

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РФ

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**ПРАКТИКУМ ПО ДОМАШНЕМУ ЧТЕНИЮ
«UNSOLVED MYSTERIES»
ЧАСТЬ 2**

Практикум

Рекомендовано методической комиссией Института международных отношений и мировой истории для студентов ННГУ, обучающихся по направлениям подготовки 031900 «Международные отношения», 032000 «Зарубежное регионоведение»

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Целью данного практикума является развитие необходимых навыков анализа текста и ведения дискуссии, а также речевой и языковой компетенций, у студентов 1-го и 2-го курсов факультета международных отношений, изучающих английский язык как основной на среднем этапе обучения.

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Введение

Предлагаемый практикум по домашнему чтению может быть использован для развития навыков чтения, письма и говорения у студентов, владеющих средним уровнем (intermediate level) английского языка.

Все рассказы посвящены неразрешенным загадкам и представляют интересный сюжетный материал, что, в свою очередь, дает возможность учащимся выйти на обсуждение проблемных вопросов.

Все тексты сборника снабжены упражнениями на понимание содержания, фонетическими упражнениями, лексическим комментарием, вопросами для дальнейшей дискуссии и составления монологического или диалогического высказывания, а также, письменными заданиями для написания эссе, газетной статьи или рассказа.

В качестве заданий на развитие лексики в упражнения по каждому тексту включены фразеологические глаголы и идиомы.

THE MAN FROM NOWHERE

Pronunciation

Note the pronunciation of the following words:

1. inquisitive
2. squinted
3. uttered
4. legible
5. inscribed
6. seized
7. purported
8. tutelage
9. wielding
10. assigned

Warm-up

Work in groups and discuss the following questions:

Have you ever heard about any inexplicable murder cases which were not solved and still remain a puzzle? Compare your answers with your group-mates. Do they have anything in common?

Reading

Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. Who was a strange young man first noticed by?
2. What did Kasper Hauser constantly repeat at the police station?
3. Where did the young man spend his first night in the city?
4. What was offered for anyone who could identify the young man?
5. What was Kasper Hauser taught to do under the tutelage of Dr. Daumer?
6. When and why did Kasper Hauser die?

He was a strange one all right ... just as the authorities said ... this young man who acted as though he had just dropped in from another world.

He was just outside the new gate entrance to the city of Nuremberg, Germany, when an inquisitive policeman first noticed him. He was clean but so poorly dressed that he was almost ragged. The policeman later told his supervisors that he had first been attracted to the young man by the difficulty with which he seemed to walk ... as though suffering from some deformity which caused him to stumble. His feet were badly swollen; his eyes were squinted against the light.

The inquisitive policeman tried to question the lad but he learned nothing ... over and over the stranger kept repeating. ...

“I want to be a soldier like my father was!”

It didn't sound like an expression of determination ... but more like a chant ... as though the strange young man who uttered it was merely reciting words he didn't understand.

The policeman led him to the station, where the mayor and other local dignitaries gathered to observe and question this unusual visitor. In a monotone the young man continued to repeat his assertion that he wished to be a soldier like his father.

His name? He evidently didn't understand what they were saying and he stared blankly. But when a pen was placed in his hand he giggled nervously and wrote in a slow, legible hand ... KASPER HAUSER. He could not ... or would not ... write anything else. But on that quiet Whit-Monday* afternoon in 1828, the young man had inscribed on the records the name that was to mark the beginning of a puzzle which remains unsolved to this day.

When food was placed before him, he seized it in his hands and crammed it into his mouth as though he were famished. A mug of cold milk was evidently something he had never encountered before and he recoiled from it. Water he drank, but not until he had sampled it with a forefinger.

Just before nightfall, while the baffled city fathers of Nuremberg were trying to decide what to do with their enigmatic visitor, he presented them with two more pieces to the puzzle ... two letters wrapped in rags which he carried inside his tattered vest. One letter purported to be from his mother. Dated sixteen years before, it urged anyone who found the boy to send him to Nuremberg when he was seventeen so he could enlist in the Sixth Cavalry of which his father had been member, according to the letter.

The other missive was badly written and purported to be from someone who had found the boy and cared for him but who could no longer support him.

Oddly, both letters were written on some sort of thin leather or parchment which was not familiar to the officials at Nuremberg.

Kasper Hauser, if that was indeed his name, spent that first night with the city's most learned man, Dr. Daumer, where the young man promptly astonished his host by trying to pick the flame off a candle. Further tests brought out that he had no depth perception whatever and, although he seemed to be in full possession of his faculties, they were as undeveloped as those of a baby.

Although the condition of his feet and legs indicated that he had walked a considerable distance, no one could be found who had seen him on the road. A reward was offered for anyone who could identify him. Pictures were distributed throughout Europe, but to no avail. The more the officials probed, the deeper the mystery of Kasper Hauser became.

Under the kind and patient tutelage of Dr. Daumer, Kasper Hauser learned quickly ... first to speak ... and then to write. He told his newfound friends that he had been raised since infancy in total darkness in a cellar ... had never tasted anything except black bread and water ... had never seen the man who brought his food in total darkness. He had seldom heard his speech ... and then only a few words.

But how, or why, or where he had spent those years he had no idea.

In October of 1829, Kasper came stumbling out of Dr. Daumer's basement, bleeding from a deep gash on the head which he said had been inflicted by a masked man wielding a long knife. The city officials assigned two policemen to guard him after that ... but while they dozed on the afternoon of 14 December 1833 Kasper Hauser went for a stroll in the park across the street ... a stroll from which he came staggering back a few minutes later ... dying from a stab wound which surgeons said could not have been self-inflicted.

The snow in the park revealed no footprints other than Kasper's ... and no trace of the weapon.

The well-documented facts in the enigma of Kasper Hauser entitle it to a place in the records as one of the strangest cases of its kind.

Von Feuerbach wrote of him: "Kasper Hauser showed such ignorance of the simplest facts of life and such horror of the necessities of civilization that one feels driven to believe that he was a native of another planet transferred by some miracle to our own."

Comprehension check

I. Some of these statements about Kasper Hauser are true, others are false. Decide whether each statement is true or false and correct the false ones.

1. The policeman told his supervisors that he had first been attracted to the young man by his poor shabby clothes.
2. The policeman led Kasper Hauser to Dr. Daumer's place, where the mayor and other local dignitaries gathered to observe and question this unusual visitor.
3. When the young man was given some food, he seized it in his hands and crammed it into his mouth.
4. The strange young man had two unusual letters wrapped in rags which he carried inside his tattered vest. One letter purported to be from his father.
5. The other missive was well written and purported to be from a man who had found the boy and cared for him but who could no longer support him.
6. The young man promptly astonished Dr. Daumer by trying to pick the flame off a candle.
7. The tests brought out that the young man was in full possession of his faculties, although they were a bit undeveloped.
8. Under the tutelage of Dr. Daumer, Kasper Hauser learned to speak, to write and to eat.
9. In November of 1829, Kasper was wounded by a masked man wielding a knife.
10. Kasper Hauser died from a stab wound which surgeons said could not have been self-inflicted.

II. Answer more detailed questions:

1. Where did that mysterious case take place?
2. What did Kasper Hauser look like when he first appeared in the city of

- Nuremberg?
3. What was the policeman attracted to the strange young man by?
 4. Where did the policeman lead Kasper Hauser to?
 5. Could the young man write?
 6. How did Kasper Hauser eat when food was placed before him?
 7. What two letters did the young man present the local dignitaries with?
 8. Who were these letters purported to be from?
 9. What was Dr. Daumer astonished by when Kasper Hauser stayed at his place?
 10. What did the condition of Kasper Hauser's feet and legs indicate?
 11. Did the city officials manage to find anyone who could identify the mysterious young man?
 12. What did Kasper Hauser tell his newfound friends about his childhood?
 13. What incident happened to Kasper Hauser in October of 1829?
 14. Why were two policemen assigned to guard the young man?
 15. When did Kasper Hauser come back home dying from a stab wound?
 16. Why did that case remain unsolved?

Word study

I. Give definitions to the following verbs from the text:

1. to stumble
2. to squint
3. to utter
4. to recite
5. to stare (blankly)
6. to giggle
7. to seize
8. to cram
9. to recoil from
10. to sample
11. to inflict
12. to stagger

II. Find words in the text to the following definitions:

1. to visit someone informally without arranging a particular time
2. asking too many questions and trying to find out too many details about someone or something
3. someone who has an important official position
4. written or printed clearly enough for you to read
5. being in a state of not understanding anything
6. to experience something
7. to claim to be or do something, even if this is not true
8. to join the army, navy
9. a letter

10. to not succeed in getting what you want
11. responsibility for someone's education
12. to sleep lightly for a short time
13. to give someone a particular job or make them responsible for a particular person or thing
14. a walk
15. a sign

III. Use the lexical units from the exercises above in the sentences of your own.

Writing

What do you think happened to Kasper Hauser? Write a paragraph of about 100-120 words giving your personal opinion.

Talking point

Retell this unsolved mystery using active vocabulary from the name of:

- a policeman who first noticed Kasper Hauser;
- one of the city officials;
- Dr. Daumer;
- a newspaper reporter.

LIZZIE BORDEN

Pronunciation

Note the pronunciation of the following words:

1. prominent
2. inexplicable
3. to sign
4. cautious
5. prussic acid
6. suspicious
7. epilepsy
8. spacious
9. verdict
10. guilty
11. curious
12. mature

Warm-up

Work in groups, discuss the following questions:

1. Do you know about any other inexplicable murder cases? Consider the cases of Jack the Ripper, President J.F. Kennedy's assassination etc.
2. Why do you think these cases still remain unsolved mysteries? Compare your answers with your group-mates. Do they have anything in common?

Reading

Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. What was one of the reasons Lizzie hated her stepmother?
2. Why did the Bordens keep their door locked?
3. According to Lizzie, where was she when her father was killed?
4. Where was Abby Borden?
5. Why did Lizzie want to buy poison?
6. How long did it take the jury to reach a verdict?

At 8.00 am, 4 August, the day was already hottest of the year. In the dining room of their big white house in Second Street, members of the Borden family were having breakfast. At the table sat prominent 70-year-old businessman Andrew Borden, his second wife, Abby and a brother-in-law of Andrew's, John Morse. John was manager of one of the Borden farms. Andrew's two daughters by his first marriage, Emma and Lizzie, were absent. Emma was visiting friends in a nearby town.

Lizzie, a rather unattractive, inhibited, unmarried woman of 32 had not yet

come downstairs. Except for her hobby, fishing, and her participation in church activities, Lizzie spent a lot of time alone, often up in her room. About every four months she had what her family called 'funny turns'. At such times she did peculiar, inexplicable things; she never remembered these incidents afterwards. We now realise that her 'funny turns' were attacks of epilepsy.

Lizzie disliked her stepmother intensely, especially after Andrew signed over property to his wife's sister that his daughters felt should be theirs.

Andrew Borden was a person who enjoyed making money but hated spending it. When his daughters asked him for money he almost always turned them down. The Bordens were rich but they certainly did not live like people with money. Andrew also had the reputation in Fall River of being a very hard man in business dealings; as a result, he had many enemies.

There was one other person in the house that torrid August morning. Bridget, the Irish maid. Bridget was in the kitchen preparing to go outside and wash the windows. She was quite unhappy about it. She did not feel well and resented Mrs Borden's orders to wash the windows. Bridget was not the only one who felt ill. With the exception of Lizzie, everyone in the house had stomach trouble. They decided it was something they had eaten the night before.

The time was now 8.45 am. John Morse left the house to visit other relatives in Fall River. Andrew also departed, heading for the financial district.

Lizzie descended the stairs just as her father was going out of the front door. She greeted Bridget but said nothing to her stepmother. Abby climbed the stairs to the second floor bedrooms to make the beds. Bridget went outside to wash the windows. She took the key to the kitchen door with her. Since a robbery two months before the Bordens were extremely cautious about locking their doors. Lizzie began ironing some clothes. It was now 9.30 am.

At 10.40 someone knocked at the front door. Bridget, now working inside the house, hurried to see who it was. She heard someone laugh behind her as she struggled with the key. It was Lizzie, standing on the stairs. At last the maid got the door open. The person outside was Andrew Borden; he had forgotten his keys.

As Bridget returned to the kitchen, Lizzie came down to the sitting room and told her father, 'Your wife has gone out. She had a note from someone who was sick.' Andrew said that he, too, felt rather weak and decided to stretch out on the sofa and take a nap before lunch.

Lizzie went back to her ironing. Bridget, who had finished washing the windows inside and out, said she still felt ill. Lizzie told her to go up to her room and rest until it was time to make lunch. As the girl climbed to her small, hot, third-floor room, she heard the clock strike 11.00.

Ten minutes later Lizzie called out from downstairs: 'Bridget! Come quick! Father's dead. Somebody came in and killed him!'

The astonished maid rushed down the stairs and found Lizzie standing by the kitchen door. 'Go across the street and get Dr Bowen,' she said. 'Run!'

When the doctor arrived, Lizzie explained, 'Just as I was returning to the house

from the barn I heard a loud groan. The kitchen door was wide open.'

The doctor quickly examined Andrew's body and discovered that the man had been struck in the head eleven times with an axe. Being asleep, he never knew what hit him.

Lizzie told Bridget to go to ask her friend Alice Russell to come and stay with her. Meanwhile, another neighbour, Adelaide Churchill, had seen Dr Bowen enter the house next door and rushed over to find out what had happened. When she asked where Abby was, Lizzie replied that she did not know. Then she added, 'But I believe I heard her come in a short while ago.' She turned to Bridget, 'Go upstairs and see.'

Mrs Churchill accompanied the Irish girl. They found Abby Borden lying face down on the guest room floor. She had been hit on the back of the head nineteen times with an axe.

It was now 11.40, half an hour after Andrew Borden's bloody, lifeless body had been discovered in the sitting room. Policemen were already surrounding the house and a crowd of curious people had gathered in the street. The news had travelled fast.

About this time John Morse returned from his visit across town. He did a very strange thing when he saw the crowd in the street: he went round to the back of the house and began eating pears from one of the trees. As soon as he was told what had happened, however, he went into the house. He explained where he had been to the police, but they were not fully convinced. For one thing, his manner was too casual.

The police made a complete search of the house but found nothing suspicious. Nor did they find a note asking Mrs Borden to go to a sick friend. Later someone reported that a stranger had been seen near the house earlier that morning; he was never seen again.

Lizzie was able to account for every move she had made that morning; however, the police considered her to be their number one suspect. Lizzie's calm cool manner under the horrible circumstances caused them to be suspicious. In addition, she kept contradicting herself.

There was another matter that caused the police to suspect Lizzie. The day before the murder she had gone to several shops trying to buy prussic acid, a deadly poison. She wanted it, she said, to kill moths in her fur coat. The shop owners refused to sell it to her.

According to Lizzie, she had been in the house all morning, except when, shortly after her father's return home, she went to the barn to get some things she needed for a fishing trip. Then, when she returned to the house, she discovered her father's body.

One week later Lizzie was arrested. There was, however, no real evidence against her. What motive did she have? She hated her stepmother, it is true, but not enough to kill her. She adored her father, so why would she kill him? For his money? She and her sister Emma would become rich the moment he died. What about Bridget, the maid, and John Morse, Andrew's brother-in-law? Could one of them have committed the murder?

The trial began on 5 June, 1892, and lasted ten days. At first the public and the

press were anti-Lizzie Borden, but little by little they came round. How could a quiet, respectable, mature woman like Lizzie commit such a terrible crime?

Finally the jury left the courtroom but was out only one hour. When they returned they delivered a verdict of not guilty. The courtroom suddenly became wild with cheers and applause.

Once more life in Fall River became normal. The two Borden sisters, now that they had their father's money, bought a lovely big new house in the most fashionable section of Fall River. They lived together in this beautiful, spacious mansion for several years. Then they quarreled and Emma moved out, leaving Lizzie all by herself in the empty house. In 1927, Lizzie passed away at the age of 67, alone and unloved.

Today visitors to Fall River almost always ask to see the old Borden house on Second Street. 'Did Lizzie Borden really murder her parents?' they ask. The people of Fall River simply shake their heads and say, 'No one will ever know.' Probably not, but on the other hand, if Lizzie did not commit the murder, who did?

Comprehension check

I. Look back at the reading and find information to fill the gaps in this paragraph:

Lizzie Borden's father, a very rich man, hated _____ money. Lizzie thought that her _____, Abby, had too much influence on Andrew Borden. That was one of the reasons she _____ Abby. Once Lizzie asked her father for money to entertain some church friends but Andrew _____ her request. Lizzie became furious when her father _____ some property to Abby's sister; it was supposed to go to Lizzie and her sister, _____. It is possible that when this happened Lizzie had one of her attacks of _____. As a result, she may have murdered her parents with an _____. The _____, during the trial, brought in a _____ of not guilty, but was she really innocent? We'll never know.

II. Answer more detailed questions:

1. How many people were there in the Bordens family? Name them.
2. What kind of woman was Lizzie Borden?
3. Did she suffer from any disease?
4. Why did she dislike her stepmother?
5. What kind of person was Andrew Borden, Lizzie's father?
6. Why was Bridget, the Irish maid, unhappy about doing her duties one morning?
7. Where did other members of the family go and what did they do that morning?
8. When was Andrew Borden killed?
9. Who discovered his body?
10. What did the doctor's examination show?
11. How was Abby's body discovered? Who did it?
12. What did John Morse do when he saw the crowd of people in the street?

13. Why did not the police believe John Morse at first?
14. Why did the police consider Lizzie Borden to be number one suspect?
15. Where was Lizzie at the time of the murder?
16. Why was Lizzie found not guilty?
17. How did Lizzie Borden live after the trial?
18. Why do visitors to Fall River want to see the old house of the Borden's?

Word study

I. Find words in the text to the following definitions:

1. short sleep
2. unable to express true feelings
3. sharp tool to cut wood
4. twelve people to decide a law case in court
5. saying the opposite of something said before
6. decision made in a law case
7. extremely hot
8. deep sound made by someone in pain
9. reason for committing a crime
10. later wife of one's father
11. farm building for storing things in
12. dislike someone for something he/she has done

II. Match the phrasal verbs and their definitions:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. sign over | a. lie down |
| 2. turned down | b. die |
| 3. stretch out | c. refuse a request |
| 4. come round | d. give rights with a formal document |
| 5. pass away | e. agree after first refusing |

III. Find English equivalents for the following expressions in Russian:

1. от первого брака
2. расстройство желудка
3. за исключением
4. при обстоятельствах
5. понемногу, постепенно
6. обожать кого-либо
7. подозреваемый номер один
8. смертельный яд
9. вынести приговор
10. в одиночестве

IV. Use the lexical units from the exercises above in the sentences of your own.

Writing

You are a neighbour of the Bordens, living opposite them in Second Street. It is the afternoon of 4 August, 1892. You have been asked by the local newspaper to write an article telling what you know about the crime.

Talking point

I. Sort out these solutions under the headings:

Solution 1: Lizzie murdered her parents; it was a planned crime

Solution 2: Lizzie killed her parents during one of her epileptic attacks

Solution 3: Someone else, not Lizzie, murdered the Bordens

1. The day before the murder she tried to buy prussic acid, a deadly poison
2. Lizzie adored her father and would never knowingly have done any harm to him
3. She disliked her stepmother intensely but not enough to kill her
4. Lizzie hated her stepmother and resented the way her father refused to spend money
5. The morning of the murder everyone in the family had stomach trouble except Lizzie
6. Lizzie said a boy boy asking Abby to go to a sick friend. No note was ever found and no friends of Mrs Borden were sick
7. Three time a year Lizzie had attacks of epilepsy. At such times she didn't know what she was doing and later remembered nothing
8. John Morse hired someone to commit the crime. As manager of one of Andrew's farms he had made some dishonest deals; if Andrew had discovered them, he would surely have put Morse in prison
9. A note brought to the house that morning told of the transfer of Borden property to Abby's sister, which originally meant for Andrew's daughters. When Lizzie saw the note she had an epileptic attack
10. Bridget was in the house and she was angry with Mrs Borden, not only for making her wash the windows but for many previous things Abby had done to make her life miserable
11. A suspicious-looking stranger had been seen in the neighbourhood that morning. A maniac with no motive at all could have entered the house and killed the Bordens
12. Various businessmen in Fall River had strong motives for wanting to see Andrew Borden dead. It could have been one of them.
13. Lizzie told her friend that her father had many enemies. She was afraid something terrible was going to happen to him soon

II. Make up one of the dialogues between:

1. John Morse and the police officer
2. Dr. Bowen and Alice Russell
3. Abby Borden and Bridget
4. Lizzie and her father

ANASTASIA

Pronunciation

I. Note the pronunciation of the following proper nouns:

1. Anastasia
2. Bucharest
3. Berlin
4. The Landwehr Canal
5. Baron von Kleist
6. Princess Irene of Prussia
7. Romania
8. Charlottesville
9. Mrs. John Manahan
10. The Grand Duchess of Russia
11. Tsar Nicholas II

II. Pay attention to the pronunciation of the following common nouns:

1. lawsuit
2. anxious
3. heirs
4. to identify-identification-identity
5. assassination
6. validity-valid
7. physician
8. measles
9. tuberculosis
10. inheritance
11. imposter

Warm-up

Working in groups, discuss the following questions:

1. Does the name Anastasia Nicholaievna Romanova mean anything to you?
2. What do you know about the destiny of the Tsar's family after the Bolshevik revolution? Compare your answers with the class. Do they have anything in common?

Reading

Read the text and answer the questions:

1. Why was the mysterious woman called "Miss Unknown"?
2. Why did Anastasia want to go to Berlin?
3. What was possibly the reason for Anastasia's bad moods?

4. At what time did Anastasia speak Russian?
5. What was Professor Manahan's reason for inviting Anastasia to Charlottesville, Virginia?

It was a cold winter's night-22 February, to be exact. A policeman, walking along Berlin's Landwehr Canal, heard a loud splash and quickly jumped in and pulled out a young woman. With this event began a story that initiated the longest lawsuit in legal history.

The young woman was taken to a mental hospital. She carried no identification and refused to give her name; it was obvious that she was not used to doing anything that she did not want to do.

The people at the hospital began to call her "Miss Unknown". A physical examination of the young woman, who appeared to be about twenty years old, showed that her body was covered with scars. She spoke very little and when she did it was in German, although with a foreign accent. She was usually polite, sometimes even pleasant. After a time she seemed to get used to hospital life.

One of the other patients at the hospital had read an article about the Russian Tsar, Nicholas II, and his family. A photograph accompanied the article. The woman decided that the mysterious new patient looked very much like one of the Tsar's daughters. In addition, "Miss Unknown" became depressed when she saw the photo. One day in the autumn of 1921, however, she admitted that she was the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaievna Romanova of Russia.

Her story came out slowly and painfully. Russia was in the middle of a revolution. The Bolsheviks had captured the Imperial family and were holding them prisoners in a house in Ekaterinburg. On the evening of 16 July, 1918, the family was led to a basement room and shot. The bodies were taken out to an old mine and burned.

According to the young woman's story, she, Anastasia (as we all now call her), fainted just as the soldiers fired their guns. Her sister, Tatiana, fell on top of her, protecting Anastasia and thus saving her life. The next thing Anastasia remembered, she was in a farm cart being smuggled out of Russia by one of the guards at Ekaterinburg, Alexander Tschaikovsky, who was secretly loyal to the Tsar. When he saw that Anastasia was alive he took her to his family's farm. Then, with the Tschaikovskys accompanying her, Anastasia began a long, hard journey to Romania.

Finally they reached Bucharest. Anastasia remained there for a year, during which time she had Alexander Tschaikovsky's son, then married the father. Not long after that Alexander was murdered by Bolsheviks who had discovered how he had helped the Tsar's daughter to escape.

Taking her brother-in-law, Sergei Tschaikovsky, with her, Anastasia headed for Germany, leaving her son with the Tschaikovsky's family. She was anxious to get to Berlin, where members of her mother's family lived.

At last she and Sergei reached Berlin. They checked in a hotel and made plans to try to find Anastasia's grandmother the next day. The following morning, when she

went to Sergei's room, Anastasia discovered that he had disappeared.

All day she walked the streets of Berlin, not knowing what to do; she was not used to being alone and making her own decisions. She had come to Berlin to find her mother's relatives but now, with nothing to identify her, she was afraid to go to them. Night fell and as she walked beside the Landwehr Canal she became so discouraged that she jumped into the water.

Later, when members of the Russian colony read an article about "Anastasia" in the newspaper some of them came to the hospital to see her. A few were convinced that yes, she was the daughter of the Tsar. Others, however, called her an imposter.

When the young woman became well enough she was invited to go to live with Baron von Kleist and his wife in their home. They were Russian aristocrats; if this really was Anastasia it would be very useful to them to have her as their guest. This was to be the first of a long series of homes for her. Somehow she got used to moving from house to house; she had little choice.

Anastasia was a moody person. She could be very pleasant and charming and often was. However, when she was in a bad mood she could be just the opposite. At some time in the past (the night of assassination?) she had suffered a severe head injury and this could easily account for her difficult moods.

Through the years Anastasia was questioned many times, most frequently by members of the Russian colony. She disliked these interrogations; however, she realised that they were necessary if she wanted to prove who she was and tried to get used to their many questions.

It was sincere belief of a number of these aristocrats that the young woman was indeed the Grand Duchess Anastasia.

Among their reasons for thinking so were these:

- after just one look into her eyes people who used to be with Anastasia almost daily as a girl were convinced she was the Grand Duchess;
- her handwriting, according to an expert, was exactly like that of the true Anastasia;
- her manner was that of a person who was used to living in an imperial court;
- when talking to Russian aristocrats she brought up many incidents that only real Anastasia would know about;
- it was true that when she was awake she spoke only German but she was often heard speaking Russian in her sleep;
- many anecdotes demonstrated her validity, such as the day Tatiana, daughter of the Tsar's personal physician visited her; Anastasia reminded Tatiana of the time she, as a child, had measles and Tatiana helped put her to bed – only the doctor, Tatiana and Anastasia would know about that incident.

People who insisted that the woman was an imposter claimed:

- she spoke only German because she did not know Russian;
- she looked nothing like Anastasia – for one thing, she was too short;

- she was really a Polish girl who had disappeared three days before 'Miss Unknown' was rescued from the canal;
- at times this woman was unable to answer questions that the real Anastasia would be able to reply to automatically;
- Princess Irene of Prussia, aunt of the Grand Duchess Anastasia, said after visiting the young woman that this was not her niece;
- "Miss Unknown" had no documents or other proof of her identity.

In 1928 Princess Xenia, a niece of the Tsar, invited Anastasia to her home in the USA. Her stay with the Russian princess was a happy one. In order to be left alone, unbothered by newspaper reporters, Anastasia took the name of Anna Anderson.

Once again Anastasia became ill and, preferring to be in a German hospital, she returned to Europe. This was in 1931. Eventually she got over her illness, which was tuberculosis, and went to the Bavarian Black Forest to live. Her stay there was a quiet one; she received only those people she wanted to see.

In 1933 she began a legal battle involving what she felt was her inheritance. The lawsuit continued for 37 years and became the longest in legal history. Finally, in 1970, it was settled, although not in Anastasia's favour. In the end the Tsar's wealth was distributed among secondary heirs.

In 1968 Anastasia went back to the United States, this time at the invitation of Dr John Manahan, a history professor at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He invited her, he said, because he wanted 'to get Anastasia's story written straight'.

On 23 December, 1968, Anastasia became Mrs John Manahan. She spent her remaining years in Charlottesville and, in general, they were not unpleasant years.

By 1970, when she made her last attempt to obtain the Tsar's property, Anastasia was old, tired and ill. Again she failed. 'It n longer matters', she said. 'After all these years I am used to being disappointed. Besides, I know who I am.' she died peacefully on 12 February, 1984. Whether or not she was the Grand Duchess Anastasia, daughter of Tsar Nicholas II, she herself sincerely believed that she was.

Comprehension check

I. Some of these statements about Anastasia are true, others are false. Decide whether each statement is true or false and correct the false ones.

1. The Russian colony in Berlin called the young woman 'Miss Unknown'.
2. The doctors found scars all over her body.
3. The Tsar and his family were killed in Ekaterinburg.
4. Anastasia married a soldier named Sergei Tschaikovsky.
5. Not everyone was convinced that 'Miss Unknown' was the daughter of the Tsar.
6. Anastasia was always pleasant and courteous to everyone.
7. She changed her name when she went to America because she wanted to be left alone.
8. Princess Irene of Prussia was one of the people who believed this was the real Anastasia.

9. Anastasia lost her legal battle to obtain the Tsar's wealth.

II. Answer more detailed questions:

1. When did the story of Anastasia begin?
2. Why was she taken to a mental hospital?
3. What did a physical examination of the young woman show?
4. Why did she become depressed after having seen a newspaper photograph?
What photograph was it?
5. What happened to the Tsar's family? When did it happen?
6. How did Anastasia explain her mysterious survival?
7. Who was Alexander Tschaikovsky? What role did he play in Anastasia's life?
8. Why was Anastasia anxious to get to Berlin?
9. Why did Anastasia jump into the Landwehr Canal one night?
10. Why was Anastasia invited to live in the house of Russian aristocrats?
11. What reasons prove that Anastasia was the real Grand Duchess of Russia?
12. What did non-believers claim?
13. Why did Anastasia come to the USA?
14. Why did she return to Europe in 1931?
15. What was the outcome of the lawsuit which started in 1933?
16. Who was Dr. John Manahan?
17. Where did Anastasia spend the rest of her life?

Word study

I. Find the words in the text to the following definitions:

1. questioning
2. dispute taken to court
3. money/property received after someone's death
4. began
5. marks left on the skin by an injury
6. sound made when something falls into water
7. took in or out secretly
8. someone pretending to be someone/thing they are not
9. made an agreement about
10. having changes of feelings
11. lost consciousness
12. children's disease resulting in fever and red spots on the skin
13. those who get property when someone dies
14. shot

II. Match these phrasal verbs from the text with their definitions:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. come out | a. recover from an illness |
| 2. head for | b. register (in a hotel) |
| 3. check in | c. introduce a topic of conversation |

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 4. account for | d. give an explanation for |
| 5. bring up | e. become known |
| 6. get over | f. go in the direction of |

III. Use the words from exercises I and II in the sentences of your own.

Writing

In a short paragraph say why you think 'Miss Unknown' was/was not the Tsar's daughter.

Talking point

I. In addition to those in the reading, here are more reasons to believe that 'Miss Unknown' was/was not the Grand Duchess Anastasia. Sort out these 6 solutions under the headings:

Solution 1 'Miss Unknown' was the daughter of Tsar Nicholas II

Solution 2 'Miss Unknown' was an imposter

1. She was a clever imposter. The information she had about the real Anastasia was known to the public, taken from books, documents, photos etc.
2. The Polish factory worker, Franziska Schazkovska, who had disappeared, looked very much like Anastasia. When the Polish girl's sister saw 'Miss Unknown' she insisted it was Franziska.
3. After the murder of the Imperial family the Bolsheviks made a search for Anastasia. Why did they do it if they were sure she had been killed with the others?
4. Some criminologists examined 'Miss Unknown's' face and compared it carefully with many photos of the Grand Duchess. The two faces matched perfectly. This is not possible unless they are the same person or twins.
5. No records of the young woman's year in Bucharest, including documents of her marriage or the birth of her son, could be found.
6. It was in the interest of the Russian colony in Berlin to say that all the Imperial family had been shot; it exposed the Bolsheviks as murderers. Some of these people first said 'Miss Unknown' was Anastasia; then, influences by leaders of the colony, denied they had said it.

II. Make up a dialogue between a reporter and an aristocrat who believes/does not believe in 'Miss Unknown's' story.

THE GIRL WHO JUST FADED AWAY

Pronunciation

Note the pronunciation of the following words:

1. deserted
2. bewildered
3. maneuvered
4. vehicle
5. thoroughly
6. phenomenon
7. exorcism
8. naked
9. doubts
10. identical
11. coincidence
12. inquiries
13. notorious
14. precise

Warm-up

Working in groups, discuss the following questions:

Have you, or any of your friends, ever had experiences which are the same as, or similar to, the ones in the list?

1. You suddenly think of a friend you haven't seen for months. Within minutes he/she telephones you.
2. You are standing on a street corner, then you suddenly step back for no obvious reason. A fast car climbs the pavement and misses you by a few centimeters.
3. You have a dream about an event which happens the next day.

Do you believe in psychic phenomena? Share your ideas with your groupmates.

Reading

Read the text and answer the questions:

1. When and where did Walter Davidson see a naked, bleeding girl by the roadside?
2. What was Ashley Wright by profession?
3. How many motorists reported to have seen a bleeding girl at the exact spot?
4. What did Mr. Wright learn about the road where the motorists had seen the naked girl?
5. What did Ashley Wright carry out at that roadside?

The night was dark and moonless, and Walter Davidson stared in disbelief through his windscreen at the scene illuminated by his car headlights.

The trees overhanging the remote country road made things even blacker, but there was no mistaking what Walter Davidson had seen.

A girl, naked and bleeding, lay face down by the grass verge. Walter Davidson, an agricultural engineer in his fifties, jammed on his brakes and brought his car to a shuddering stop.

It was just before 7 p.m. on a windy November night and he was returning to his home near Brighton through the Sussex countryside. Now he had come across something horrifying and violent. Was it an accident? Or a particularly brutal murder?

He was trembling as he opened his car door and started to run along the deserted road to where the girl lay. He reached the spot and stopped bewildered.

There was nothing there.

He returned to the car and maneuvered the vehicle so that its headlights illuminated the spot where the girl had lain. There was nothing to be seen, not even a mark of blood although Davidson could swear that he had seen blood dripping down the girl's arms on to the road.

With a torch, he thoroughly searched the nearby hedge and verges without any success. Finally, shaken and puzzled, he returned to his car and drove thoughtfully home.

Was that incident, in November 1950, purely a figment of his imagination? "The more I thought about it, the more I was convinced it wasn't," said Walter Davidson when I discussed the matter with him some years later.

As a result, he eventually contacted a local minister, Ashley Wright, who had conducted numerous exorcisms, and was the local authority on the supernatural.

To his surprise, Mr. Wright did not appear astonished when told about the bleeding girl. He knew all about the phenomenon already. For in the previous two years, at least four motorists had reported seeing a naked girl lying by the roadside at the exact spot where Walter Davidson had seen the spectre.

On one occasion, the matter had been reported to the police who had searched in vain for a body. But in all four instances the drivers involved had no doubts about what they had seen.

One, Ian Nicholson, a farm-worker, driving home in the twilight on a September evening in 1949, told Mr. Wright: "When I saw the girl I thought I had stumbled across a murder. She was quite naked and lying in the grass by the road. There was blood on her back and her arms."

"I stopped the car and jumped out, but as I approached the body it just seemed to fade away. I stood there in just looking down at the empty road. It was the most incredible thing that has ever happened to me. I searched the area thoroughly and found nothing. I wondered whether I should report it to the police, but after all there really nothing to report. They would think I was mad or drunk, or just having them on".

Ashley Wright heard a similar story from a salesman who also saw the

phantom body in the headlights of his car.

Instead of stopping, he drove frantically to the nearest house and phoned the police and the ambulance.

“When the emergency services arrived, they found nothing ... and the motorist received a severe taking off.”

Mr. Wright, checking the stories of all the drivers, discovered that they were virtually identical.

“None of the motorists knew each other and their reports covered a period of over two years, their descriptions of the girl, the way she was lying and her position in the road, were always the same. It seemed to me that it could not be mere coincidence. I decided to make further inquiries. And when I did, the phenomenon became even more remarkable.”

He consulted a local historian, Dr. Arthur Beddowes, and found to his astonishment that the road in question had had a notorious reputation in past years.

Mr. Wright explained: “He told me that exactly 300 years earlier, a girl had been robbed, raped and left to die by footpads on the road at that precise spot. Later two men were hanged for the crime, but obviously that wasn’t the end of the matter. Early in 1951, after obtaining permission from the Bishop, I carried out an exorcism at the roadside. Happily, the spectre of the bleeding girl has not been seen again.”

Comprehension check

Answer more detailed questions:

1. What was Walter Davidson by profession?
2. Why did Walter Davidson stop bewildered when he reached the spot where a bleeding girl was lying?
3. Did he search the nearby hedge and verges?
4. Who did Mr. Davidson contact in order to describe an incident?
5. Why didn’t Mr. Wright appear astonished when Walter Davidson told him about the bleeding girl by the roadside?
6. Had any of the motorists ever reported this matter of the phantom body to the police?
7. What did a farm-worker, driving home in the twilight on a September evening in 1949, tell Mr. Wright about the case?
8. Why didn’t Ian Nicholson report the case to the police?
9. What did one of the motorists who had seen the bleeding girl by the roadside receive when he called the police and the ambulance?
10. Were all the descriptions of the phantom female body, given by the motorists, identical?
11. Has the spectre of the bleeding girl been seen again since Mr. Wright carried out an act of exorcism?

Word study

I. Give definitions to the following words and word groups from the text:

1. a verge
2. remote
3. shuddering
4. horrifying
5. brutal
6. a spot
7. bewildered
8. shaken
9. exorcism
10. spectre
11. thoroughly
12. virtually identical
13. remarkable
14. mere
15. precise

II. Give definitions to the following verbs from the text:

1. to jam on the brakes
2. to come across
3. to tremble
4. to fade away
5. to swear
6. to report something to
7. to have somebody on
8. to consult somebody
9. to rob somebody
10. to rape somebody
11. to obtain (permission)
12. to carry out

III. Find words in the text to the following definitions:

1. the front glass of the car which the driver looks through
2. to move or turn skillfully
3. something that you imagine to be real, but doesn't exist
4. in the end, finally
5. unknown forces or spirit
6. someone who drives a car
7. without success in spite of your efforts
8. an example of a particular kind of situation
9. in a fast and uncontrolled way
10. disapproval
11. an official process, in the form of a series of meetings, intended to find out why something happened

12. somebody who attacks travelers on the road and take their money
13. apparently, evidently

IV. Use the words from exercises I, II and III in the sentences of your own.

Writing

Write a paragraph of about 100-120 words giving your personal opinion about such supernatural phenomena.

Talking point

Make up a dialogue between either Mr. Wright and one of the motorists who saw the phantom of the female bleeding body by the roadside or Mr. Wright and Dr. Arthur Beddowes. Use active vocabulary from the text.

AMBROCE BIERCE

Pronunciation

I. Note the pronunciation of the following words:

1. to wound – wounded
2. socially-prominent
3. a sharp tongue
4. a nickname
5. a magazine editor
6. severe
7. asthma
8. a rebel
9. a battlefield
10. headquarters
11. to fascinate

II. Watch the pronunciation and spelling of the following proper names:

1. Ambroce Bierce
2. Mary Allen Day
3. William Randolph Hearst
4. Carrie Christiansn
5. Lord Kichener
6. San Francisco
7. London
8. Civil War
9. Mexico
10. Washington, DC
11. Loreda, Texas
12. Europe
13. Pancho Villa
14. Venustiano Carranzo

Warm-up

Work in groups, discuss the following questions:

Imagine that you are a famous writer. You think that after you die no one will remember you or your writings. What can you do about it?

Reading

Read the text below and answer the following questions:

1. Why was Ambroce Bierce called ‘Bitter Bierce’?
2. Bierce’s stories were well liked but he as a person was not. Why not?

3. What did Bierce write to a friend in San Francisco?
4. How was Bierce's wish fulfilled?

One of the most successful American short story writers at the turn of the century was Ambrose Bierce. In December 1913 he disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again. Because of things he said shortly before he vanished it is possible that he planned the final days of his life that way. He was afraid that one he died both he and his writings would be forgotten. He did not want that to happen.

In 1861, at the age of nineteen, Bierce found his purpose in life: the military. The Civil War between the northern and southern states broke out at that time, and shortly afterwards Bierce joined the northern army. He loved military life and fought in many important battles. He was wounded twice, once quite seriously in the head. Bierce was never the same after this head injury; he became bitter, suspicious of people and concerned about death.

When peace came in 1865 Bierce travelled west to San Francisco. There he met and married a socially-prominent young woman, Mary Allen Day, and became the father of two sons and a daughter. However, in 1871, because his marriage was no longer happy, he left San Francisco and went to England, settling down in London to become a writer. Two years later a collection of his stories was published. Because of his sharp tongue and the pessimistic nature of his stories, he earned the nickname of 'Bitter Bierce'.

When Bierce returned to San Francisco in 1876 he was already a celebrity because of his success in England. He became a magazine editor and was soon recognized as the literary leader of the city. Unfortunately, it was also at this time he developed a severe case of asthma, which stayed with him for the rest of his life.

One of the leading newspapermen in San Francisco at that time was William Randolph Hearst. Hearst asked Bierce to write a column for his paper, *The Examiner*. Bierce accepted the position and wrote about everybody and everything, expressing his observations in his usual sarcastic manner. Because of his sarcasm he had very few friends but many enemies.

Ten years after going to work for Hearst, Ambrose Bierce was transferred to Washington, DC. He liked the capital city because, he said, the climate was good for his asthma. He remained there until 1909, at which time he retired from newspaper work to edit the stories and articles he had written over the years. His secretary, Carrie Christiansen, worked closely with him on this project. When they finished in 1912, Bierce was seventy years old. What was he going to do?

In the years following the civil War, Bierce read all he could find on military matters. Because of his war experience and extensive reading, he became a military expert. He felt sure that he could secure a position as adviser to military leaders in some part of the world. That, he decided, was what he would do with the rest of his life.

Then a revolution broke out in Mexico. Pancho Villa and Venustiano Carranza were the leader of the rebels fighting the official forces. One summer's day in 1913

Bierce told his secretary his plan: he was going to tour the Civil War battlefield; then he would go to Mexico. He carried out the first part of his plan as proposed.

From the moment he left Washington, DC Bierce wrote to his secretary almost daily. He also wrote, though less frequently, to his daughter Hellen. To one of his friends in San Francisco he said he wished to end his career in a more glorious way than just dying in bed. 'I've decided to go to Mexico to find a soldier's grave,' he wrote.

Bierce's last letter to his secretary, dated from 16 December, 1913, was from Laredo, Texas. 'I go to Mexico with a definite purpose which I cannot yet disclose,' he said. He sent that letter from Laredo; the next day, as far as anyone knows, he entered Mexico.

Some people believe that Bierce never actually crossed the border, however, but went to some isolated place in the United States where he could end his days peacefully and alone, possibly a place in the mountains that would be good for his asthma. Other believe he went to Europe as an adviser to the British military leader, Lord Kitchener, during World War I.

Several months passed and when no one heard from Bierce his daughter asked the US State Department to locate her father. A search was made but the only result was an unconfirmed report that Bierce had actually reached Pancho Villa's headquarters. Except for two or three similar rumours, Bierce was never heard from again. Nevertheless, his wish to be remembered was fulfilled because twenty years later rumours about him were still going around. Even today the subject of what happened to Ambroce Bierce fascinates people.

Comprehension check

I. Some of these statement about Ambroce Bierce are true; others are false. Decide whether each statement is true or false and correct the false ones:

1. Ambroce Bierce was a well-known novelist.
2. During the Civil War he was a soldier in the army in the north.
3. He hated army life.
4. He did not like being a husband.
5. William Randolph Hearst invited Bierce to write a column for his newspaper.
6. Bierce liked the climate of Washington, DC.
7. He wanted to be a military adviser but was sure no one would want to use his services.
8. A revolution broke out in Mexico between Pancho Villa and Venustiano Carranza.
9. Bierce wrote to his secretary almost every day.
10. We know for certain that Bierce entered Mexico on 17 December, 1913.

II. Look through the text for more details to answer the following questions:

1. What happened in December 1913?
2. What was peculiar about Bierce's final days?

3. What decision did Bierce make at the age of 19?
4. Was the role of the Civil War significant in Bierce's life? Why?
5. Did Bierce have a family?
6. Why did he leave the family in San Francisco?
7. Was Bierce a successful writer? How did this success influence his career?
8. Who was William Randolph Hearst?
9. Why did Bierce have very few friends but many enemies?
10. Where did he move after finishing the work for Hearst?
11. Why did he decide to stay in Washington, DC?
12. What project did Bierce work on together with his secretary Carrie Christiansen?
13. What was Bierce particularly interested in in the years following the Civil War?
14. What historically-important event took place in Mexico?
15. What plan did Bierce tell to his secretary?
16. Did he manage to carry it out?
17. Did anyone try to organize a search for Bierce?
18. Was this search successful?

Word Study

I. Match the words or word-combinations and definitions:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. turn of the century | a. to hurt, to injure |
| 2. to vanish | b. to make something known or public |
| 3. to wound | c. start of a new hundred-year period, eg 1900 |
| 4. bitter | d. illness which affects breathing |
| 5. pessimistic | e. happened as promised |
| 6. celebrity | f. to disappear |
| 7. asthma | g. sharp and cruel humour |
| 8. sarcasm | h. someone who affects or acts against authority |
| 9. rebel | i. always looking at the negative side |
| 10. to disclose | j. to fill with refreshment |
| 11. to fulfill | k. famous person |

II. Match the following phrasal verbs from the text and their meanings

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. to hear from | a. to start suddenly (war, epidemic) |
| 2. to break out | b. to receive news from someone |
| 3. to settle down | c. to establish oneself in a place |
| 4. to carry out | d. to circulate |
| 5. to go around | e. to perform or complete |

III. Grammar: *because/ because of*

- *Bierce liked Washington, DC because the climate was good for his asthma.*
- *When Bierce returned to San Francisco he was already a celebrity because of*

his success in England.

- **Because is followed by a clause. Because of is followed by a noun or noun phrase.**

Fill in the gaps in these sentences with *because* or *because of*.

1. Bierce made many enemies _____ his sarcasm.
2. Hearst invited Bierce to do a column for his newspaper _____ he liked his style of writing.
3. _____ a head injury in the war, he became bitter and suspicious.
4. Bierce had asthma attacks each year _____ he didn't look after himself.
5. _____ his love for military life Bierce read everything he could about it.
6. Bierce said he was going to Mexico _____ he wanted to work with Pancho Villa.

Speaking

Make up the summary of the text (not more than 15 sentences) with these lexical units:

- turn of the century
- to vanish
- to wound
- celebrity
- asthma
- sarcasm
- rebel
- to disclose
- to fulfill
- to break out
- to settle down
- to carry out

Talking point

I. Study the solutions to this mystery, choose the best possible one. Use the notes to make up a story.

Solution1: Bierce remained in the United States.

1. In January, 1914, a man of about 70 years old, arrived in Central City, a small mining town in the Rocky Mountains.
2. He obviously preferred to be left alone in his cabin at the edge of the town. He seemed to have asthma.
3. When he rented the cabin he signed the contract 'Albert Billings'.
4. In November, 1915, Billings was found dead in his cabin, probably of a serious asthma attack.

5. There was nothing in the cabin to identify him except a book about the Civil War with his initial AB written inside.

Solution 2: Bierce went to Mexico to work for Pancho Villa.

1. Ambroce Bierce entered Mexico on 17 December, 1913.
2. He met Pancho Villa and convinced the rebel leader that he could be useful as a military adviser. Villa told him that he and Carranza, the other rebel leader, had quarreled and Carranza had left. They were now enemies.
3. One evening Bierce and Villa had an argument. Bierce called Villa a cheap bandit and said he was going to join Carranza. He left.
4. Villa was furious and sent some men to stop Bierce. Bierce was never seen again.

Solution 3: Bierce went to England to work for Lord Kitchener.

1. Ambroce Bierce entered Mexico on 17 December, 1913, and went to Villa's headquarters. Villa did not need a military adviser.
2. In July, 1914, Bierce got on a ship sailing to England.
3. He wanted to work with the British Secretary of State for War, Lord Kitchener. Kitchener hired him.
4. Bierce did not remain long because the London weather was bad for his asthma.
5. Italy was now in the war so Bierce went there as a military observer.
6. He was in Italy only a week when a bomb destroyed the hotel where he was staying. He may not have been in the building at the time but he was never seen again.

II. Use your imagination to invent your own solution, different from those given above. Use the lexis of the exercises 1-2, Word Study!!!