

The ABC Murders

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Write the names to finish the sentences.

Poirot Inspector Japp Mrs Ascher

Captain Hastings Alexander Cust

Mr Ascher Mary Drower

- a had a large farm in South America.
- b phoned with the news of the murder in Andover.
- c was tall but didn't look it because he stooped.
- d was drinking with friends on the night of the murder.
- e was going to leave a job and go back to London.
- f showed a strange letter to the police.
- g started a shop with some money she had been left.

2 Put words on the left with words on the right.

solve a	counter
shop	colouring
threaten	pity
arranged	crime
shake	society
hair	carefully
high	to kill
feel	your head

Chapters 3–4

3 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a Mrs Ascher was probably hnercagi up to a shelf when she was murdered.
- b Poirot and Hastings looked at a dnwdegi picture in Mrs Ascher's flat.
- c Poirot said he was a newspaper rpetreor to Mrs Ascher's neighbour.
- d Poirot nedeprted to look up a train in Mr Partridge's ABC guide.
- e The crime received little taitnonet in the press.
- f Poirot woke Hastings by gently nhaskig his shoulder.
- g Betty Barnard was a esasiwrt at the Orange Cat café.

4 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Poirot and Hastings went to the shop where Mrs Ascher had been murdered.
- b There were some fingerprints on the ABC guide.
- c Mr Partridge said that Mrs Ascher looked strange on the day of her death.
- d There was nobody behind the counter of the shop when Mr Riddell went in.
- e After leaving Andover, Poirot and Hastings went back to London by train.
- f The police thought that the two ABC letters hadn't been written by the same person.

Chapters 5–6

5 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- a Mr Barnard had worked in Paris before he moved to Bexhill.
- b Megan Barnard's hair was blond and cut in a modern fashion.
- c At first, Megan said that Betty was a nice girl with many men friends.
- d The second ABC letter warned about a crime in Churston.
- e Poirot and Hastings went to Churston by car.
- f Sir Carmichael Clarke had been in the habit of taking a drink after dinner.

6 Circle the extra word in the sentences.

- a Inspector Kelsey introduced him himself to Betty's parents.
- b Megan seemed to make do a decision.
- c Betty has had told Dan that she was going to Hastings on the night of her death.
- d Don was ashamed of himself for being so such suspicious.
- e The letter had been send sent to the wrong address.
- f Lady Clarke was suffering of from a terrible illness.
- g Clarke brought Thora a cup of coffee but she refused to any food.

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Chapters 7–8

7 Answer the questions.

- a What has Mr Cust suffered from ever since the war?
.....
- b Who suggested forming a kind of special legion?
.....
- c What had Betty's mum bought her the day that she was killed?
.....
- d Why did Thora Grey leave Combeside?
.....
- e What did Lady Clarke say about Thora Grey?
.....
- f What had Donald Fraser been dreaming about?
.....

8 Find words in Chapters 7–8.

- a A piece of money. (p. 44)
- b To keep something secret or put something in a place where nobody can see it. (p. 46)
- c Feel bad. (p. 48)
- d Something you put in a newspaper about a job for example. (p. 49)
- e Something you have when you are ill. (p. 51)
- f To behave in a silly way. (p. 52)
- g To make a noise on the door with your hand. (p. 54)
- h To say you don't like something. (p. 55)

Chapters 9–10

9 Finish the sentences with the right word.

- untasted wondered swimsuit hunted hurrying fond doorstep
- a Lady Clarke said she saw Thora talking to a man on the front
 - b Mr Cust's breakfast lay cold and on his plate.
 - c Mr Cust wanted his because he was going to the seaside.
 - d Sir Carmichael Clarke had been very of Thora Grey.
 - e Everyone was towards the exit of the cinema.
 - f Mr Cust looked around his room like a animal.

- g Mrs Marbury why Mr Cust had never mentioned his sister.

10 Finish the sentences.

- a On the day of the Churston murder, Thora Grey had talked to a man who was
- b Tom told Lily that Mr Cust had dropped his paper and
- c The only person who might be able to recognise the murderer was
- d Franklin Clarke showed Poirot a letter he had received from
- e Mr Cust filled the sink and washed the arm of
- f The murderer had killed George Earlsfield because he had chosen

Chapters 11–12

11 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a Poirot was silent and Hastings didn't want to rtietuprn him.
- b The Special Legion all mpdeiors to tell the truth.
- c Thora said that she was fagretlu to Sir Carmichael.
- d Mr Cust thought that he must have an meyen
- e Poirot said the murderer was a man who liked ahgniveb like a boy.
- f Franklin Clarke sent a list of emcusrots to Mr Cust.

12 Put the words in the right place to make sentences.

- a letters planned The were crimes prove the that murders
.....
- b the absent for lot Poirot a time was mysteriously of
.....
- c got Mr the job Cust stockings offer of a selling.
.....
- d only motive girlfriend Donald's be for his killing jealousy could
.....
- e took Clarke Two him arrested and Franklin detectives away
.....

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1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Poirot prefers solving crimes to growing vegetables.
- b Inspector Japp told Poirot about the Andover murder the first time he visited him.
- c The first time that Poirot found the stocking clue was in Mrs Ascher's flat.
- d Poirot and Hastings went to Churston as quickly as possible after receiving the third letter.
- e Thora Grey told Poirot in Churston that she had talked to a man who was selling stockings.
- f Franklin Clarke wanted to pay the Special Legion for the work they did.
- g Donald Fraser was having dreams about killing Betty.
- h Mr Cust lied to Mrs Marbury about where he was going on business.
- i Tom didn't tell Lily that he had been to the police to talk about his suspicions of Mr. Cust.
- j Poirot played The Truth game with the Special Legion.

2 What happened first? Number the sentences, 1–10.

- a Poirot receives a letter three days late because it is wrongly addressed.
- b Mr Cust tells Poirot that a newspaper has offered him money to tell the story of his life.
- c Poirot talks to Hastings about the first ABC letter he received.
- d Poirot interviews Mr Cust about the murders.
- e Poirot goes to see Lady Clarke and she tells them that Thora is a liar.
- f The police question Franz Ascher about the death of his wife.
- g Poirot receives a letter saying that the next event will happen in Doncaster.
- h Franklin Clarke takes a gun from his pocket and tries to kill himself.
- i Poirot and Hastings talk to the manageress of a café about Betty Barnard.
- j Mr Cust leaves a cinema and finds blood on the arm of his coat.

3 Write the names to finish the sentences.

Donald Fraser Hastings Mr Cust Mary Drower
Megan Barnard Poirot Franklin Clarke
Lily Marbury Thora Grey Mrs Ascher

- a stopped being a maid after her aunt died.
- b was afraid of people and had had a bad time at school.
- c had thinning hair and liked to help solve crimes.
- d discovered that the connection between the murders was a pair of stockings.
- e travelled to Bexhill from London and talked about a jealous boyfriend.
- f had returned from the East not long ago.
- g was very fair-haired and about twenty-seven.
- h had given her husband some money to make him go away.
- i probably felt guilty because he liked his dead girlfriend's sister.
- j made a telephone call to the person the police thought was the murderer.

4 Finish the sentences with the right words.

retired suspiciously nodded clues threatened
carry agent stabbed alibi foxes

- a If you want to go on holiday, you can go to see a travel
- b Some people like to hunt but others think it's cruel.
- c The woman was walking around the shop I thought she was going to steal something.
- d The police normally look for at the scene of the crime.
- e When my father got to the age of sixty-five, he
- f The girl died after she had been with a knife.
- g The teacher to give the students more homework if they didn't behave better.
- h You have to out orders if you are in the army.
- i My sister didn't say anything but she in agreement.
- j The police didn't arrest the man because he had an