



Stories of Detection and Mystery

Answers to Book activities

- 1 a suspect b relief c arrest d invisible
e inspector f inch g shillingh heath
- 2 a Valentin is the head of the Paris police and the most famous detective in the world. He has come to find Flambeau and arrest him. He has no hard facts so he looks for 'the unusual'. He finds himself following two priests who do strange things. When he sees them in a park, he sees, as he suspected that Flambeau is one of them and realises that Flambeau wants to steal Father Brown's jewelled cross. He goes to arrest Flambeau.
- b Flambeau is a famous French criminal, but he is very tall and cannot hide his size. He wants to steal a jewelled cross from Father Brown and stays with the priest until they get to a lonely place in the park. Then he tells Father Brown to give him the cross.
- c Father Brown He is a priest who looks very simple. But he suspects that Flambeau is a criminal and very cleverly, as he travels through London with Flambeau, he does things to protect the blue cross.
- d The blue cross is a jewelled silver cross, an ancient object of great value. Father Brown is taking it to London to show some foreign priests. Flambeau wants to steal it.
- 3 Father Brown protects himself against Flambeau because he suspects he is a criminal and wants to steal the cross. He protects himself by doing things that attract the attention of people. In this way he leaves tracks for the police so that they can follow him and arrest Flambeau.
- 4 Open answer
- 5 a nightingale b inn c skeleton d butcher
e cottage
- 6 a George, the gardener, tells Alix that Gerald told him they were going away to London the next day. Alix knows nothing about this. Then he tells her that the house cost more than Gerald told her it did. Then she finds Gerald's notebook. It has the words 'Wednesday, 18th June' in it and she doesn't know why. Then she remembers Dick's words: 'The man's a complete stranger to you. You know nothing about him.'
- b She discovers that he is the murderer, Charles LeMaitre. He was tried in court for marrying and murdering women for their money. The charge of murder was not proved. He was found guilty of smaller charges and put in prison, but he escaped.
- c She pretends to phone the butcher but phones Dick instead. She presses the button down on certain words so that Dick only hears her saying that he must come immediately. Then, in order to keep Gerald's attention until Dick arrives she tells him an (untrue) story about how she has killed two husbands by putting poison in their coffee. Gerald thinks that his coffee tasted bitter and believes that Alix has done the same to him. He has a heart attack and dies.
- 7 Open answer
- 8 Open answer
- 9 a In the army and the police force.
b He is a senior army officer who assists a more senior officer.
c a long distance call
d A business that provides a particular service, for example a travel agency or employment agency.
e A secret agent is a spy
- 10 a Edward Hart b John Benjamin Spencer c William S. Harris d Joseph Wilbur Spencer e William Harris f Thomas Wilson
- 11 Open answer
- 12 Open answer
- 13 In 1803 a play called *The Watching Eyes* was being performed at the theatre. The two leading actors were called Guy Lang and Raymond Ross. Lang's wife was in love with Raymond Ross; she told him that she hated her husband who treated her badly. In the play there was a sword fight between the two actors. One night the button came off Ross's sword and he killed Lang. People thought that Mrs Lang was responsible for this, but they did not know if Ross had known about her plan.
- 14 Open answer
- 15 a, e, f
- 16 When Mr Williams first sees the picture, he sees the front view of a country house with a large area of well-cut grass in the front. When Binks sees it the picture is in moonlight – Williams does not remember this. You can also see the head of a person, on the extreme edge of the print. At dinner, he sees that there is a figure in the middle of the grass. It is moving on its hands and knees towards the house and is wrapped in strange black clothing with a white cross on its back. The next morning the figure has gone but a window on the ground floor is open. When the servant sees the picture, the window is shut and the figure is once more on the grass. It is marching towards the front of the picture. It looks like a skeleton, with black clothing hanging over its face. Its arms are tightly closed around a child. After dinner, the figure has gone and the house is quiet in the moonlight.
- 17 The picture shows Anningley Hall, owned by Arthur Francis. He was very severe with people who hunted on his land. When Francis's keepers caught a man called Gawdy, there was a fight and Gawdy unluckily shot one of the keepers. Francis took Gawdy to court and he was hanged. Then, in 1802, Francis's son disappeared. People believe that a relative of Gawdy's seized the boy. But from the changes in the picture (painted by Francis) it seems that the ghost of Gawdy stole the child. Gawdy was the last of an old family that had once been important in the area. Perhaps he wanted to destroy Francis's family.
- 18 The *Mary Celeste* was a boat that was found in mid-ocean by sailors in 1872. The sailors said that when they found the boat there was not a single person on board. However, there were three cups of warm tea on the captain's table, a chicken was ready to be cooked, and a cat was asleep in the kitchen. What had happened to the sailors of the boat? No one ever discovered this.
- 19 a chestnut b penny
- 20 a A pair of sheets: This pair of 'fine' sheets had been bought by Maureen McGill. One of Peter McGill's aunts saw the sheets hanging in the garden at 6.30 in the morning. But the sheets disappeared with the McGills. The detective Campion finally realises that Mrs McGill took the sheets with them because they were so 'fine'.
- b savings books: When the McGills disappeared they didn't take their saving books (which didn't have much money in them.) This made their relatives and the police think something had happened to them. They hadn't simply left and taken their money. Finally Campion realises that the McGills didn't take the savings books because they didn't need the money – they were rich!
- c a ladder: The detectives find a ladder at the end of the garden. They realise that the McGills used the ladder to climb over the wall and go secretly into the next road.
- d a brown envelope: The postman delivered a brown envelope to the McGills at 7.25 on the day they disappeared. This envelope contained the news that they had won £75000 in the Irish Sweep.
- 21 When they received the news that they had won the money, Peter McGill put his plan into action. His wife was a generous woman and he knew that she would give away money to all their relatives if they asked her to. Their relatives were all around the house – it would be very difficult not to give them a lot of the money. So McGill just told his wife to come with him and climb over the back wall and go secretly to the next street. There they could find a taxi and get away. There was no time to take anything but Maureen took the good sheets that were hanging in the garden.
- 22 Open answer
- 23 Open answer
- 24 a (ii) b (i) c (ii) d (i)
- 25 a John Turnbull Angus walks into a cake shop and asks a girl called Laura to marry him. She thinks it is a joke and says these words.
- b Laura tells Angus that she used to serve people in the inn that her father owned. Two men, Isidore Smythe and James Welkin used to come to the inn. In the same week they both asked Laura to marry them. Laura refused them both – they were both very ugly. But because she did not want to hurt their feelings she told them that she could only marry someone who had made his own way in the world. She then says these words to Angus.
- c Laura has told Angus that she has twice heard Welkin speak to her, although he was nowhere nearer her. She says she thinks she must be crazy. This is Angus's reply.
- d Smythe is taking Angus to his flat to show him Wilkin's threatening letters. On the way, they see an advertisement for the machine servants that he has



Penguin Readers Answer Key

Stories of Detection and Mystery

invented. Smythe says that they are very good. Then he says these words.

- e Flambeau says this. He has seen blood in Smythe's flat and realised that Smythe has been murdered but that they cannot find the body. The body is therefore 'invisible'. The murderer is also invisible because no one saw anyone enter or leave the flat – but a man has been murdered.
- f Father Brown says this. He is talking about the murderer, who he says is 'invisible to the mind' but is dressed in these colours. In fact, the priest is describing a postman's uniform.
- 26 Open answer
- 27 a A dog, for example.
b When the child is in pain or unhappy.
c Because they want money from the family of the kidnapped person.
d Open answer
e You would see it on a staircase.
f Because you can hold on to them as you go up or down stairs.
- 28 1 kidnapped 2 secret room 3 night watchmen 4 platform 5 ground floor 6 handle 7 floor of the walkway 8 whimpering
- 29 Because the police are sure that no one entered the building after it was closed for the night. There is a strange whimpering just before the watchmen are thrown to the ground – Orsen and Bruce hear the whimpering on the recording machine. The two watchmen who live to tell the story both remember falling through the air. They do not remember anyone pushing them. Orsen leaves his instruments on the walkway in the storehouse. The next morning they are on the floor below, although the storehouse locks have not been touched. All these things make Orsen think that perhaps the attacks are caused by ghosts. He discovers the real cause because he goes to the storehouse with Bruce and stays the night there. They bring guns and magic items. Orsen asks Bruce to stay by the door and watch the walkway with his gun ready. If he sees even a shadow he must shoot. At eleven o'clock there is a whimper. When Orsen steps out onto the walkway, it moves beneath him and he is thrown forward into space. The wall behind the walkway also moves and Bruce sees a shadowy shape and shoots at it. The wall and walkway move back to their places and Orsen manages to save himself. The two men find a secret room – inside it is a dead man – the man Bruce shot. There is also a little girl who has been kidnapped.
- 30 Open answer
31 Open answer
32 Open answer
33 Open answer
34 Open answer
35 Open answer

Answers to Factsheet activities

Communicative activities

Activities before reading the book

Open answer

Answers while reading the book

The Blue Cross

- 1 Father Brown exchanges the salt and sugar in a restaurant.
Father Brown throws soup at the wall of the restaurant.
Father Brown exchanges the labels on oranges and nuts in a fruit shop.
Father Brown breaks a window in a restaurant.
The two priests go into a sweet shop. Father Brown returns and asks the lady, if she finds a package, to send it to Westminster.
- 2 Open answer

Philomel Cottage

Open answer

An Unpleasant Man

Open answer

The Unlucky Theatre

Open answer

The Mezzotint

Open answer

Family Affair

Open answer

The Invisible Answer

Open answer

The Case of the Thing that Whimpered

Open answer

Activities after reading the book

Open answer

Student's Activities

Activities before reading the book

- (a) Agatha Christie (b) Margery Allingham
(c) Cyril Hare (d) G.K. Chesterton (e) Montague Rhodes James (f) Dennis Wheatley (g) Elliot O'Donnell

Activities while reading the book

The Blue Cross

- 1 (a) Valentin is the head of the Paris police.
(b) Flambeau cannot change the fact that he is very tall.
(c) The priest tells everyone about the silver thing with blue stones.
(d) In the restaurant, someone had put salt in the sugar bowl.
(e) The waiter told him a priest had thrown soup at the wall.
(f) Someone had changed the tickets on the oranges and nuts.
(g) While Valentin was on the bus, he saw a restaurant with a broken window.
- 2 When Valentin has no hard facts, he watches very carefully for something unusual. He thinks that what catches his eye might catch the criminal's eye too. Open answer
- 3 Open answer

Read to the end of the story

- 1 (a) he was sure he'd written four shillings, but he saw he'd put fourteen shillings.
(b) one of the priests gave her money to do this.
(c) he wants to steal the jewelled silver cross.
(d) the priests are talking calmly and knowledgeably about religion.
(e) he could see the shape of his gun under his coat.
(f) he wanted to keep it safe from Flambeau.
(g) he is a cleverer man than they are.
- 2 Open answer

Philomel Cottage

- (a) Alix has had a sort of love affair with Dick. But he has never had enough money to marry her. Then a cousin left Alix money and Dick avoided Alix because his pride wouldn't allow him to ask her to be his wife. But when he hears Alix is going to marry Gerald Martin he is very angry, tells her he loves her and makes threats against Gerald. Alix met Gerald at a friend's house. He fell violently in love with her and within a week asked her to marry him. Alix was completely swept off her feet. When the story begins they have been married for a month.
- (b) Open answer
- (c) Alix dreams that she sees her husband lying dead and Dick standing over him. In the dream she knows quite clearly that Dick struck Gerald down.
- (d) Perhaps. It is strange that he said they were going away and they weren't. The confusion about the money is also strange.
- (e) Open answer
(f) Open answer

Read to the end of the story

- 1 (h), (f), (i), (c), (a), (e), (b), (g)
- 2 (a) Alix had paid all the money for the cottage. This was because Gerald wanted her money – he killed women for their money. The time in Gerald's notebook, Wednesday 9 pm, is the time that Gerald intends to kill her, as he killed his other wives. There is a room with floorstones that can easily be raised. Gerald told Alix he wants her to help him develop his photos there – actually he wants to kill her and bury her under the floorstones. He has done this with another woman. Gerald told George they were going to London because he intended to murder Alix on Wednesday night. George would not think it was strange when they were not there. He would know they had 'gone to London'.
- (b) Because she was unconsciously afraid of Gerald and wanted Dick's help. Open answer

An Unpleasant Man

- 1 (a) He wants the police to think that he killed himself.
(b) He killed a bank guard during a bank robbery.
(c) He does this because he wants the police to think that Wilson is him (Harris) and that he is dead. In fact it is Wilson who is dead because Harris poisoned him.



Penguin Readers Answer Key

Stories of Detection and Mystery

- (d) Joseph Spencer says Harris was an extremely unpleasant man. Open answer
- (e) When Place picks up the phone to make a 'trunk call' he remembers that the 'servant' used the expression 'long distance call'. This is an American expression but the 'servant' is English. This makes Place realise that the servant is really American – he is Harris.
- (f) Because he wants Place to see the 'servant' and the dead man and say who they are.

2 Open answer

The Unlucky Theatre

Open answer

The Mezzotint

- 1 An open window: At one point the picture shows an open window – there was no open window before. We guess that the creature on the grass climbs through the window.
- Anningley Hall: The House shows a picture of Anningley Hall, owned by Arthur Francis £2 2 shillings; The mezzotint is priced at £2 2 shillings.
- Black clothing with a white cross: The second change in the picture shows a figure moving on its hands and knees towards the house, wrapped in strange black clothing with a white cross on the back. A dead body is sometimes wrapped in this clothing. This suggests that the 'figure' is a ghost of some kind.
- moonlight: When Williams first sees the picture he does not think there is moonlight in the picture. But when the picture starts changing, it is always in moonlight
- a child: In the second-to-last change a skeleton figure is carrying a child.
- We know that Arthur Francis's child disappeared. It seems that this picture shows how it happened.
- Mr Green: He is the oldest member of the Cambridge college. He identifies the house in the picture.
- 1802: Francis's child disappears in 1802.
- an open area of grass: In front of the house is an open area of grass. In the changes in the picture, the figure moves across this area.

2 Open answer

Family Affair

- 1 (a) (vi), (b) (i), (c) (v), (d) (iii), (e) (iv), (f) (ii)
- 2 the McGills lived at 29 Chestnut Street. Bertram Heskith, the husband of Maureen's older sister, lives in the next-but-one house at number 25. Two of Peter's aunts (one of them called Miss Dove) live at number 33. Some cousins live with their grandmother opposite the McGill's house.
- Open answer

The Invisible Man

- 1 (a) This happens in a cake shop in Camden Town, London.
- (b) This happens in the Red Fish inn at Ludbury in eastern England.
- (c) This happens outside the cake shop at the corner.
- (d) This piece of paper has been stuck on the shop window of the cake shop.

- (e) Angus sees this in Smythe's flat near the cake shop.

2 Open answer

Now read to the end of the story

- 1 (a) Who ...? He asks the cleaner, the doorkeeper, the policeman and the chestnut seller.
- (b) How ...? He knows because he sees grey footprints in the snow leading to the entrance of the flat.
- (c) How ...? Because there is blood in the middle of the machines.
- (d) Where ...? It is found in the river.
- (e) How ...? He carries it in a sack.
- (f) Who ...? He is the postman – Welkins.

2 Open answer

The Case of the Thing that Whimpered

- 1 (a) A six-year-old girl called Angela Morgenfield, daughter of a steel factory owner.
- (b) The second night watchman.
- (c) The police.
- (d) A Swede called Neils Orsen.
- (e) Orsen.
- (f) Orsen.
- (g) The man who kidnapped Angela Morgenfield.
- (h) Angela Morgenfield.
- (i) Angela Morgenfield.

2 Open answer

Activities after reading the book

- 1 Open answer
- 2 Open answer

