want anyone to know about her visit to the police station.

3. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. The police officers
 - a) were working in silence, each at his own desk
 - b) were speaking softly, so as not to disturb their new colleague
 - c) were talking to each other, but not to Dwight
2. The police chief
 - a) was a silent and conservative man
 - b) strict but fair
 - c) was a kind-hearted and liberal-minded person
3. Mrs. Munsing had come to the police station
 - a) to complain about the rudeness of the Fitches
 - b) to share her suspicions with the chief
 - c) to give the police chief the information he had asked her to gather

4. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *around, in, into, after, at, of, away*. One preposition may be used twice.

In the kitchen, she threw her arms ... me and gave me a sisterly squeeze. "I'm going to miss you. Who's going to come and look ... Jeannie when you go ...?" She kissed me and then slipped an envelope ... my pocket. I felt the outline ... the envelope and knew she had put money ... it. I was embarrassed and happy ... the same time. It had taken a lot of money to study ... the Police Academy, and I knew I would need a lot more to start ... Flagstaff.

5. What conclusion can be drawn about the police chief and the way he ran the police station? Choose the words which are suitable to describe the chief, making reference to the text: *conservative, understanding, polite, friendly, bossy, tactful, authoritarian, respectful, considerate, wise, ill-mannered, fair, indifferent, devoted to his profession, matter-of-fact.*

6. Was the chief likely to help Dwight in his future work?

Episode 3. Poor Mrs. Munsing

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Who did Dwight see from the porch?
2. What was Mrs. Munsing's life story?
3. What did Mrs. Johnson think of Mrs. Munsing?

I was glad to get back to Mrs. Johnson's house that night. I wondered if she would be glad to have me, knowing that I was a low man on the totem pole at the station. I sat on the porch and watched the traffic in the street. It was a side street, so only a few cars would pass. More people walked here than drove. One of the pedestrians was the woman I had seen in the police station that afternoon. She was carrying a huge sack of groceries.

"Hello!" I yelled to her from the porch.

She dropped her sack and looked around. She saw me and nervously bent over to pick up the groceries that had fallen all over the sidewalk. I raced to her side to help her. "I'm so clumsy," she offered as an excuse.

"I'm sorry I frightened you."

"Oh, my nerves have been on edge ever since Mrs. Fitch was killed. I mean, ever since she had the accident."

I stopped picking up oranges and looked at her. She met my eyes.

"I shouldn't have said that. I have no right to say that. Excuse me. I must be going."

She had not remembered me from the police station that afternoon; she was too concerned about her job and the possibility of being seen talking to a total stranger. She gathered her bags and hurried down the street. I returned to the porch and began thinking about the newspaper article that my sister had shown me before I left New York: ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL.

My thoughts were interrupted by my landlady's coming onto the porch. "I saw you talking to that Mrs. Munsing; she's really crazy. The whole town knows it. She lost her sons in the war and her daughter was struck by lightning and killed. Sad, isn't it? But the whole thing left her a bit crazy. She drinks, you know. They say when she gets up in the morning, she hits the bottle right away. And it lasts until she goes to bed at night. But she's an excellent cook. I was up there for dinner one night. On Christmas eve, it was. The invitations were for seven o'clock, but we had a surprise snow storm that closed the mountain roads, and we had to walk the last five miles to the main house. What a night! I was frozen. I would have turned around and gone back to my own bed, but I wanted to take a good look inside the house. I hadn't been there since the first Mrs. Fitch passed away. It was dangerous on those trails. They're very narrow, I'll let you know. It's no wonder that the third Mrs. Fitch fell off the road. And leaving that poor girl all by herself. Lucky she didn't fall herself."

I didn't understand what she was talking about. What poor girl? I was very confused. I wished I had read the newspaper article on the death.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. heiress	a) посмотреть на
2. to pass away	b) замёрзнуть
3. to be frozen	c) умереть
4. to be confused	d) пешеход
5. fall, <i>n</i>	e) наследница
6. to interrupt	f) недоумевать
7. eve	g) зд. служебная лестница; табель о рангах
8. to take a look at	h) канун
9. totem pole	i) падение
10. pedestrian	j) прервать

2. Complete the following sentences.

1. She saw me and nervously ...
2. I raced to her side ...
3. I returned to the porch thinking about the newspaper article that my sister ...
4. "She lost her sons in the war and ..."
5. "She drinks, you know. But she's ..."

3. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. "I saw you talking to that Mrs. Munsing; she is really *mad*."
2. "They say, when she gets up in the morning, *she drinks a bottle of wine*."
3. *I hurried* to help her.
4. "I wanted to see *the interior* of the house."
- 5 "I *have been very nervous* ever since Mrs. Fitch was killed."

4. Find proofs to the following.

1. Mrs. Munsing was nervous and fearful.
2. Her life story was very sad.

5. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *at, with, on, next to, out, by, before, over, from, to, for, down*. One preposition may be used twice.

Sara went over ... her handbag and pulled ... a newspaper ... the headline ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL. "This will probably be your first case, Dwight."

"Deaths ... falls are all routine police work; it's not work ... a detective, and besides it will be all over ... the time I arrive".

"When do you leave?"

“What time is it? 5:15?! I’m going to miss my bus. It leaves ... 6:00.”

My mother started to cry and held me tightly ... the hand. I promised to call and ran ... the stairs. I ran ... the subway, but still had to wait ... the train. The man ... the platform ... me was reading the paper. I looked ... his shoulder and read the headline: ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL. The train came ... I could read more. But my curiosity was aroused.

6. Give Mrs. Munsing’s story in short.

7. Are you inclined to believe that Mrs. Munsing was crazy? How can her behaviour be explained? Do you sympathize with the woman?

Episode 4. The Fitches of Flagstaff

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Why did Dwight go to the local newspaper office the next day?
2. Who did he get the most information about the Fitches from?
3. What did the father of the first Mrs. Fitch do to prevent his daughter from marrying Mr. Fitch?
4. What happened to the old man when his daughter married Mr. Fitch?
5. What was wrong with the Fitches' daughter?

The next day after work I went to the local newspaper office and asked if I could look at their old newspapers. I said since I was new in town, I wanted to get a sense of its history by reading the news of the past few years. This article caught my eye:

Mrs. James B. Fitch fell to her death today when walking with her stepdaughter on the family property. The funeral services will be held at the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Valley at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, the 12th of April. Expressions of sympathy should be in the form of contributions to the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Valley. The deceased is survived by her husband, Mr. James Fitch, and her stepdaughter, Sonia Fitch.

That evening at dinner, I casually asked Mrs. Johnson about the Fitches. I especially wanted to know about the stepdaughter and the three wives.

"Yes, indeed, Mr. Fitch had three wives, all richer than Rockefeller, they say. When he married his first wife, he didn't have a penny. Her father was dead set against her marrying that no-good Fitch. He tried to keep them apart. He even sent her to a girl's school in Switzerland or some place like that. But when she became twenty-one, she inherited her grandfather's money; and when she came back to Flagstaff, she married Fitch. She also came back from Switzerland with a daughter. It al-

most killed the old man. He was in the hospital for weeks. He was going to have his lawyers annul the marriage or disinherit the daughter. But he died in his sleep one night...and you know, she, the first Mrs. Fitch, died shortly thereafter, too. She was flying a plane that disappeared in the mountains. It was never found again. Would you like some more gravy on your potatoes?"

I hated to interrupt her story with my eating, so I encouraged her to go on.

"Well," she obliged, "Fitch got this woman in to look after the girl, but I think she spent more time looking at Fitch than after the daughter. The girl is blind, you know. She just sits all day in the house listening to music. And people who have been up at the house say it's always the same song. It would drive you crazy. No wonder poor Mrs. Munsing is crazy. That girl is strange. I have never seen her myself. She didn't come to the Christmas dinner the night I was there. She always takes her meals alone. Poor child; it must be a terrible strain not being able to see."

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to inherit	a) признать брак недействительным
2. to annul the marriage	b) никчемный
3. to disinherit	c) лишить наследства
4. no-good, <i>adj.</i>	d) пожертвования
5. to keep smb. apart	e) как бы невзначай
6. casually	f) тяжкий груз, бремя
7. to fly a plane	g) пережить кого-л. , <i>ам.</i>
8. the deceased, <i>n</i>	h) разлучить
9. to survive	i) покойный
10. contributions	j) управлять самолётом
11. strain, <i>n</i>	к) унаследовать

2. True or false?

1. Mr. Fitch had sent his daughter to a girl's school in France.
2. The old man died after his daughter had perished in an air crash.
3. Mr. Fitch's daughter was deaf.
4. Mrs. Johnson was sorry for the blind girl.
5. Mr. Fitch was poor when he married his first wife.
6. Mr. Fitch's first wife had given birth to a baby before marriage.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. "I especially wanted to know about the stepdaughter and ..."
2. "When she came back to Flagstaff, she ..."
3. "He was going to have his lawyers ..."
4. "When he married his first wife, he didn't ..."
5. "But when she was twenty-one, she ..."

4. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. *It is not surprising* poor Mrs. Munsing is crazy.
2. Her father *strongly objected* to his daughter's marrying Mr. Fitch.
3. He tried to *separate them*.
4. It *nearly* killed the old man.
5. He stayed in hospital *for a long time*.
6. I *did not want* to interrupt her story with my eating.
7. He *hired* this woman to look after the girl.
8. It would *make you mad*.
9. She *never eats together with the others*.
10. It must be *very hard* not being able to see.

5. Find proofs to the following.

1. Amelia's father objected to his daughter's marrying Mr. Fitch.
2. Mr. Fitch's daughter was not sociable.
3. Mrs. Johnson was critical of the woman Mr. Fitch had hired to look after his daughter.

6. Give the story of the Fitch family in short.

7. How did Mrs. Johnson hint at the relations between Mr. Fitch and the woman he had hired to look after his daughter?

8. Do you agree that there was no complete understanding between Amelia and her father?

Episode 5. All of Them Dead

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What did the second Mrs. Fitch die of?
2. What did Mr. Fitch inherit from his second wife?
3. How did the third Mrs. Fitch die?
4. Where did Dwight go to find out more about the Fitches?

I was still curious about the Fitches. "Did Fitch marry the woman who was looking after his daughter?"

Mrs. Johnson laughed as if I had asked her if there really was man on the moon.

"Well, not married as you mean 'married'. Nothing official in the church or city hall, you understand. But I don't know. I only know what they tell me. And they don't know much of what goes on in that big house on the mountain."

"Well, who was the second Mrs. Fitch?"

"She was a wonderful woman; she loved children and took them for rides on her horses into the hills. It was just after one of those rides that she died. Yes, she was really thirsty, and Mrs. Munsing brought her out some nice lemonade. Well, she drank that lemonade and never got up from her chair. I tell you, no one felt like having lemonade for a while."

"Did no one think that the drink might have been poisoned?"

"Well, of course we did. But Mr. Fitch and the police chief determined it was some food poisoning from the little sandwiches that she had taken on the trip with her. You know they get really bad in the heat."

"And Fitch inherited her money, too?"

"Yes, indeed. She had lots of money. She owned practically the whole town. There wasn't anyone growing up who wasn't paying rent to her family. And since she was the only child, her husband got it all. The same thing with the third wife who fell to her death.

"Clever, isn't he? Always marrying these rich women who have no other relations. Seems kind of strange that they all died, but I guess stranger things have happened. Well, you sit for a spell; I'm going in to watch TV. Come in when you want."

The next day at noon, I went back to the newspaper office and asked to see the newspapers from the time of the deaths of the three Fitch wives. That afternoon I was called into the chief's office.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. food poisoning	a) платить за аренду
2. relations	b) ратуша
3. to pay rent	c) владеть
4. city hall	d) разбиться
5. to fall to one's death	e) интересоваться
6. to get bad	f) поездка
7. the chief's office	g) испортиться
8. to own	h) кабинет шефа
9. to be curious about	i) пищевое отравление
10. ride, <i>n</i>	j) родственники

2. True or false?

1. The second Mrs. Fitch died of an incurable disease.
2. The third Mrs. Fitch fell off a cliff.
3. All Mr. Fitch's wives had been rich women.
4. The poisoned lemonade was given to the second Mrs. Fitch by the cook.
5. The second Mrs. Fitch enjoyed horse riding.
6. She had taken some fruit with her for her last ride in the hills.
7. Mrs. Johnson was ironical of Mr. Fitch.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. "It was just after one of those rides ..."

2. "Always marrying these rich women who ..."
3. "There wasn't anyone who ..."
4. "She loved children and ..."
5. "And since she was the only child, ..."
6. The next day at noon, ...

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Dwight got most of the information about the Fitches
 - a) from his landlady
 - b) from newspaper clippings
 - c) from Mrs. Munsing
2. Mrs. Johnson
 - a) was indifferent to the Fitches' tragedy
 - b) did not blame anyone
 - c) was suspicious of Mr. Fitch
3. Dwight's being called into the chief's office was most likely connected with
 - a) his interest in the Fitches' case
 - b) his conversations with Mrs. Johnson
 - c) his relations with his colleagues

5. Find proofs to the following.

1. Mrs. Johnson did not agree with the chief's explanation of the women's deaths.
2. As a detective, Dwight took his duties seriously.

6. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. "Well, you sit *for a while* ..."
2. "No one *wanted to have* lemonade for a while."
3. "But Mr. Fitch and the police chief *decided* it was some food poisoning..."
4. I was *interested to know* more about the Fitches.
5. That afternoon *I was told that the chief wanted to see me in his office.*

7. Give the story of the deaths of Mr. Fitch's second and third wives.

8. By what remark did Mrs. Johnson reveal her attitude to Mr. Fitch?

9. Do you share Mrs. Johnson's feelings about Mr. Fitch?

10. Choose the words which are suitable to characterize Mrs. Johnson: *communicative, realistic, shrewd, sly, indifferent, sincere, unfriendly, caring, tactless, sympathetic, obliging, haughty, ironical, skeptical, matter-of-fact, obtrusive.* Prove your points making reference to the text in question and the texts of the preceding episodes.

CHAPTER TWO

Looking for Clues

Directions: Read the passages and do the tasks following them.

Episode 1. Rule Number One

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Did Dwight understand what the chief was driving at?
2. What had the Fitches done for the people of Flagstaff?
3. How did Dwight explain to the chief his reading the newspaper clippings?
4. How did the chief threaten Dwight?

When I walked into the chief's office, I saw from the look on his face that he was not going to give me good news.

"You like working here?" he asked without expecting an answer. "Well, you got to learn the rules. We all have rules and maybe here we have more rules than you did in New York. Rules keep us honest, you know what I mean?"

I said I didn't.

"Don't get smart with me. You know what I mean. Our rules keep us from getting in one another's way. You know what I mean."

I still didn't understand his point, but I nodded my head.

"That's good. Now, Rule Number One is we don't bother with the Fitch family." He looked straight into my eyes and I stared back into his. I didn't understand how the rule of avoiding someone would keep us honest. He slowed down his speech and raised his voice to make sure I would understand, "The Fitch family has been good to this town. They built this building we are sitting in and they built the courthouse. They built the school we all send our children to, and they have given almost all of the police officers loans to buy homes. So we don't like to bother them unnecessarily. You know what I mean?"

I was beginning to understand. "Of course, Chief. There's no need to bother any citizen unnecessarily."

"Then why in heaven's name were you reading old newspapers about the *accidental* deaths of the Fitch women?" He stressed accidental to make sure that I knew that there was no doubt about the cause of the deaths. I wondered about how he knew I had been reading the old clippings. He answered my unvoiced question.

"My brother told me you have been in twice asking for stories on the Fitches. You want to tell me why?"

I replied that a new person in town must be familiar with all the major happenings of the town that formed the town's history.

"I'll tell you all you need to know. And what you need to know is that the deaths were accidental. The first Mrs. Fitch was flying her own small plane which got lost and was never found again. The second woman died of food poisoning."

"What kind of food poisoning?"

"FOOD! FOOD! FOOD poisoning. What more do you need to know?"

Nothing. I knew the third and last Mrs. Fitch had fallen off a cliff while walking with her stepdaughter. There didn't seem to be any pattern to the deaths except that they all happened to the wives of Mr. Fitch.

"Now, if I hear you're messing around in the Fitches business again, you'll be on the first bus back to that city you came from."

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to avoid	a) умный
2. to keep smb. from doing smth.	b) удерживать, предотвращать
3. smart	c) мешать друг другу
4. accidental	d) избегать
5. to bother	e) беспокоить
6. to get into one another's way	f) здание суда
7. to be familiar with	g) случайный
8. courthouse	h) история города
9. to mess around in smb.'s business	i) давать кредит
10. to get lost	j) подчеркивать
11. the town's history	k) упасть с обрыва
12. to fall off a cliff	l) пропасть, исчезнуть
13. to give loans	m) вмешиваться
14. to stress	n) знать (о событиях)

2. Complete the following sentences.

1. "Now, Rule Number One is ..."
2. "The Fitch family has been good to ..."
3. "My brother told me ..."
4. I still didn't understand his point, but I ...
5. "The first Mrs. Fitch was flying her own small plane which ..."
6. I knew the third and last Mrs. Fitch ...
7. There didn't seem to be any pattern ...

3. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. I still didn't understand *what he meant*.
2. "Then *why on earth* were you reading old newspapers about the accidental deaths of the Fitch women?"
3. "Now, if I hear you're *meddling with* the Fitches' business again ..."

4. How did Dwight know that the conversation with the chief would not be pleasant?

5. What can be said of Dwight's manner of speaking?

6. Find proofs in the text that the chief was rude to Dwight. Give your reasons for it.

Episode 2. On the Case

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What woman were the chief and Mr. Fitch talking about?
2. What did Mr. Fitch want Dwight to do?
3. Why did he choose Dwight and not any other officer to investigate the case?
4. Did the chief approve of Mr. Fitch's decision?

At that moment, the intercom buzzed and the chief answered it. "Yeah? Sure, put him on. Good morning, Mr. Fitch... How are you this morning? Well, we couldn't be better down here... nothing more serious than a few parking violations... .Yes, she was in here, but you know how old people get at times... yes, I didn't pay much attention to her story, you know what kind of imagination your cook has... everyone knows her family and her father being crazy and all; well, they just say she takes after her father... You DO?"

The chief turned to me with a look of astonishment on his face. "Well, if you want, but I don't really see the need. Yes, sir. I'll be glad to help you settle the issue once and for all. I'll send up Rodriguez to check on it immediately... Who, sir? Why, sir? But he's just new, sir. He doesn't know anything about the town, sir. Oh, I see. OK, sir. Yes, he's right here, if you would like to talk to him."

The chief put his hand over the receiver and said, "It's Fitch; he wants you to come and investigate the death of his last wife."

Fitch seemed very concerned when I talked to him on the phone. He said he had heard his cook was worried that there was some mystery connected with the death of his wife, and he would like the air cleared once and for all. He thought I would be a good one to be put on the case, because I would bring a fresh approach to the problem. I think what he wanted to say was that he didn't trust any of these small-town cops to do an efficient job. But I thanked him for his confidence and told him I would be out to his house soon.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to investigate	a) доверять
2. to settle the issue	b) быть похожим
3. to trust	c) провинциальные полицейские
4. to take after	d) свежий взгляд на дело
5. to have the air cleared	e) тайна
6. to put smb. on the case	f) порой
7. a fresh approach to the problem	g) умелый
8. mystery	h) доверие
9. efficient	i) поручить расследование дела кому-л.
10. small-town cops	j) решить вопрос
11. once and for all	k) раз и навсегда
12. at times	l) расследовать
13. confidence	m) внести ясность

2. Complete the following sentences.

1. "It's Fitch; he wants you to come and investigate ..."
2. "Yes, he's right here, if you ..."
3. At that moment, the intercom buzzed and ...
4. "Yes, she was in here, but you know ..."
5. "Well, if you want, but I ..."

3. True or false?

1. Dwight's conversation with the chief was interrupted by a call from Mrs. Munsing.
2. The chief offered to give the case to another police officer.
3. The police chief didn't dare to contradict Mr. Fitch.
4. The chief was very polite to Mr. Fitch.
5. Dwight did not try to dissuade Mr. Fitch.

4. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. The chief turned to me with a look of *surprise* on his face.
2. Fitch seemed *worried* when I talked to him on the phone.
3. He didn't think the other police officers were *efficient enough to cope with the task*.
4. I told him *I would leave for his house without delay*.

5. Find proofs to the following.

1. The police chief was careful not to spoil his relations with Mr. Fitch.
2. The reason for Mr. Fitch's call was Mrs. Munsing's visit to the police station.
3. The chief was surprised at Mr. Fitch's request to let Dwight investigate the death of the third Mrs. Fitch.
4. In his telephone conversation, Mr. Fitch paid a compliment to Dwight.

6. What might Mr. Fitch's hidden motive be in having Dwight on the case?

7. How is the chief's surprise at Mr. Fitch's decision rendered in the text?

8. Why did the police chief object to Mr. Fitch's decision?

9. Could Mr. Fitch's choice of Dwight as a detective be considered as Dwight's success and a small victory over the chief?

Episode 3. A View of the House

Questions to concentrate on:

1. How did Dwight get to the Fitch house?

2. Why did Dwight walk the last two miles to the house?
3. What did the place look like?
4. What thoughts came to Dwight's mind when he was surveying the surroundings?
5. What sight made him timid?

The Fitch house was thirty miles outside of Flagstaff. It was set back into the mountains with a steep, narrow road as the only access to the property. The chief said that all the police cars had been assigned to senior officers, so I would have to take a bus. The bus turned off the main road before we reached the road to the Fitch home, so I had to walk the last two miles. The air was cool in the mountains, unlike the still heat of the city. But I was hot from the walk, and I stopped at the gate to the private road leading up to the Fitch home. I sat on a rock and surveyed the peaceful surroundings and knew that the Fitch cook must be wrong. This place was too quiet, too peaceful, to be the site of a murder, let alone three murders. On the other hand, the motive was classic: husband marries rich women, kills them and inherits their fortunes. But that would be too obvious. Nothing like that happens now in the twentieth century.

My watch told me it was time to get along. I turned up the drive and slowly climbed what I hoped would be the last mile to the house. I kept telling myself it would be easier returning.

As I turned a corner, I saw a figure move quickly through the trees and out of my sight. The forest was dark, so I couldn't really see if the figure was a man or a woman. It seemed to be a large figure, and he or she wore a straw hat that covered the head. Usually, I would have called out to the stranger, but there was something about the forest that made me timid. I hurried to the house and kept looking to the right and left for another glimpse of the figure. I came into a clearing and could see the house across a broad expanse of lawn. It was an unusual house for the area. Instead of being one story high, spreading out across the lawn, this one was compact and rose like a tower on the hill. From the windows, you must have a view of the entire valley.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. steep	a) неуверенный
2. access, <i>n</i>	b) очевидный
3. private	c) окрестности
4. surroundings	d) вне поля зрения
5. obvious	e) окликнуть
6. out of sight	f) весь
7. to call out	g) частный
8. timid	h) доступ
9. entire	i) крутой

2. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Dwight got to the Fitch house
 - a) first by bus and then on foot
 - b) by a rented car
 - c) by a police car
2. When Dwight saw a tall figure in the forest, he
 - a) was glad he was armed
 - b) hid behind a tree
 - c) felt uncomfortable
3. On the way to the Fitch house, Dwight
 - a) had a short rest
 - b) was thinking about his home
 - c) was preparing for a meeting with the host
4. Dwight noticed that the stranger was wearing
 - a) a raincoat
 - b) a straw hat
 - c) a dress

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. As I turned a corner, ...
2. I sat on a rock and ...
3. I hurried to the house and kept looking ...
4. This place was too peaceful to be the site of a murder, let alone ...
5. The chief said that all the police cars ...

4. Speak on the impression the place produced on Dwight.

5. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *in, along, about, to, of*. One preposition may be used twice.

1. The steep, narrow road was the only access ... the property.
2. Nothing like that happens now ... the twentieth century.
3. It was time to get ...
4. The air was cool ... the mountains, unlike the still heat ... the city.
5. There was something ... the forest that made me timid.

6. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. This place was too quiet to be the site of a murder, *saying nothing of three murders*.
2. The house was *not typical* of the area.
3. But that would be too *evident*.
4. There was something about the forest that made me *feel uncomfortable*.
5. *Nothing of the sort* happens now.

7. What parallel can be drawn between the description of the scenery and the case to be investigated? Did both of them arouse contradictory feelings in Dwight's heart?

8. Say if you agree or disagree with the following: Mr. Fitch's motive was too obvious, or classic, and it was an argument in his favour.

Episode 4. *An Inhospitable Welcome*

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Who was Dwight stopped by?
2. How did Darjo act toward Dwight?
3. How did the host meet his guest?
4. Did Dwight agree to stay for the night?

I started toward the house, but stopped when I heard a noise behind me. I turned around and saw a man dressed in a straw hat and a long cape like those worn by the Navaho shepherds in the region. He also had a rifle in his left hand.

"State your business, stranger."

"I'm from the police. I..."

"Police don't walk; they drive," he said, raising the rifle level with his shoulder. "Doesn't seem right you being on this land. Looking at things you ain't supposed to be seeing."

"I'm here at the invitation of Mr. Fitch. He called the police station and asked someone to come up."

"He didn't tell me nothing about it."

"Couldn't we just go up to the main house and ask if Mr. Fitch is expecting me?"

"Visitors come on Sunday... Today ain't but Thursday. I don't like changes. It's not good." He motioned for me to precede him up along the path.

At least he had lowered his rifle. I'm glad he didn't check me and find the small pistol I keep in my shoulder holster. By the time we reached the porch of the house, the whole household had assembled. They were obviously curious about who was being led to their house at gunpoint.

"Darjo, is that the way to treat a guest?" said an older man with a face that tried to look friendly and welcoming, but somehow did not succeed.

"He didn't come in a car," replied Darjo as if that was a suitable reason to question someone at gunpoint. I began to wonder if Darjo wasn't a retired member of the Flagstaff Police Force. Darjo moved to the other end of the porch and sat on a step wiping the barrel of his rifle with a rag he had pulled from his pocket.

"My apologies again for your inhospitable welcome. We are very glad you were able to come on such short notice. I presume you will be able to spend the evening with us here. That might facilitate your investigation. Let me introduce you to

the household. This is Ms. Ryan, my personal secretary; she has been with the family for 15 years ever since my first wife was killed in the airplane accident. But we will talk of that later. Mrs. Munsing, please show our guest to his room." He took me by the elbow and led me toward this woman, white with fear. It was the same woman who had dropped her groceries in front of my house last week.

"We will talk when you are settled. Just ask if we can do anything to make your stay more comfortable. We should even have some casual clothes your size. You needn't dress so formally in the mountains."

I had no chance to express my gratitude or regret. It seemed I had no choice in the matter. Mr. Fitch's businesslike manner had seen to everything, and I was led away to my room without having properly accepted this unexpected invitation.

Mrs. Munsing did not say a word as she led me down the long hallway and up the narrow flight of stairs to my room.

"Here you are, sir," she said, opening the door onto a small, clean room with a balcony.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to turn around	a) под прицелом
2. at the invitation of	b) негостеприимный
3. at gunpoint	с) оглянуться
4. inhospitable	d) по приглашению
5. to facilitate	e) благодарность
6. gratitude	f) домочадцы
7. to settle	g) приём
8. regret, <i>n</i>	h) устраиваться
9. household	i) ускорить
10. welcome, <i>n</i>	j) представить
11. to question	k) допрашивать
12. to introduce	l) сожаление

2. True or false?

1. Darjo suspected that Dwight was a trespasser.
2. Dwight had a small pistol in his shoulder holster.
3. Darjo spoke non-standard English.
4. Mr. Fitch received the guest in a hostile manner.
5. There was no one on the porch when Darjo and Dwight approached the house.
6. Dwight did not expect to be invited to stay for the night.
7. He accepted the invitation.
8. Dwight was taken to a large room without a balcony.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. "My apologies again for ..."
2. "Mrs. Munsing, please ..."
3. It seemed I had no choice ...

4. I had no chance ...
5. "We will talk when ..."

4. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. "Say *why you are here*, stranger."
2. I am glad he didn't *search* me.
3. "That might *make* your investigation *more effective*."
4. "We were very glad you were able to come *so soon*."
5. "I *suppose* you will be able to spend the evening with us here."
6. I had *no opportunity* to express my gratitude or regret.
7. Mrs. Munsing did not *utter* a word as she led me down to my room.
8. "Ms. Ryan has been with the family for 15 years, ever since my first wife was killed in the *air crash*."
9. By the time we reached the porch of the house, the whole household *had gathered*.
10. It seemed *I was not in a position to choose*.

5. Correct the mistakes in Darjo's speech.

6. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *for, in, to, on, with, of, from, at, by*. One preposition may be used several times.

- 1 "Let me introduce you ... the household."
2. "My apologies ... your inhospitable welcome".
3. I was led away ... my room by Mrs. Munsing.
4. "You needn't dress so formally ... the mountains."
5. Darjo sat ... a step wiping the barrel ... his rifle ... a rag he had pulled ... his pocket.
6. He took me ... the elbow and led me ... Mrs. Munsing.
7. "He didn't come ... a car."
8. "We are glad you were able to come ... such short notice."
9. It seemed I had no choice ... the matter.
10. It was not a suitable reason to question a person ... gunpoint.

7. Was the young detective considered to be an important person judging by the fact that

- a) the chief had not given him a car, though, in fact, he could have done it if he considered it necessary?
- b) Mr. Fitch had not warned Darjo about the arrival of the detective?

8. What words reveal Mrs. Munsing's emotional state at the sight of Dwight?

9. What might have happened to Dwight under the circumstances?

Episode 5. *Like Weeds in a Garden*

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Why was Dwight glad he was staying for the night?
2. What could be seen from his balcony?
3. Who did Dwight decide to start his investigation with?
4. What surprised Dwight about the girl's reaction and manner of speaking?

I looked at the room briefly and turned to ask her if most visitors usually spent the night, but she had disappeared. Maybe, they were right. Maybe, she was just a crazy old woman. I walked to the balcony and looked out over the garden. Darjo had left the porch and was moving back into the woods. I wondered if it had been he that I had seen in the woods. The sun was beginning to set. It was just as well that I was staying for the night. I don't think I would have found a bus back to town at this late hour. The sky was clear, and in the distance I heard the sound of a small plane. How could a murder happen in this tranquil setting? Mrs. Munsing must have a very active imagination.

My balcony looked directly into the garden, and I saw a young woman I hadn't seen before on the porch. She was tending the plants and carefully and slowly touching each one. That must be the daughter, I thought. I made my decision to start my investigation with her.

The house was quiet as I passed through the halls and found the door that opened onto the garden. As I approached the garden, the girl looked up quickly and said in a frightened voice, "Who's there? Who's there?"

She looked right at me, or I should say right through me.

"My name is Dwight. Dwight Smith. I'm a guest of your father."

"You must be from the police," she said. "My father said someone was coming to investigate. "She turned back to her plants. "I didn't recognize your step and you frightened me. But now I will know it, and you won't be able to surprise me anymore. Nothing surprises me here on the hill. Nothing changes here without my sensing it immediately." She said this directly at me, like a challenge, then she moved to another plant and began feeling the soil at the base of the plant. "You may ask me questions if you want. I know all about police investigations. I have listened to a lot of stories about famous detectives. Dwight Smith is such a common name, though. It won't sound very romantic in the newspapers when they write about all the famous crimes that you solve."

I laughed and said I didn't expect to find many crimes in Flagstaff.

"Then why are you here? You don't believe that these women whom my father married really died an accidental death, do you?" She didn't wait for an answer. I think she had already lost any faith she had in me.

"Nothing on earth is an accident. My blindness is not an accident. These plants are not an accident. Those women my father married were not part of this hill. They were not part of the scheme of things; it was obvious they had to be taken away, like weeds in a garden."

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. tranquil	a) вера
2. to sense smth.	b) раскрыть преступление
3. active imagination	c) спокойный
4. challenge, <i>n</i>	d) простой, обычный
5. common	e) почувствовать что-л.
6. to solve a crime	f) сорняки
7. faith	g) порядок вещей
8. accidental death	h) слепота
9. weeds	i) случайная смерть
10. blindness	j) пощупать почву
11. scheme of things	k) удалять
12. to feel the soil	l) вызов
13. to take away	m) богатое воображение

2. Complete the following sentences.

1. I made my decision ...
2. The sky was clear, and in the distance ...
3. "I have listened to a lot of stories ..."
4. I think she had already lost ...
5. "It won't sound very romantic when they write about all the famous crimes..."
6. "I know all about police ..."
7. I said I didn't expect to find ...
8. "It was obvious they had to be taken away, like ..."

3. True or false?

1. Sonia said that the deaths of Mr. Fitch's wives were accidental.
2. She was not frightened by Dwight's step.
3. The girl predicted a brilliant career to Dwight.
4. She was evidently fond of plants.
5. Sonia was inclined to philosophize.
6. She was categorical in all her judgments.
7. Standing on the balcony, Dwight couldn't believe that anyone could have been murdered in that quiet place.

4. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. How could a murder happen in this *quiet* setting?
2. My balcony *faced* the garden.
3. "Dwight Smith is *too simple* a name for a detective."
4. Mrs. Munsing must have a very *vivid* imagination.
5. "When something happens here, I *feel* it immediately."

5. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *in, to, on, of, at, over, about*. One preposition may be used twice.

1. "Nothing ... earth is an accident".
2. I think she had already lost any faith she had ... me.
3. "Nothing surprises me here ... the hill".
4. "I have listened ... a lot of stories ... famous detectives".
5. I walked ... the balcony and looked out ... the garden.
6. She began feeling the soil ... the base ... the plant.
7. She turned back ... her plants.

6. What impression did Sonia produce on you? Choose the words that are suitable to describe her: *knowledgeable, serious, self-assured, sympathetic, hard-hearted, cynical, domineering, straightforward, shy, romantic, narrow-minded, naïve, incommunicative, ignorant, smart*. Prove your points making reference to the text.

7. Find proofs in the text that Sonia spoke like a grown-up person, not just like a girl of 15.

8. Comment on Sonia's last remark in which she likens people to weeds in a garden. How does it characterize the girl?

Episode 6. *Pretty Poison*

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What did Dwight notice about Sonia's voice?
2. How did Sonia sense her flowers?
3. What was strange about the garden?
4. What plant did the girl offer Dwight to eat?
5. Did she tell Dwight what seeing parsley meant?

I was startled by the bitterness in her voice.

"Look at this garden. To you, it may not look beautiful. Other people tell me the colors of the flowers do not go well together, but they have only one sense. People trust their eyes too much. We must use other senses to appreciate a garden. Feel this."

I walked over to her and felt the soft leaf of a plant.

"That's lamb's ears. I have never felt a lamb's ear, but I'm sure it would be as soft and woolly as this leaf."

I looked at the garden. She was right. I did not think it was beautiful. There was another plan of organization that was meant for a blind person, not a sighted per-

son. The color of the flowers and the arrangement of the plants would not have been done in that manner by a gardener with sight.

"This has a beautiful flower," I said, hoping to express my interest in the garden when I really wanted to hear more about this blind girl's hatred of the two intruders, her stepmothers.

"Where? Let me feel. Yes, it may be beautiful. It has a very delicate smell. But it's very poisonous, you know. It's called Black Hellebore; the Christmas Rose. The ancient Greeks thought it cured madness, and, in a way, I guess it does; death is always a cure of sorts."

"Why do you have poisonous plants in your garden?"

"Oh, I have lots of them. Sometimes the most beautiful, innocent flower is deadly. Can you see the foxglove there?" She pointed toward some tall plants with purple flowers. "The leaves make a salad look too good to eat, and actually you shouldn't. If you want to live, that is. And, of course, I also have monkshood." She pointed to a plant near by her feet and bent over to pick it up. "The juice of this plant is tasteless, but when added to tea or any drink, it becomes deadly."

I began to think about the second wife, who died of food poisoning. I looked around the garden to see if there were any other dangerous plants I could recognize.

"Nature is frightening, isn't it? But if you understand her, you can use her. She always gives warning to us."

From the porch, Ms. Ryan was calling for us to come to tea. Sonia reached her hand into her basket and held out some parsley she had just cut. "You are not afraid of parsley, are you?" She handed me a bit to eat. As I chewed, she explained that parsley first grew from the blood of the child Opheltes who had been killed by a snake. Seeing parsley then became known as seeing one's death.

"You go have your tea with Ms. Ryan. And enjoy it."

She then went back to the house. I followed slowly behind and reached the porch where Ms. Ryan was waiting for me.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to trust	a) зрение
2. to appreciate	b) мачеха
3. sight, <i>n</i>	c) оценить
4. stepmother	d) ядовитый
5. intruder	e) жевать
6. poisonous	f) протянуть
7. to chew	g) петрушка
8. parsley	h) потрогать
9. to feel (<i>a plant</i>)	i) безвкусный
10. to hold out	j) доверять
11. tasteless	к) чужак, вторженец

2. True or false?

1. Sonia knew a lot about plants.
2. Her garden was beautiful.
3. Sonia didn't give a direct answer to the direct question why she was growing poisonous plants in her garden.
4. Dwight was impatient during the conversation.
5. Sonia spoke with confidence because she was sure she knew more about plants than most grown-ups did.
6. Speaking about parsley, Sonia made an allusion to a frightening story with a sad end.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. "The leaves make a salad look too good to eat, and actually you ..."
2. "We must use other senses to ..."
3. "Sometimes the most beautiful, innocent flower ..."
4. "The juice of this plant is tasteless, but ..."
5. Ms. Ryan was calling for us ...
6. The Christmas Rose was thought to cure ...
7. Seeing parsley then became known as seeing one's ...

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

Talking to Sonia, Dwight

- a) was surprised at Sonia's interest in poisonous plants
- b) admired her manner of speaking
- c) was favourably impressed by her philosophical remarks

5. Did Dwight ask the girl the questions that interested him point blank or was he more patient and reasonable in carrying out his investigation?

6. Comment on Sonia's remark: "Death is always a cure of sorts."

7. Would you have readily tasted any plant from Sonia's garden if you were in Dwight's place?

Episode 7. Care for a Sandwich?

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Who did Dwight have a talk with?
2. What did he learn about Mrs. Munsing?
3. What was Ms. Ryan's attitude to Darjo?
4. Who was giving Sonia her lessons on plants?

Ms. Ryan took one step forward to meet me. "Have you been getting a lesson on plants?" The question was not an idle one.

"Yes. Where did she learn so much about plants?"

"One of the nuns from the convent on our estate comes over regularly to give lessons to Sonia. I was hired to be her governess fifteen years ago when her mother died, but I soon discovered that I have no patience with children. Fortunately, Mr. Fitch needed someone to manage the house and his life. I am very good at managing things."

I could not disagree with her. She moved with a manner that implied directness and precision. She pointed me to a chair at the end of the patio. We both sat around a table piled with small cakes and sandwiches.

"Mrs. Munsing is a very good cook, but I am afraid we will have to let her go. All this talk of hers about murders! She gets all those ideas from reading those mystery stories to Sonia. Poison in the food! What a silly idea! Care for a sandwich?"

"How long has she been with the family?" I asked, taking a sandwich but not eating it.

"Oh, she has been here for... well, she was here before I came. Mr. Fitch hired her when his wife Amelia died. I've told Mr. Fitch that I thought he should let her go, but he is a very kind person and hates to send anyone on her way."

"And when did Darjo begin working here?"

"He was here even before Mr. Fitch came. Actually, he used to work for Amelia Fitch when her father owned this property. Darjo was a famous pilot in World War II, but he was shot down and held prisoner. He evidently hasn't been the same since. He used to take care of the planes that Amelia flew. She was a good pilot herself, I am told, and had several planes.

"Amelia's father had even built a small airport in the valley beyond the house. The land has been given over to the convent now. Occasionally, I hear a plane, so I think it's still in use. But I never walk over there. I don't like the woods; they are too dark."

I looked at the woods which surrounded the house and understood what she meant. I remembered how uncomfortable I had been when I was in the forest. "What does Darjo do now?"

"Not much. He's getting too old. He hated the other two wives, and he doesn't like me much either. If there were a murderer, it would probably be him. He doesn't like anything to disturb the life he has known. Mr. Fitch once tried to get some dogs to guard the property. The next morning we found them with their throats cut. It was horrible. We were sure Darjo had done it, but there was no real proof. We just know he doesn't like anything new coming and staying. More tea?"

"Why doesn't Mr. Fitch get rid of him?"

"Out of loyalty to his first wife. It was in her will that Darjo would be taken care of until he died. And that he could live here on this land." She sat forward in her chair and put a sweater around her shoulders. "It's getting cold out here. Why don't you go on down to the kitchen and talk to Mrs. Munsing? It's warm down there, and

after all, she's the one who started this investigation. I'm sure she'll have much to say."

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to hire	a) БЫТЬ СПОСОБНЫМ К ЧЕМУ-Л.
2. to manage	b) нанимать
3. to be good at smth.	с) управлять
4. to get rid of smb.	d) верность
5. loyalty	e) ИЗБАВИТЬСЯ ОТ КОГО-Л.
6. to disturb	f) охранять
7. to guard	g) завещание
8. proof	h) мешать
9. to be held prisoner	i) ужасный
10. will, <i>n</i>	j) БЫТЬ СБИТЫМ (<i>о самолёте</i>)
11. property	k) имение, собственность
12. horrible	l) находиться в плену
13. to be shot down	m) иногда
14. occasionally	n) ДОКАЗАТЕЛЬСТВО

2. Complete the following sentences.

1. "But I soon discovered that I have no patience ..."
2. "One of the nuns comes over regularly to give ..."
3. "If there were a murderer, ..."
4. "He doesn't like anything new ..."
5. "The next morning we found them ..."
6. "Mr. Fitch once tried to get some dogs ..."
7. "I don't like the woods ..."

3. True or false?

1. Ms. Ryan said that Darjo had a difficult character, but he was incapable of committing murder.
2. Judging by Ms. Ryan's words, Mr. Fitch was a generous and decent person.
3. Ms. Ryan confessed that she managed Mr. Fitch's life as well as his house.
4. Mrs. Munsing's main drawback, in Ms. Ryan's opinion, was her drinking problem.
5. Ms. Ryan advised Dwight to go to the kitchen and talk to Mrs. Munsing.
6. Ms. Ryan thought they did not need any investigation because the murders were all Mrs. Munsing's tales.

4. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. "He *attended to the planes* that Amelia flew."
2. "*Sometimes* I hear a plane, so I think it's still in use."
3. "Mr. Fitch once tried *to have* some dogs to guard the property."

4. "He *used to work* for Amelia Fitch when her father owned this property."
5. Why doesn't Mr. Fitch *dismiss him*?

5. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *to, on, from, in, about, with, before*. One preposition may be used twice.

1. "She gets all those ideas ... reading those mystery stories ... Sonia."
2. "Darjo was a famous pilot ... World War II."
3. "Why don't you go and talk ... Mrs. Munsing?"
4. "Have you been getting a lesson ... plants'?"
5. "It was ... her will that Darjo could live here ... this land."
6. "Where did she learn so much ... plants?"
7. "She was here ... I came".
8. "I think it's still ... use".
9. I could not disagree ... her.

6. Choose the right variant:

Saying that Darjo *hadn't been the same since*, Ms. Ryan meant that

- a) he was no longer the sane person he had been before
- b) his mood was changeable

7. How did Ms. Ryan explain the fact that they couldn't let the cook go?

8. Which of the reasons seems most likely to you?

- a) Ms. Ryan was so critical of Darjo because she disliked him.
- b) She knew the name of the real murderer and wanted to sidetrack the detective.

9. Comment on the fact that Dwight took a sandwich but did not eat it.

10. Which of the words are suitable to characterize Ms. Ryan?: *delicate, assertive, shy, businesslike, commanding, indecisive, practical-minded, direct, dreamy, powerful, having a strong character and a determined manner*. Prove your points making reference to the text.

Episode 8. *Down in the Kitchen*

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Where did Ms. Ryan take Dwight to?
2. What did the cook think of Ms. Ryan? Why, in her opinion, was Ms. Ryan not to be trusted?
3. Was Mrs. Munsing critical of the women's attitude to Sonia?

Ms. Ryan led me through the dark hall and down the steps into a large kitchen that was warm from the oven. "Mrs. Munsing, Detective Smith would like to talk with you before dinner. I hope he won't be in your way."

The old woman shot a nervous look in my direction and gave a slight nod in the direction of Ms. Ryan. Ms. Ryan turned to me and said she would see me at dinner and left. Mrs. Munsing made herself busy with preparing the food. I saw on the table the basket of leaves and herbs that Sonia had collected. The parsley was spread out on the table. I had never associated death with that innocent plant. But the more I was in this house, the more everything began to be associated with death. First appearances can be deceptive.

Mrs. Munsing had still not turned around. I started the conversation by asking, "What do you think of Ms. Ryan?" It proved to be a good opener.

"Oh, Mr. Smith, sir. She's an evil woman, that one. She acts all sweet and nice, but she's hard as nails. Don't trust her, Mr. Smith. Don't trust her." She grabbed the knife from the table top and began to chop the tops of the carrots. Pointing with her knife, she continued, "There has been nothing but trouble ever since she came to this house. He got her to take care of poor little Sonia, but she began to act as if she owned the house. You'd think she was the wife or something. Later, when Mr. Fitch married, she acted all sweet to the new wives, but here in the kitchen, she would complain about them getting in the way. And none of them had anything to do with poor little Sonia. If it hadn't been for the nun who comes in the morning to give her lessons, no one would pay any attention to her, except me and Darjo. Why, that little girl would be sitting in here at that table eating, and those women would come in here and ignore her. They would think because she was blind, they didn't have to notice her."

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. a good opener	a) внешность
2. appearance	b) кулинарные травы
3. herbs	c) хорошее начало разговора
4. to complain	d) мешать
5. to get in the way	e) жаловаться
6. evil, <i>adj.</i>	f) не замечать
7. to ignore	g) кивнуть
8. deceptive	h) бесчувственный, жестокий
9. to give a nod	i) обманчивый.
10. hard as nails	j) очень плохой

2. True or false?

1. According to Mrs. Munsing's words, no one cared for Sonia, except for herself and Darjo.
2. Mrs. Munsing disapproved of Ms. Ryan's behaviour.
3. Mrs. Munsing was attached to Sonia.

4. Dwight had chosen the right way to start a conversation with Mrs. Munsing.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. But the more I was in this house, the more everything began to be associated...
2. "She acts all sweet and nice, but ..."
3. First appearances can be ...
4. I started the conversation by asking ...

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

Mrs. Munsing most likely suspected

- a) Mr. Fitch
- b) one of the nuns
- c) Ms. Ryan

5. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *at, in, on, of, about, with*. One preposition may be used twice.

1. "I hope he won't be ... your way".
2. The old woman gave a slight nod ... the direction of Ms. Ryan.
3. Ms. Ryan said she would see me ... dinner and left.
4. The parsley was spread out ... the table.
5. I had never associated death ... parsley.
6. "He got her to take care ... poor little Sonia".
7. "But in the kitchen, she would complain ... them getting in the way".

6. Why did Mrs. Munsing shoot a nervous look in Dwight's direction when he came into the kitchen?

7. What words reveal Mrs. Munsing's attitude to Sonia?

8. Why didn't Mr. Munsing say anything against Darjo?

CHAPTER THREE

Parsley by the Bed

Directions: Read the passages and do the tasks following them.

Episode 1. *Sitting in the Dark*

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What did Dwight want to learn from Mrs. Munsing?
2. Was Mrs. Munsing sure the two women had been killed?
3. Did Dwight get an answer to his question?
4. Who else did Dwight want to talk to?
5. What did Mr. Fitch say about his feelings for his three wives and his motives for marrying them?

I wanted to find out why Mrs. Munsing had come to see the police. "Mrs. Munsing, why did you come to the police station?"

"Because of her, because of her... something has to be done about her before she does it again, before she kills someone else."

"Who, Mrs. Munsing? Who do you suspect of...?"

"Is dinner ready yet, Mrs. Munsing?" Ms. Ryan had entered the kitchen again. She no longer had the pleasant smile on her face. Her eyes were set hard and her shoulders squared.

"Why do you come asking? You know what time dinner is. It's always at 6 p.m." The old woman was defiant.

To me, it was obvious why Ms. Ryan had come asking. She must have been listening at the door. I excused myself and went to find Mr. Fitch.

Mr. Fitch was sitting in the dark in one of the rooms off the dining room. He was staring out of the window. I approached from behind his chair and followed his gaze. I saw the same figure with the hat disappear into the shadows of the forest.

"Who's that?"

"What? Oh, Mr. Smith. You gave me a start. I didn't see anyone come in."

"What was that in the distance?"

"Where? I don't see anything."

"It's gone now. But when I came this afternoon, I saw a figure with a straw hat disappear into the forest. And I thought I just saw it again."

"You must have seen one of the famous Indian ghosts that the people are always talking about. Don't trust your eyes, Mr. Smith. This mountain light will always fool you." He turned on a lamp on the table beside him and motioned for me to bring a chair next to him.

"Mr. Smith, I'm glad you've come. There has been a lot of uneasiness up here lately. This used to be a very quiet place. No problems, everyone got along very well. But lately, everyone is full of suspicions. I know what some of the town rumors are,

and I guess you do, too. That's probably why you were doing that investigative work in the town newsroom. Surprised I know that, eh? Well, Mr. Smith, very little happens in this town that I don't know about. But I can tell you that I loved all three of my wives; I did not marry them for their money, nor did I kill them for their money."

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. defiant	a) взгляд, взор
2. to suspect	b) слухи
3. to excuse oneself	c) напугать кого-л.
4. gaze, <i>n</i>	d) извиниться
5. to give smb. a start	e) подозрение
6. ghost	f) призрак
7. suspicion	g) ладить
8. to get along	h) жениться из-за денег
9. rumors	i) подозревать
10. to marry smb. for money	j) дерзкий

2. True or false?

1. Mr. Fitch was reading a book when Dwight entered the room.
2. He said that the figure with a straw hat was probably their gardener.
3. The host produced an impression of an open-hearted, sensible man.
4. Mr. Fitch was in the know of all Dwight's doings.
5. He denied killing his wives.
6. Mr. Fitch said that the relations in the household had always been strained.

3. Complete the sentences.

1. "Something has to be done before ..."
2. She must have been listening ...
3. "I did not marry them for ..."
4. "But lately, everyone is full of ..."
5. I excused myself and ...
6. She must have been listening ...
7. "You must have seen one of the famous ..."

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Mr. Fitch said that the figure with a straw hat was probably
 - a) Darjo
 - b) one of the nuns
 - c) a vision
2. In his conversation with Dwight, Mr. Fitch's tone was
 - a) humiliating
 - b) unfriendly
 - c) sincere, at least seemingly unaffected

5. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. I wanted *to clear out* why Mrs. Munsing had come to see the police.
2. "*Don't believe all you see*, Mr. Smith".
3. Mr. Fitch *switched on* a lamp on the table beside him.

6. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *in, out, of, to, along, for, about, on*. One preposition may be used twice.

1. Dwight wanted to find ... who Mrs. Munsing suspected ... murder.
2. It was obvious ... Dwight why Ms. Ryan had come asking.
3. Dwight saw a figure with a straw hat ... the distance.
4. The inhabitants of the house used to get ... very well.
5. The host of the house knew ... everything that happened ... the town.
6. He said that he had married ... love, and not ... money.

7. How did Mrs. Munsing demonstrate her attitude to Ms. Ryan?

8. In her conversation with Dwight, Ms. Ryan implied that Mrs. Munsing was not to be taken seriously. Why then had she been listening at the door?

Episode 2. *For Money or Love?*

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What did Mr. Fitch say about the role of money in his life?
2. Had all his wives been indifferent to money?
3. When and how did his first wife die?
4. Why did he hire Ms. Ryan?
5. What did Dwight hear when the music stopped?
6. What struck him when he entered his room after dinner?

"Money doesn't mean that much to me. It never means much to someone who has always had enough to get by. The only people who like money are those with a lot of it and those with none of it. My wives always had a lot of it, and they were always worried that someone was going to take it away from them. I shouldn't say that about my first wife, though. She was going to give up everything for our marriage. Her father thought I was just a fortune hunter. He was only reconciled with her when the baby was born. He loved his grandchild. He left everything to her, this land and all the holdings in town, on the condition that Amelia and I would never live together. Shortly after her father died, Amelia died in an airplane crash. Or at least we assume she died, she was never seen again.

"The little girl was only three. I couldn't raise a child myself, especially a blind child. I found Ms. Ryan and Mrs. Munsing to help out with the child. As it turned out, Ms. Ryan actually dislikes children and Mrs. Munsing is far too possessive of the child. Fortunately, there is a nun who lives at the convent on this property who

comes and gives Sonia her school lessons. She is a very normal child in spite of the fact that she has never been off this land and has never played with children her own age."

From the next room, I could hear classical music coming from a record player. I recognized it as Albinoni's Adagio in G Minor.

"Your daughter is fond of music?"

"Yes. When you can't see, you tend to listen. The nun has taught her much about music. I know nothing about it."

Suddenly the music stopped, and I heard the unpleasant sounds of two women arguing next door. Then I heard running and a door slam in the distant part of the house.

The next instant the door opened, and Ms. Ryan came in and announced dinner. She explained that Sonia wasn't feeling well; she had a headache.

Mrs. Munsing, evidently, had a headache, too, since she stayed in the kitchen and did not serve dinner. Conversation at dinner was kept on safe topics like the difference between life in Flagstaff and New York City. After dinner, we all headed for our rooms. My room was on the top floor. Below me was Ms. Ryan. Across the hall was Sonia's room. Mr. Fitch slept on the second floor under Sonia's room.

The first thing I saw when I came into the room was a bouquet of parsley on the bedside table.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to get by	a) проходимец
2. a fortune hunter	b) пожертвовать всем
3. to be reconciled with smb.	c) сводить концы с концами
4. to give up everything	d) оставить всё кому-л.
5. to leave everything to smb.	e) воспитывать ребёнка
6. to head for	f) помириться с кем-л.
7. to raise a child	g) полагать
8. to tend	h) при условии
9. to assume	i) направиться
10. on the condition	j) стремиться

2. True or false?

1. Mr. Fitch said that money had not meant much to his wives.
2. He did not tell Dwight the story of his first marriage.
3. Mr. Fitch gave Sonia her school lessons himself.
4. He said that Ms. Ryan had taught her much about music.
5. Dwight heard the sounds of two women arguing next door.
6. At dinner, they spoke about the crime situation in New York and Flagstaff.

3. Complete the sentences.

1. "The only people who like money are ..."

2. "She was going to give up everything ..."
3. "When you can't see, you ..."
4. "Shortly after her father died, Amelia ..."
5. "Her father thought I was just ..."
6. The first thing I saw when I came into the room was ...

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Mr. Fitch said that Amelia's father
 - a) had forgiven her completely
 - b) had made peace with her, but did not make her his heiress unconditionally
 - c) had not forgiven his daughter
2. In his conversation with Dwight, Mr. Fitch stressed that
 - a) he knew the value of money
 - b) money was not the main value in his life
 - c) he did not care for money at all
3. Mr. Fitch said that Ms. Ryan was not his daughter's governess because
 - a) she did not have a way with children
 - b) Sonia hated Ms. Ryan
 - c) Ms. Ryan did not know how to teach a blind child

5. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. "She was ready to *sacrifice* everything for our marriage."
2. "Her father thought that I was just *a money gainer*."
3. "He *made up with Amelia* only after the baby was born."
4. "The old man *bequeathed* everything to his granddaughter."
5. "Soon after her father died, Amelia *perished* in an air crash."
6. "At least we *believe* she died."
7. "I couldn't *bring up* a child myself."
8. "*It appeared that* Ms. Ryan actually disliked children."
9. I heard the unpleasant sounds of two women *quarreling* next door.
10. After dinner, we all *went* to our rooms.

6. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *in, of, to, by, for, on, from, away*. One preposition may be used twice.

1. Mr. Fitch said that his last two wives had always worried lest someone should take it ... from them
2. Money did not matter much ... him.
3. After dinner I headed ... my room.
4. We were speaking about the difference between life ... a small town and New York.
5. I was struck ... the sight ... parsley ... the bedside table.
6. They preferred to speak ... safe topics.
7. He could hear classical music coming ... a record player.

- 7. Was it important for Dwight to learn that Mr. Fitch and his wife Amelia were to live separately according to the old man's will? Could this information be of help in his further investigation?**
- 8. Why did Sonia dislike Ms. Ryan?**
- 9. Who, do you think, had put the parsley by Dwight's bed and why?**
- 10. What feelings and thoughts might the bouquet of parsley provoke in Dwight?**

CHAPTER FOUR

Lost in Thought

Directions: Read the passage and do the tasks following it.

Episode 1. A Review of the Case

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Why did Dwight sleep fitfully that night?
2. Who and what was he thinking about?
3. Was every member of the household under suspicion?
4. Who did Dwight suspect the most at that phase of investigation?
5. Why did he think he might be the next victim?
6. What did he want to do the next morning?

I did not sleep well that night. I listened to every sound. And there were lots of them. I decided I would not spend another night in that house. I planned to finish my investigation and leave that morning. I would let the chief figure out who had killed the wives. But I knew he didn't really want to know. Nobody wanted to know. And maybe they weren't murdered. It could all have been accidental: a missing plane, food poisoning, a fall. But what if someone fixed the motor in the plane so it would malfunction at a certain point; what if someone put some poisonous leaves in the food; what if the third wife was pushed from the cliff rather than fell? Did the same person kill all three? Or was the first an accident and the second two murders? Were the last two wives killed by one person or by two different people?

I tried to summarize what I knew.

Darjo: He hated change. He hated the fact that these other two women were taking the attention away from the memory of Amelia Fitch. Maybe, he had another motive, though, for getting rid of Amelia Fitch. Maybe, she knew something about his past that she planned to reveal and he would lose the security of his job. That doesn't seem likely, considering they were both flyers. But, yet, maybe, he was jealous of her since she could fly and he no longer could. I will have to find out more about him, even though he doesn't like talking to people...especially to me.

Sonia Fitch: Who would suspect a lovely fifteen-year-old capable of murder, especially a lovely, blind girl? She does know an incredible amount about poisonous plants, and she could easily have arranged to put some poisonous substance in the second Mrs. Fitch's food. And she was the one walking with the third Mrs. Fitch when she fell to her death. Her motive was like Darjo's: she didn't like change...especially when change meant a new mother. It could be the typical difficulties between stepmother and stepdaughter carried to an extreme.

Ms. Ryan: Here again competition is the motive. She is a very powerful woman, very determined in her manner. She effectively controls the house, the business, and Mr. Fitch. She obviously wasn't pleased at the prospect of sharing her

power with another woman. She could have easily arranged for some poisonous substance to be put in the food of Mrs. Fitch, Number Two, and could as easily have pushed Number Three over the cliff. Yet, Sonia would have been there to hear the struggle, the scream, and the extra footsteps. With her sensitive ears, she could have detected the person from their footsteps. Unless, of course, she wanted to protect the murderer. But why would she want to protect Ms. Ryan? The fight between them last night seemed a continuation of a long struggle.

Mr. Fitch: Yes, finally, Mr. Fitch. The man who has the most to profit from the deaths of three rich wives. Of course, he would give lots of money to the town. It helps to have friends at city hall if you plan to murder your wives and do not want an investigation. But why would he call up the police chief and ask that an investigation be carried out? Did he think that people would listen to the crazy Mrs. Munsing?... She is probably not crazy, but overcome by fear. Does she think she will be the next one on the list?...or will it be me? Why was the parsley put by my bed last night? Did he call me here to get rid of a curious police detective that he has no financial control over? Did he suspect that the police chief would not do an investigation into the mysterious death of the young detective from New York? In that, he would probably be right.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to figure out	a) узнать
2. to summarize	b) получать выгоду от
3. to be capable of murder	c) устроить
4. to reveal	d) выяснить
5. to be jealous of smb.	e) завидовать к.-л.
6. stepdaughter	f) разоблачить
7. to profit from	g) быть способным на убийство
8. curious	h) подытожить
9. to find out	i) любознательный
10. to arrange	j) падчерица

2. True or false?

1. Dwight was planning to stay in the house for some more time in order to investigate the case to the end.
2. He knew who had killed the women, but he did not have enough proofs.
3. The detective was sure that the deaths were accidental.
4. He wanted to find out more about Darjo.
5. Sonia's knowledge of poisonous plants seemed suspicious to Dwight.
6. Dwight thought that Sonia could have had difficulties with her stepmothers.
7. In the detective's opinion, Darjo could have killed Amelia Fitch out of fear of losing his job.
8. Dwight supposed that Ms. Ryan could have a motive for killing Mr. Fitch's two wives.
9. He admitted that Mr. Fitch was the beneficiary of the deaths of his wives.
10. Dwight was afraid that his own life was in danger.

3. Complete the sentences.

1. I planned to finish ...
2. Maybe, he had another motive for ...
3. Who would suspect a lovely fifteen-year-old ...
4. She obviously wasn't pleased at the prospect of sharing her power ...
5. It could be the typical difficulties between stepmother and ...
6. And she was the one walking with the third Mrs. Fitch when she
7. Mr. Fitch: the man who has the most to profit ...
8. It helps to have friends at city hall when ...
9. She is probably not crazy, but ...
10. Did he call me here to get rid of ... ?

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Dwight did not sleep well that night because
 - a) the weather was bad
 - b) it was too noisy all around the house
 - c) he felt uncomfortable and not quite safe
2. Dwight thought that
 - a) the deaths were accidental
 - b) all the women had been murdered
 - c) there were not enough proofs for any of the versions
3. Thinking of Darjo, Dwight
 - a) thought that the forester had no motive for the murders
 - b) admitted that there might be a reason for his killing the women
 - c) suspected Darjo the most
4. In case with Sonia, Dwight
 - a) was sure she was innocent because she was blind and too young to commit murder
 - b) saw no motive on her part
 - c) thought she might have a cause, too
5. As for Ms. Ryan, Dwight
 - a) believed she was most likely to be the murderer
 - b) saw no reason for her to kill the women
 - c) considered her to be one of the suspects
6. Considering the person of Mr. Fitch, Dwight
 - a) thought he was free of suspicion because he had asked for investigation
 - b) believed he might be the main suspect, but there were no proofs to it
 - c) didn't suspect him because he was a sincere, well-bred and hospitable person

5. Find proofs to the following.

1. Dwight felt uncomfortable that night.
2. He had doubts as to the case.
3. Dwight knew too little about Darjo.
4. Sonia might have a motive for killing her stepmothers.
5. Ms. Ryan was not free of suspicion.
6. Mr. Fitch's behaviour was hard to explain.

6. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. I *slept fitfully* that night.
2. I *was going* to finish my investigation and leave in the morning.
3. I would let the chief *clear out* who had killed the wives.
4. And maybe they weren't *killed*.
5. I tried *to put together* all the bits of information I had.
6. Darjo *disliked* change.
7. Maybe, Amelia knew something about his past that she planned to *make known* and in that case he would lose his job.
8. The girl does know *a lot* about poisonous plants.
9. She was walking with Mrs. Fitch when the woman *fell off the cliff and died*.
10. Ms. Ryan *effectively manages* the house, the business, and Mr. Fitch.
11. With her sensitive ears, the blind girl could have *identified* the person from their steps.
12. Of course, it would help if you planned *to kill* your wives and *did not want anybody to investigate their deaths*.
13. Did he think that people would *believe* the crazy Mrs. Munsing?
14. Mrs. Munsing was probably not crazy, but *scared to death*.
15. Did she think *she would be killed next*?
16. Does he want to get rid of a police detective who is *independent of him financially*?
17. Would the police chief *investigate* the suspicious death of the young detective?

7. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *from, in, of, out, to, with, between, over, for*. One preposition may be used several times.

1. The chief would not be eager to find ... who the murderer was.
2. Someone might have put poisonous leaves ... the food.
3. The third wife might have been pushed ... the cliff.
4. Probably, the malfunctioning ... the motor ... the plane had not been accidental.
5. Maybe, Darjo was jealous ... Amelia because she could fly and he couldn't.
6. One couldn't suspect a lovely girl ... cruel murder.
7. When the difficulties are carried ... an extreme, they can end ... murder.
8. Ms. Ryan was very determined ... manner.
9. She didn't want to share her power ... anybody else.

10. Sonia could have detected the murderer ... his or her footsteps.
11. The fight ... Sonia and Ms. Ryan had been going on ... a long time.
12. Mr. Fitch could have profited the most ... the deaths of his three wives.
13. He was not afraid to ask the police chief to carry ... an investigation.
14. Did he want to get rid ... of a curious police detective from New York?

8. If you were Dwight, who would you suspect the most? Or, maybe, you would not suspect anyone at all?

9. Who was the only person Dwight did not suspect at that phase of investigation?

10. Why was Mr. Fitch not afraid to ask Dwight to investigate the case?

CHAPTER FIVE

The Garden in the Valley

Directions: Read the passages and do the tasks following them.

Episode 1. *All's Quiet at the Convent*

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What episode aroused Dwight's curiosity?
2. What scene surprised him at the convent?
3. What impressed him the most about his visit to the convent?

The sound of a small plane above my head interrupted my thoughts. The plane was very close to the earth over the airstrip in the valley. I took my binoculars from their case and focused on the plane below. It rolled to a stop by one of the buildings near the convent. To my surprise, a woman got out dressed in a long black dress with a straw hat on her head.

She tied the plane down and headed into the convent. I decided to pay a visit to the convent.

As I approached the convent, I found a young nun working in the garden of the main house. She looked at me with suspicion. I greeted her and explained I was a guest of Mr. Fitch. Her manner changed, and, without speaking, she invited me into the house.

There was a group of nuns sitting around a table waiting for someone or something. It looked very strange: five nuns sitting around a table with nothing on it, but a record player.

They looked up, and the young nun gestured toward the Fitch home to explain without words where I had come from. The nuns nodded, but no one spoke. The young nun took a seat at the table. There was one empty chair, but no one invited me to sit in it. I stood in awkward silence, and they sat in thoughtful calm.

I noticed some records on a shelf; all were religious songs, but one had no label. I picked it up out of curiosity. The second I picked it up, every nun lifted her finger to her lips to warn me to be silent. I imitated the gesture and put the record on the table. Now I was really curious to know what the record was.

I wondered if this was a group of nuns that never spoke. If that was so, how did they teach Sonia? How could the mute teach the blind? In the distance, a bell began to ring; all the nuns rose from their chairs and left the room and me. No one made a motion for me to follow them, so I stayed at the table.

The record player in the middle of the table in this room with no other furnishings seemed out of place. I picked up the record without a label again. I placed it on the machine and started it. I heard the familiar sounds of the Adagio that I had heard in the Fitch home coming from Sonia's record player. Someone else heard it too. A door quickly opened and a woman walked directly to the record player; she lifted the

record from the machine. She turned to me and said, "This is the quiet hour," and then left the room. The woman in the black dress with the straw hat had spoken.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. binoculars	a) тихий час
2. convent	b) немой
3. nun	c) неловкий
4. awkward	d) монастырь (<i>женский</i>)
5. record, <i>n</i>	e) зд. название
6. label, <i>n</i>	f) бинокль
7. mute	g) монахиня
8. furnishings	h) предупредить
9. the quiet hour	i) пластинка
10. to warn	j) предметы домашнего обихода

2. Complete the following sentences.

1. As I approached the convent, I ...
2. Without speaking, she invited me ...
3. The nuns nodded, but ...
4. How could the mute teach ...?
5. The woman in the black dress ...

3. True or false?

1. The plane landed near the main house.
2. It was Darjo who got out of the plane.
3. Dwight was invited into the house.
4. The nuns in the room were listening to music.
5. They spoke to Dwight and offered him a seat at the table.
6. The nuns did not want Dwight to play the record.
7. Dwight wondered if the nuns were mute or simply kept silence.
8. The nuns left the room at the sound of a bell.

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. The nuns did not speak because
 - a) it was the quiet hour
 - b) they were all dumb
 - c) they most likely had a reason to be silent
2. Dwight stayed in the room because he
 - a) was not invited to follow the others
 - b) was waiting for the woman with the straw hat to come in
 - c) wanted to examine the room more closely

5. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *with, for, on, in, to, from, into, at, out*. One preposition may be used more than once.

1. It seemed that the nuns were waiting ... someone or something.
2. A woman with a straw hat on her head got ... of the plane.
3. The young nun looked at me ... suspicion.
4. I stood ... awkward silence.
5. I noticed some records ... a shelf.
6. There was no label ... the record I picked up
7. She invited me ... the house
8. The woman lifted the record ... the machine.
9. Every nun lifted her finger ... her lips.
10. No one made a motion ... me to follow them so I stayed ... the table.

6. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. No one *invited* me to follow them.
2. There was one empty chair, but no one *offered it to me*.
3. The *moment* I picked it up, every nun lifted her finger to her lips.

7. Find proofs to the following.

1. Dwight was not confused when he found himself in an awkward situation.
2. He was patient and observant, as became a real detective.

8. Would Dwight have got interested in the convent but for the woman with a straw hat on her head?

9. If you were in Dwight's place, would you have left the room at once in search of some other inhabitants?

Episode 2. Mrs. Munsing's Missing

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What surprised Dwight about the convent garden?
2. Why did the woman with the straw hat advise him to go back to the main house?
3. Who did Dwight see when he entered the library?
4. What news did Mr. Fitch break to him?
5. Why was Ms. Ryan indignant?
6. Was Mrs. Munsing free from suspicion?

I thought that when the quiet hour was over, someone might come and speak to me. I walked out to the garden and read the names of the plants written on labels stuck in the earth. The garden was arranged in the same manner as the one at the Fitch house. It was full of medicinal plants. I could easily see where Sonia had learned so much.

The young nun I had seen earlier came out of a back door and walked into the garden with a basket. She tried not to look at me. I tried to start a conversation, but she would not respond.

“There’s no use talking to her. The nuns at this convent are not allowed to speak.”

I turned and saw the woman with the straw hat.

“In fact, there’s no use talking to anyone here, Mr. Smith. I suggest you go back to the main house.”

She turned and disappeared from sight. The young nun had also gone. It seemed I had no choice but to leave. Who is that woman? Why can she speak? How does she know my name? Is she a nun? Why does she have a plane?

I hoped Mrs. Munsing would be able to give me the answers. I also wanted to find out who the ‘she’ was that Mrs. Munsing mentioned last night in the kitchen.

I returned to the main house, changed into my own clothes and found Mr. Fitch and Ms. Ryan together in the library. They seemed barely aware that I had come into the room.

“Has something happened?”

They both looked at me sharply. “I’m sorry, Mr. Smith,” Mr. Fitch answered. “It seems Mrs. Munsing has gone. She took all her clothes and goods and left in the middle of the night. We don’t seem to...”

“You don’t seem to. You don’t seem to. Everything will be ruined now,” Ms. Ryan yelled. “It’s all his fault.” She pointed at me. “If you hadn’t brought him up here, we could have gone on just as before. But now...” Too angry to continue, Ms. Ryan stormed from the room.

“You will have to excuse her, Mr. Smith. She thinks Mrs. Munsing is mentally ill and might do something foolish on the outside. Ms. Ryan even thinks Mrs. Munsing might have had a hand in the death of my last two wives because she was jealous of their relationship with Sonia. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I must make sure Ms. Ryan is all right.”

I didn’t need one more suspect at this time. Mrs. Munsing could have killed the other two women as easily as the others could have. Jealousy is as strong a motive as money.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. label, <i>n</i>	a) зд. Не заметить
2. to change into (<i>some clothes</i>)	b) табличка
3. not to be aware	c) переодеться
4. to yell	d) за пределами дома
5. mentally ill	e) быть замешанным в чём-л.
6. to have a hand in smth.	f) ревность
7. to make sure	g) душевно больной
8. suspect, <i>n</i>	h) кричать
9. jealousy	i) убедиться
10. on the outside	j) подозреваемый

2. True or false?

1. Dwight was interested in the woman with the straw hat.
2. In the main house, Dwight was told that Mrs. Munsing had fallen ill.
3. Ms. Ryan did not stand on ceremony with Dwight.
4. She suspected that Mrs. Munsing might be the murderer.
5. Mrs. Munsing's disappearance gave rise to doubts as to her innocence.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. I thought that when the quiet hour was over ...
2. She turned and disappeared ...
3. "I suggest you go back to ..."
4. It seemed I had no choice but ...
5. "She thinks Mrs. Munsing is mentally ill and ..."
6. Jealousy is as strong a motive as ...

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Dwight returned to the house because
 - a) he wanted to talk to Mrs. Munsing
 - b) he needed to change (*to put on different clothes*)
 - c) it was time for dinner
2. In the main house, Dwight learnt that
 - a) Mrs. Munsing had made a scandal
 - b) had disappeared
 - c) had tried to poison Ms. Ryan
3. Ms. Ryan was angry with
 - a) Mrs. Munsing
 - b) Sonia
 - c) Mr. Fitch and Dwight

5. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. "*I suggest you should return* to the main house."
2. It seemed *there was nothing left for me to do but* return.
3. They seemed *hardly* aware that I had come into the room.
4. Ms. Ryan left the room *in a fit of anger*.
5. Too angry *to go on speaking*, Ms. Ryan left the room.
6. "You will have *to forgive* her, Mr. Smith".
7. "Mrs. Munsing *might have been involved in* the death of my last two wives."

6. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *in, to, into, of, at, out*. One preposition may be used more than once.

1. I returned ... the main house and changed ... my own clothes.
2. Mrs. Munsing had left ... the middle ... the night.

3. Ms. Ryan pointed ... me in anger.
4. I didn't need one more suspect ... this time.
5. The garden was arranged ... the same manner as the one ... the Fitch house.
6. I wanted to find ... who Mrs. Munsing considered to be the murderer.

7. Why was Ms. Ryan so alarmed when Mrs. Munsing had left? Couldn't they hire another cook instead of the "crazy" old woman?

8. Ms. Ryan suspected Mrs. Munsing of murder and thought it was the reason for her disappearance. Why then did she blame Dwight, saying that it was all his fault?

9. Could there be any other version of Mrs. Munsing's sudden disappearance? After all, Dwight thought that she might be the next one on the list.

10. What impression did Mr. Fitch produce outwardly, judging by his speech, manner and behaviour? Use the following words making reference to the story: *hearty, composed, sincere, hospitable, generous, intelligent, honest, sensitive to the needs of others, decent, polite, sensible, quiet, tactful, well-bred.*

Episode 3. *The Woman with the Straw Hat*

Questions to concentrate on:

1. What did Dwight learn from Darjo?
2. Did he understand what had made Darjo talk to him?
3. How did the woman with the straw hat react to Dwight's calling her by her name?

I went to the back of the house where I could sit on a bench and look over the property. Down in the valley, I could see the main building of the convent. I got out my binoculars and focused them on the garden. The woman with the straw hat was cutting plants.

"You won't see many birds in that direction."

I turned around and saw Darjo staring at me. His rifle hung loosely from his hand. "Nothing flies at this time of year."

"That nun down there does," I said.

"She ain't no nun; She's just living with them. She never leaves this valley unless she goes up in the air in her plane. She never goes to town like the rest of them. She does come up here and take care of Sonia; she's been taking care of Sonia ever since that army sergeant Ms. Ryan decided that she hated kids. No one ever trusted crazy old Munsing to do it."

"I heard she's gone."

"Yeah, she's gone." With that, he left me and walked into the woods.

I stared after him and wondered why he had bothered to talk to me. But I turned my attention back to the garden below. I followed the woman with the straw hat as she walked around the garden, through the gate, and towards the main house.

Behind me, I heard the Adagio coming from Sonia's room. I watched the woman with the straw hat come up the hill. As she approached the top, she refused to look in my direction. She concentrated on a piece of paper she was holding with both hands.

As she passed, I said hello. She ignored me. I stood up and followed her.

"Have you come to give Sonia her lesson on plants?" She still did not respond.

"It was a pleasure meeting you...Amelia."

She stopped for an instant and then continued into the house without looking back.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to concentrate	a) ворота
2. to ignore	b) «гвардии сержант» (<i>ирон.</i>)
3. to respond	c) сосредоточить внимание на чём.-л.
4. loosely	d) не обращать внимания
5. gate	e) пристально смотреть
6. valley	f) ответить
7. for an instant	g) разговориться
8. army sergeant	h) долина
9. to stare	i) на мгновение
10. to bother to talk	j) свободно

2. True or false?

1. Darjo said that the woman with the straw hat was not a nun.
2. Dwight called the woman with the straw hat by name.
3. Darjo said the woman with the straw hat lived in the house together with the Fitches.
4. She often went to town with the rest of the nuns.
5. Darjo called Mrs. Munsing a crazy old woman
6. The woman with the straw hat looked sharply at Dwight.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. I wondered why he had bothered ...
2. Behind me I heard ...
3. As she approached the top ...
4. "She never leaves this valley unless ..."
5. With that, he left me and ...
6. She continued into the house without ...
7. Down in the valley, I could see ...
8. She concentrated on ...

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. After the visit to the convent, the person Dwight was interested in was
 - a) Darjo
 - b) the woman with the straw hat
 - c) Mr. Fitch
2. The most important event of the day for Dwight was that
 - a) he had managed to identify the woman with the straw hat
 - b) Mrs. Munsing had disappeared
 - c) he had learnt the secret of the convent

5. Find proofs to the fact that Darjo disliked Ms. Ryan and did not hold Mrs. Munsing in respect.

6. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. I *didn't understand* why Darjo had bothered to talk to me.
2. "She left the valley only when she *flew her plane*."
3. I watched the woman with the straw hat *ascend the hill*.
4. She *focused* on a piece of paper she was holding with both hands.
5. When I addressed her, she *did not pay any attention* to it.

7. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: *on, from, without, at, for*. One preposition may be used twice.

1. I turned and saw Darjo staring ... me.
2. I focused my binoculars ... the garden.
3. His rifle hung loosely ... his hand.
4. I asked if she had come to give Sonia her lesson ... plants.
5. She stopped ... an instant.
6. She passed by me ... looking back.

8. Why could it be important for Dwight to learn that the woman with the straw hat was not a nun?

9. Was it strange that she never went to town?

10. What had helped Dwight to put two and two together and solve the mystery of the woman with the straw hat?

CHAPTER SIX

The End of the Case

Directions: Read the passage and do the tasks following it.

Episode 1. A Letter from A. F.

Questions to concentrate on:

1. Where did Dwight hurry after his encounter with Amelia?
2. Did he tell his story to the chief?
3. What was he busy with till the end of his working day?
4. What surprise awaited him in the afternoon when he returned home from the office?

I left the Fitch house without saying thank you to my hosts. I ran down the hill and stopped a passing car. I had a lot to tell the chief. I wondered how much he already knew.

The car that picked me up stopped in front of the police station; inside I was told the chief was away for a few days. My tale would have to wait. I spent the afternoon at my desk trying to piece the story together. At five o'clock, I had finished my report and returned to Mrs. Johnson's house.

She said she had been worried about me since I had been away and hadn't told her where I was. It was just like being home with my mother again. She handed me a letter that had been delivered by hand in the afternoon. The address was written in a large, clear hand.

Dear Mr. Smith,

We always had such a quiet life on the hill. When my father was alive, he never allowed visitors. Darjo was the only person my father had confidence in; he never had any in me. Nor in my choice of a husband. When he died of a heart attack after my marriage, I blamed myself and was overcome with guilt. I would have killed myself, but I had a little daughter to take care of and a husband I loved. To keep the land and the money, my husband and I were prohibited by my father's will from living together. It seemed that the only way to provide for my daughter and husband and still stay close to the land I loved was to "disappear." Small plane crashes are very convenient.

It was a very difficult life for both my husband and me.

Fortunately, I had the comfort of the good Sisters of the Valley who sheltered me. I never had to worry about their talking to someone about me.

My husband was not a good businessman, as my father had suspected. He began to lose our fortune, and we were faced with selling the land I loved and, perhaps, separation. I reluctantly agreed to his plan to marry a wealthy woman. That plan was helped along by the efforts of Ms. Ryan, a very capable woman who was my best friend at school.

One wife led to another, and you know the rest. What you don't know is: how did those women die? and why did we call the police in?

Mrs. Munsing was letting her suspicions run in unpleasant directions, and we could never take such a crazy person into our confidence. We thought we could appease her with a police investigation. We felt safe leaving the investigation to our local police; we had not counted on your cleverness, however. The chief of police is a kind soul, but not very intelligent. He was more concerned with keeping my husband's goodwill than in doing his duty. Besides, the deaths were accidental in a manner of speaking.

Mrs. Munsing herself killed the second Mrs. Fitch, but only by her own stupidity. She mistakenly used the leaves of a poisonous plant instead of mint in the lemonade she gave the second Mrs. Fitch. But was that her fault really? I grew the plant and Sonia picked the leaves and gave them to Mrs. Munsing. The rest was fate.

The death of the third Mrs. Fitch was fate as well. She became frightened when she saw all the five of us coming toward her along the narrow cliff path. She took an unfortunate step backwards and fell off the cliff. Could we really be to blame?

I'm sorry we won't be able to answer any more of your questions. You got more information than you need, anyway. We had hoped to frighten you off by putting the parsley next to your bed. But you seemed not to be fooled by our theatrics. We did give a good performance. Don't you think so?

The five of us have flown to a spot we had prepared for such an emergency as this. And we have no intention of returning to Arizona.

Should you ever see Mrs. Munsing, please give her our regards. I imagine she returned to her family in Keokuk. We wish you every possible success in Flagstaff.

Warmly,
Amelia Fitch

I waited for the sound of a plane overhead, but it never came. Mrs. Johnson called me to dinner, which reminded me I hadn't called home in over a week.

1. Match each numbered word on the left with its translation on the right.

1. to blame smb.	a) подвозить кого-л.
2. to be written in a clear hand	b) страдать от чувства своей вины
3. to shelter smb.	с) доверять кому-л.
4. to have confidence in smb.	d) зд. обеспечить прикрытие
5. to pick smb. up	e) чрезвычайная ситуация
6. to call the police in	f) быть написанным разборчивым почерком
7. emergency	g) запрещать
8. to be overcome with guilt	h) в некотором смысле
9. to prohibit	i) винить кого-л.
10. to remind	j) по ошибке
11. mistakenly	к) напоминать
12. in a manner of speaking	l) вызвать полицию

2. True or false?

1. Dwight made a report about his investigation staying in the Fitch house.
2. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, he had a talk with the police chief.
3. Amelia Fitch gave her life story in her letter to Detective Smith.
4. She wrote that she was the only person her father had trusted.
5. Her husband had turned out to be a poor businessman.
6. Ms. Ryan was a relative of Amelia Fitch.
7. Amelia confessed that she felt guilty of her father's death.
8. She admitted that they had tried to mystify and scare the detective.
9. The Fitches had foreseen such an outcome and had chosen a place to move to.
10. Mrs. Johnson's worrying about Dwight reminded him of his home.

3. Complete the following sentences.

1. At the police station, I was told ...
2. I spent the afternoon ...
3. It was just like being home ...
4. The address was written in ...
5. "My husband was not a good businessman, as my father ..."
6. "We were faced with ..."
7. "I reluctantly agreed to ..."
8. "Darjo was the only person my father ..."
9. "We had not counted ..."
10. "My husband and I were prohibited by my father's will ..."

4. Choose the variant that suits best.

1. Dwight returned to Flagstaff
 - a) taking a bus
 - b) stopping a passing car
 - c) hiring a taxi
2. He spent the afternoon
 - a) working on his report
 - b) talking with his chief
 - c) having a rest in his lodging
3. Amelia and her husband had staged an air crash
 - a) in order to be able to live together
 - b) trying to conceal the truth from their daughter
 - c) for the sake of Mr. Fitch's business
4. Mr. Fitch had asked for police investigation because he
 - a) wanted to dispel Mrs. Munsing's suspicions
 - b) was sure he was not guilty
 - c) was suffering from pricks of conscience
5. After talking to Amelia, Dwight ran down the hill because he
 - a) was excited and needed a bit of exercise

- b) hurried to impress his chief by his success
- c) had solved the case and felt that it was unsafe for him to stay there any longer

5. Use synonymous expressions from the text.

1. I left the house *without having thanked my hosts*.
2. The police chief *was out*.
3. I would have *to tell him my story later*.
4. I spent the afternoon at my desk trying *to make the story seem logical*.
5. Amelia's father *never had guests*.
6. Darjo was the only person *he trusted*.
7. Amelia considered herself *to be guilty of her father's death*.
8. They *were not allowed to live together*.
9. "We were *confronted with* selling the land."
10. "I *unwillingly* agreed to the plan."
11. "We thought we could *pacify* her with a police investigation."
12. "The police chief *cared more for* my husband's goodwill than for his work."
13. "She *got scared* when she saw us coming towards her."
14. "We *are not planning* to return to Arizona."
15. "But you *were not likely to be deceived by our theatrics*."

6. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition: of, about, after, into, by, along, off, with, for, in, to. One preposition may be used several times.

1. The old man did not approve ... his daughter's choice ... a husband.
2. Her father died ... a heart attack shortly ... their marriage.
3. The landlady said she had been worried ... me.
4. The letter had been delivered ... hand.
5. They decided to call the police ...
6. "Such a crazy person could not be taken ... our confidence."
7. "We were confronted ... selling the land."
8. "She got scared at the sight of five people approaching her ... the narrow cliff path."
9. Taking a step backwards, she fell ... the cliff.
10. They had flown ... a spot prepared ... such an emergency.
11. Amelia wished the young detective success ... his career ... Flagstaff.

7. Find proofs to the following.

1. Amelia was not happy about her husband's plan to marry a wealthy woman.
2. Mr. Fitch had not expected Dwight to solve the case.
3. They had taken measures not to be arrested.

8. Had Dwight solved the case before he received the letter? What information did the letter add to the evidence he had collected?

Questions for Discussion

1. In her letter, Amelia wrote: “She became frightened when she saw all five of us coming toward her along the narrow cliff path”. Who were those five people who had scared the third Mrs. Fitch to death in the mountains?
2. Was Darjo among the five people on board Amelia’s plane? What makes you think so?
3. What was the role of each member of the household in their criminal affairs?
4. Could any of them be justified?
5. Why had Darjo spoken?
6. Do you believe a child of 15 could be so cruel?
7. Did the Fitches think they were free of suspicion in the eyes of the town folk?
8. Did they care for public opinion?
9. Were the Fitches quite happy?
10. Why did they leave Flagstaff?
11. When did they take a decision to flee?
12. Was there a danger of their doing harm to Dwight after he had revealed the truth about their crimes?
13. What might Amelia be reading when she approached the house?
14. Could Dwight have proved his version of the case without Amelia’s letter? Would the chief have been contented with Dwight’s explanations without the letter?
15. Why did Amelia write a letter to Dwight?
16. Was she not jealous of her husband’s relations with Ms. Ryan? If she was, why didn’t she try to change anything in her life?
17. Would anyone have doubted Amelia’s dying in an air crash but for the suspicious deaths of Mr. Fitch’s second and third wives?
18. How could the Fitch case influence Dwight’s career?
19. How would the chief, the police officers and the town folk react to the news of the Fitches’ departure?
20. Had the chief suspected Mr. Fitch was a murderer or would it be shocking news to him?
21. Would Dwight be considered a hero or would he be cursed by all?

22. Would it be possible for him to continue working in Flagstaff?
23. Would he report to the FBI and, probably, go on with his investigation?
24. Was it possible to locate the fugitives?
25. Could they be brought before the court and convicted of their crimes?
26. Would Dwight make any attempts to find Mrs. Munsing and get some additional information?
27. Was Amelia's father right in keeping his daughter and her husband apart by his will?
28. What would have happened if he had left everything to Amelia unconditionally?
29. Would Mr. Fitch have given up his plan of marrying rich women if it were not for Dwight?
30. Would he have lost all his money if it were not for Ms. Ryan's managing his business successfully?
31. Did Dwight have all the makings of a smart detective?
32. What qualities had helped him solve the case?

Quiz

a) Going over the main points of the story.

1. What can you say about the main character's social background, education, and family relations?
2. What position was he offered in Flagstaff?
3. What had happened there shortly before his arrival?
4. How did he get accommodation in Flagstaff?
5. Why did his colleagues give him an unfriendly welcome?
6. What sort of man was his chief?
7. What rules did the police chief want his subordinates to obey?
8. Why did Dwight go to the local newspaper office?
9. What did he learn about the Fitch family?
10. What made the chief angry? Why did he find fault with Dwight?
11. Why was Dwight put on the Fitch case?
12. Did he suspect anyone more than the others in the Fitch house?
13. Did he admit the deaths of Mr. Fitch's last two wives might be accidental?
14. What was alarming about Sonia?
15. What made Dwight feel unsafe?
16. What surprised him when he visited the convent?
17. How did Ms. Ryan react to Mrs. Munsing's sudden disappearance?
18. What had helped Dwight identify Amelia Fitch?
19. Why did he leave the place in haste?

20. Did Amelia admit they had made a mistake in asking Dwight to investigate the case?

b) Details

1. What was the police chief's surname?
2. What had happened to Mrs. Munsing's sons?
3. What was the cause of her daughter's death?
4. How many miles did Dwight have to walk to the Fitch house?
5. What did Darjo and Amelia have in common?
6. Was Mrs. Johnson's house in the old or in the new part of the city?
7. What insects did Dwight have to fight with during his first weekend in Flagstaff?
8. What was the cause of Mr. Johnson's death?
9. What was the name of the Convent?
10. What billionaire did Mrs. Johnson compare Mr. Fitch's wives with?
11. What country in continental Europe did Amelia study in?
12. How did Amelia's father die?
13. How long had Ms. Ryan been with the family?
14. What was Darjo in the past?
15. Whose ghost had Dwight seen, in Mr. Fitch's opinion?
16. How old was Sonia when she lost her mother?
17. What colour dress was the woman with the straw hat wearing?
18. Who did Amelia shift the blame for poisoning the second Mrs. Fitch on to?
19. Was the Fitch house high or low?
20. What was Mr. Fitch's first name?
21. Was Sonia interested in classical or modern music?
22. Who did Amelia ask Dwight to give their regards to?

c) Who do the following remarks belong to?

1. "Poor child; it must be a terrible strain not being able to see."
2. "Don't get smart with me. You know what I mean."
3. "Nature is frightening, isn't it? But if you understand her, you can use her. She always gives warnings to us."
4. "It was in her will that Darjo would be taken care of until he died."
5. "She's an evil woman, that one."
6. "This is the quiet hour."
7. "It seems Mrs. Munsing has gone."
8. "She ain't no nun: she's just living with them."
9. "Clever, isn't he?"
10. "Here you are, sir."
11. "Nothing on earth is an accident."
12. "Poison in the food! What a silly idea!"
13. "I know what some of the town rumors are, and I guess you do, too."
14. "It's all his fault."

15. "There's no use talking to her."
16. "You won't see many birds in that direction."
17. "It was a pleasure meeting you."
18. "Have you come to give Sonia her lesson on plants?"
19. "I'm sorry I frightened you".
20. "I shouldn't have said that. Excuse me."
21. "She owned practically the whole town."
22. "Nothing official in the church or city hall, you understand."
23. "You like working here?"
24. "Police don't walk; they drive."
25. "We are very glad you were able to come on such short notice."
26. "The rest was fate".
27. "Well, you sit for a spell."
28. "Where to, Mister?"
29. "You are going to get pretty hot in that neck choker."
30. "You gave me a start."

Additional Tasks

Choose the right word.

1. Insert *to say, to tell, to speak, to talk* or their derivatives.

Note: The difference between *say* and *tell* (сказать) is purely grammatical:

Say *what?*

Say *something*

Tell *whom?*

Tell *somebody*

Exceptions: *to tell a lie; to tell the truth; to tell a story.*

To speak (говорить) is more formal than *to talk* (разговаривать, беседовать)

Phrases

to tell the time – сказать, который час

to say good-bye - попрощаться

to have a talk with smb. – побеседовать с кем-л.

to talk smth. over – обсудить что-л.

talkative – разговорчивый

to be a good talker – быть интересным собеседником

to be a good speaker – быть хорошим оратором

to speak a foreign language – говорить на иностранном языке

1. I wanted to ... to Mr. Munsing.
2. The chief ... me that I was expected to follow the rules.
3. Mr. Munsing ... that she was afraid of losing her job.
4. I wondered what had made Darjo ... to me.
5. I was told that the chief wanted to ... to me.
6. Easier ... than done.

7. Ask her to ... the time.
8. In her letter, Amelia ... the truth about the events that had taken place in the life of her family.
9. You aren't listening to a word I ...
10. Don't ... in a loud voice in public places.
11. They had a heart-to-heart ...
12. He ... slowly and clearly.
13. Try to ... distinctly.
14. I enjoy ... to you, but I don't like ... in public.
15. Darjo was not a ... man.
16. The guests ... in a very lively manner.
17. He ... so well that the audience listened breathlessly to every word.
18. She is said to ... French fluently.
19. First think, then ...
20. Let's ... it over.

2. Insert *sacrifice*, *victim* or their derivatives.

Note: A *victim* (жертва) is a person or animal that is killed or made to suffer by another person.

A *sacrifice* (жертва) is something that is very dear to us but that we give up for the sake of some cause or another person.

Phrases

to make a sacrifice, to sacrifice – принести в жертву

to fall a victim to – пасть жертвой

the victim of circumstances – жертва случая, обстоятельств

to be a sacrificing type – быть способным на жертву

1. Amelia made a ... of her private life.
2. In a way, she was a ... of her husband's love of money and greed.
3. Mrs. Munsing ... her work for her own safety.
4. People like Mr. Fitch are incapable of ... anything in their lives.
5. Ms. Ryan was not going to ... her comfort for the sake of the blind girl.
6. It was a great ... on his wife's part.
7. It was believed that both women were the ... of circumstances.
8. Dwight thought he might be the next ...
9. The mother made many ... to give her child a good education.
10. The young girl ... her life to save the drowning child.
11. Many honest Germans were the first ... of the Hitler regime.
12. Little Oliver fell a ... to a gang of robbers.
13. If you want to have comfortable shoes, you must be ready to ... their appearance.
14. We must never forget about the ... of the last war.
15. To achieve good results in your studies, it is necessary to make some ...

16. I don't want to be a ... of advertising and spend a lot of money on unnecessary things.
17. He was not a ... type.
18. Some animals like to play with their ... before eating them.
19. Martin Eden did not wish to be the ... of circumstances, so he gave up his hard work at the laundry.
20. Marx wrote that working on his great book, he ... his health, family and happiness of life.

3. Insert *blame, fault or guilt* (ВИНА).

Note: *guilt* is used when speaking of a serious offence or crime.

Fault and *blame* are used to denote responsibility for deeds of a less serious nature.

Phrases

to be guilty of – БЫТЬ ВИНОВНЫМ

to confess one's guilt – ПРИЗНАТЬ ВИНУ (в суде)

to deny one's guilt – НЕ ПРИЗНАТЬ ВИНУ

it's not his fault – ЭТО НЕ ЕГО ВИНА

he is not to blame - ОН НЕ ВИНОВАТ

to take the blame on oneself – ВЗЯТЬ ВИНУ НА СЕБЯ

to take the blame for smth. – ПРИЗНАТЬ ВИНУ ЗА ЧТО-Л.

to lay the blame on smb.- ВИНИТЬ К.-ЛИБО

to bear the blame – БЫТЬ ВИНОВНЫМ

1. So far, there was little evidence to prove Mr. Fitch's ...
2. Mrs. Munsing was not ... of poisoning the second Mrs. Fitch.
3. It was Mr. Fitch's ... that they had lost a lot of money.
4. All members of the household could be ... of the crime.
5. Ms. Ryan tried to lay the ... on Mrs. Munsing.
6. Evidently, the cook was not to ...
7. If we are late for the lecture, it'll be your ...
8. There was so much evidence against Clyde that he could not deny his ... as the murderer of Roberta.
9. If the book is lost, you'll bear the ...
10. He killed his son and has already confessed his ...
11. Whose ... is it that the book is torn and dirty?
12. Don't take the ... upon yourself: it was I who pushed you when you were holding the vase.
13. Though she was strongly suspected of murder, her ... was not established.
14. After he confessed his ..., he was brought to trial.
15. It's my ... that he failed to meet us at the station: I forgot to phone.
16. Don't try to lay the ... on others. It's your ...
17. To confess one's crime is to acknowledge one's ...

18. It was not Soames' ... that he was not lovable.
19. He took the ... for the failure of the experiment upon himself.
20. The defendant was found ... of the crime.

4. Insert *to accuse, to charge or to blame*.

Note: *to accuse* and *to charge* (обвинять) refer to a serious offence, such as: breaking the law, committing a crime. *To charge* is more official and is used in court.

To blame (винить) is used when the offence is less serious, when we say that a person or thing is the cause of something bad or wrong.

Phrases

to charge smb. with smth. – обвинять кого-л., предъявить обвинение

to accuse smb. of smth. – обвинять кого-л. в чём-л.

on a charge of (*theft, murder, etc.*) – по обвинению в

to bring a charge against smb. – предъявить обвинение

to blame smb. for smth. – винить кого-л.

to blame smth. on smb - винить кого-л. (свалить вину за что-л. на кого-л.)

1. Possibly, Mr. Fitch was afraid that he could be ... with the murder of his two wives.
2. His wife could be arrested on a ... of murder, too.
3. Mrs. Munsing ... Ms. Ryan of murdering Mr. Fitch's wives.
4. The cook ... Mr. Fitch's wives for indifference to Sonia.
5. Amelia ... herself for the death of her father.
6. No one would like to be ... of cruelty.
7. I'm not ... you: it's my ...
8. In court, he was ... with the murder of his cook.
9. He was at a loss. It was the first time that anyone had ... him of cowardice.
10. They were arrested on a ... of desertion.
11. He openly ... her of harshness.
12. The man was ... with theft, but he pleaded not guilty.
13. We shouldn't ... the children for the mistakes of their parents.
14. Andrew was to answer the ... brought against him.
15. The skipper had been away for twenty years and his beloved girl had married another man. He didn't ... her.
16. He was brought before the court with a ... of corruption.
17. If the floor is dirty, don't ... it on me. ... it on the weather.

5. Insert *used to do smth. or was (were) used to smth. or doing smth.*

Note: *used to* is equivalent to the Past tense form of the verb, e. g. *used to go = went*: He *used to have a smoke* and *read* a newspaper after dinner. После обеда он *курил* и *читал* газету. *Used* в данной конструкции употребляется с инфинитивом.

Was (were) used to smth. or doing smth. is translated as *привык (привыкла, привыкли) к чему-л.*: She *was used to* luxury. Она *привыкла* к роскоши. He *was not used to* asking for things twice. Он *не привык* просить дважды. В данной конструкции после *used* употребляется существительное или герундий.

1. Sonya ... listen to one and the same record.
2. She ... to solitude.
3. Amelia ... fly a plane.
4. Mr. Fitch ... getting what he wanted.
5. Mr. Munsing ... drink a bottle of wine in the morning.
6. Dwight ... repair his mother's old arm-chair.
7. His host ... sit at the window and watch the sun set.
8. Dwight's mother ... treat the neighbours' children to sweets and cakes.
9. Ms. Ryan (not) ... children's naughtiness.
10. Dwight (not) ... to rudeness and disrespect.
11. When he was studying, he ... visit a sports club.
12. They ... hard work.
13. In the long winter evenings, they ... play cards after supper.
14. She ... get up early
15. The chief ... fulfill Mr. Fitch's requests.
16. Ms. Ryan ... command everybody.
17. They ... the hot climate of Arizona.
18. Dwight's landlady ... rent rooms to single men.
19. The police chief ... order his subordinates about.
20. Sonya ... eating alone.

6. Insert to learn, to study or to teach.

Note: *To learn* and *to study* mean *to get or acquire knowledge* = учить, изучать что-либо.

To teach is actually the antonym of these two words since it means *to give knowledge* = учить кого-либо.

To learn has additional meanings of *to master something* = овладевать, владеть (языком, музыкальным инструментом и т. п). and also *to come to know smth.* = узнавать, узнать что-либо.

To study may have an additional meaning of *to investigate, to examine closely* = исследовать, анализировать, рассмотреть (вопрос, проблему).

1. One of the nuns ... Sonya to look after plants.
2. The detective managed to ... more about the inhabitants of the house.
3. Sonya was an able child and ... quickly.
4. She ... poisonous plants thoroughly.
5. She had ... a lot about the characteristics of poisonous plants.
6. The nun had ... her much about music.

7. The teacher ... and the student ...
8. I ... the rules for reading, but I haven't ... them yet.
9. After ... English for two months, we have ... to use some simple sentences.
10. She wrote this book after ... the plants for many years.
11. What subjects have you ... this year?
12. Can one ... to dance without an instructor?
13. Who has ... you to swim?
14. Is it possible to ... to speak a foreign language in one year?
15. Why is it necessary to ... systematically?
16. What texts have you ... by heart this term?
17. He loves mathematics and he ... quickly, but his father wants him to ...
law.
18. She ... his face very carefully before answering.
19. Foreign languages are now being ... at some kindergartens.
20. Live and ...

Reference Material

В работе используется текстовый материал пособия по грамматике. Lin Lougheed. *The Great Preposition Mystery: Grammar Review for Intermediate/ Advanced Students of EFL.* / Revised by Shelley Vance Laflin = Л. Лафид. Великая тайна предлога: пособие по грамматике для старшеклассников / перераб. Ш. В. Лафлин. - М.: Просвещение, 1994. - 96 с. : ил. - ISBN 5-09-006800-3.

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