

Death in the Clouds

Agatha Christie

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 1 (Chapters 1–8)

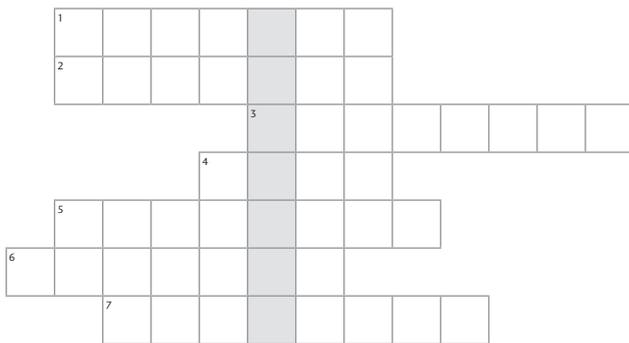
1 Comprehension

In Chapter 1 whose thoughts are these, and about whom?

- 1 She definitely remembers me. She looked so disappointed when she lost the money she had bet in the casino.
- 2 [She] always looks at me as if I was a piece of dirt. She wanted my husband Stephen for herself. Well, she didn't get him!
- 3 Little tart. Poor Stephen... if he could only get rid of her...
- 4 That pretty little one. Why does she not look at the handsome young man opposite her...?

2 Vocabulary

Answer the questions below to find the keyword.



- 1 the decision that is given by the jury or judge at the end of a trial
- 2 the person who is responsible for investigating sudden or unusual deaths
- 3 something 2 might ask 6
- 4 the group of ordinary people in a court of law who listen to the facts about a crime and decide if the person accused is guilty or not
- 5 information from documents, objects, or witnesses, which is used in a court of law to try to prove something
- 6 a person who saw an accident or crime
- 7 a place in a hospital where dead bodies are kept

3 Grammar

We mostly use the **past tense** to talk about events that have happened. What tense do you use to talk about what happened before a point in the past; to look back from a point in the past further into the past?

Complete these sentences from the book using the correct tense and the appropriate main verb in brackets.

- 1 The woman's head ____ sideways. [fall]
- 2 ... the second steward ____ the passengers to the front cabin... [take]

- 3 ... he ____ the murder happen. [not see]
- 4 She ____ nothing strange during the flight. [notice]
- 5 She thought that two men ____ the cabin to go to the toilets. [leave]
- 6 He was the person who ____ the tiny dart on the floor of the cabin. [find]
- 7 The police could have caught her – if there ____ any evidence of a crime. [be]

4 Comprehension

Now you be the detective. All these facts are wrong. Can you correct them?

1	Lady Horbury was on holiday at Juan les Pins.	
2	Clancy killed the wasp.	
3	Norman and Jane had met playing cards.	
4	Only Ryder walked past Madame Giselle during the flight.	
5	The blowpipe was found behind seat 6.	
6	Lady Horbury was a moneylender.	
7	Madame Giselle left everything to her maid.	
8	Nobody went to the toilet during the flight.	

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 2 (Chapters 9–15)

1 Vocabulary

Match the characters from Part 2 to the job they do or did.

1 Monsieur Antoine	a crime writer
2 Lady Cicely Horbury	b hairdresser
3 Nurse Ross	c archaeologist
4 Norman Gale	d steward
5 Jean Dupont	e antiques dealer
6 Daniel Clancy	f doorman
7 Henry Mitchell	g maid
8 Monsieur Zeropoulous	h dancer
9 Elise Grandier	i dentist
10 Georges	j dental assistant

2 Comprehension

All these facts are wrong. Can you correct them?

- Giselle's papers were hidden in the safe.
- Georges recognized Raymond Barraclough from the magazine photograph.
- The blowpipe that the antiques dealer sold was very valuable.
- Monsieur Antoine wanted to give Jane a pay rise.
- Norman Gale's business is doing badly because he is a bad dentist.
- Mr Clancy is writing the true story of Madame Giselle's death.

3 Grammar

Fill the gaps in these sentences with compound adjectives made from the words in the box.

e.g. Lord Horbury was a very kind-hearted man.

cold	old	brightly	eye	kind	well
fashioned	behaved	blooded	watering	hearted	coloured

- She had the eyes of a _____ killer.
- He hated the _____ tie his mother had bought him.
- The dentist's bill was _____. He didn't have the money to pay for it.
- The children were very _____ in class – until the bell went!
- She was very _____ in her attitudes to divorce.

4 Language

What does Elise mean when she says 'blood is thicker than water' on p. 41?

- Madame Giselle was very rich.

- Family is more important than other people.
- Families are very expensive.

5 Follow-up activity:

Here are some other English expressions using the word blood. Match them with their meanings.

1 blood on the carpet	a	a situation where it is very difficult to persuade someone to give you something (money or information, for example)
2 like getting blood from a stone	b	to make someone feel worried or upset, especially about the thought of death
3 make one's blood boil	c	a situation where there is a lot of trouble, or a big argument
4 in one's blood	d	to make someone very angry
5 have blood on one's hands	e	to be responsible for a death, even indirectly
6 make one's blood run cold	f	to be naturally good at something

6 Language

Use the new expressions to fill the gaps in these sentences.

- When I think I served that old woman a coffee while she was dead it makes my _____.
- When I think of poor lovely Stephen married to that horrible tart, it makes my _____.
- That doorman wouldn't say anything. It was _____.
- Barraclough might easily pretend to be the American. After all, acting is _____.
- I shouldn't have taken that bribe. I feel I have _____.

7 Follow-up activity

Which characters might have said each of the lines above?

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 3 (Chapters 16–22)

1 Comprehension

Match the character to the correct London location where they live or work.

1 Queen Victoria Street	a Dr Bryant
2 Grosvenor Square	b Lady Horbury
3 Bloomsbury	c Henry Mitchell
4 Harley Street	d Inspector Japp
5 Wandsworth	e James Ryder
6 Scotland Yard	f Daniel Clancy

2 Grammar

must and *have to* are used to demonstrate an obligation. In the present they are really the same but *must* is normally used when the speaker has decided something is necessary, and *have to* when the decision is imposed by someone else.

must does not have a future or past form so you cannot say *I will must* or *I had must*. But you can use *must* to express a future obligation: *I must book that flight tomorrow*.

Fill the gaps in the sentences from Part 3 with *must* or *have to* using the rules above.

- And so, we _____ continue the hunt.
- She would _____ see the man, of course.
- But you _____ tell me the truth, Madame – the whole truth – or I cannot help you.’
- Monsieur Dupont was surprised. ‘Well, it might be possible. I will _____ ask Jean.’
- ‘If I discover who killed Madame Giselle, you will not _____,’ said Poirot cheerfully.
- I _____ buy you a book on Prehistoric Pottery of the Near East in the morning.

3 Language

Fill in the gaps about the marriage laws at the time of the story.

Before 1937, if a husband or _____ wanted a _____, one had to be guilty of _____ and the other had to be innocent. And there had to be a witness who would give evidence in _____ that they had seen the married person and their _____ in a _____ bedroom together. Sometimes this event was _____, which meant that people had to lie in court, which is a crime called _____.

4 Language

Can you find the names of the five crimes you have read in the book so far in this wordsearch?

R	X	T	V	O	X	K	A	B
B	L	A	C	K	M	A	I	L
D	R	A	K	A	U	J	T	E
W	G	I	S	D	R	H	H	Z
D	V	Q	B	A	D	D	E	D
A	M	A	F	E	E	H	F	E
N	V	U	D	U	R	D	T	D
P	E	R	J	U	R	Y	H	I
V	R	G	E	F	S	Q	U	L

5 Language

Match the if-clause to the conditional clause in these sentences and fill in the missing word. If you are stuck you can find the answers in the Cultural notes.

1 If a person dies,	a there will be an inquest by a _____.
2 If there is anything suspicious about the death,	b the cause of death is first recorded by a _____.
3 If the death is violent and murder is suspected,	c a post mortem is carried out by a _____.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 4 (Chapters 23–25)

1 Comprehension

Now that you have finished the story can you remember the three clues and the meaning of each?

Clue	Meaning
the wasp	

2 Comprehension

Order these events 1-11. One event is not completely correct. Can you correct it?

- ___ He married Anne Morisot.
- ___ He found out that Anne was Madame Giselle's daughter.
- ___ He hid the blowpipe down the back of a chair.
- ___ He strangled Anne on the train.
- ___ He fell in love with Jane Grey.
- ___ He bribed the airline agent to put Madame Giselle on the midday flight.
- ___ He met Anne in Nice.
- ___ He realized that Poirot might recognize Anne Morisot.
- ___ He bought a blowpipe.
- ___ He murdered Madame Giselle by placing the dart in her neck.
- ___ He told Anne Morisot to come forward to claim her inheritance.

3 Playing detective

Before Norman was arrested, there were clues pointing to other characters. Which person(s) is being identified by the pronoun in these sentences?

- 1 Why didn't she say **she** was on the plane? _____
- 2 **She** lied about not having met Madame Giselle.

- 3 There were rumours about **him** and a pretty woman with a nasty husband. _____
- 4 **He** desperately needed a loan. _____
- 5 Apart from the stewards, **he** was the only person seen passing Madame Giselle. _____
- 6 **They** knew the antiques dealer who sold the blowpipe.

4 Follow-up activity

How is each of these suspicions ruled out by the events of the novel?

- 1 _____ hid the truth because Norman told her she might become a suspect if she didn't.
- 2 _____.
- 3 _____.

- 4 _____.
- 5 _____.
- 6 _____.

5 Comprehension

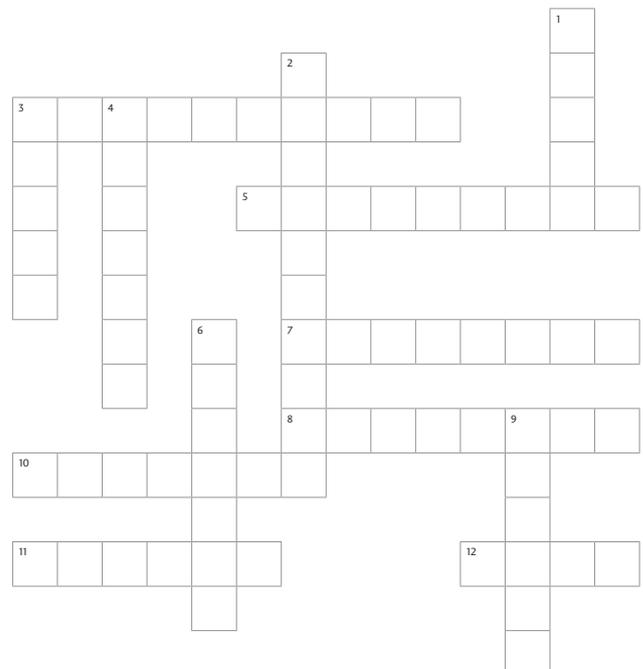
Complete this crossword with your knowledge of the story.

Across

- 3 If someone helps you commit a crime they are an ____.
- 5 The poison was from this type of African snake.
- 7 Why didn't the murderer throw this out of the plane?
- 8 The gambling game Jane played in Le Pinet.
- 10 Jules Perrot committed this crime.
- 11 Where will Jane travel to next?
- 12 'Perhaps she has died of a ____ sting?' said Jean Dupont.

Down

- 1 An extra _____ in a saucer meaning a wedding.
- 2 A part of London famous for writers.
- 3 You need this to prove that you were somewhere else when a crime was committed.
- 4 This is where the first London airport was.
- 6 Madame Giselle's daughter, who would _____ a fortune when she died.
- 9 Why did he replace the original red silk with black and yellow _____?



ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Part 1 (Chapters 1–8)

1 Comprehension

- 1 Norman about Jane.
- 2 Lady Horbury about Venetia Kerr.
- 3 Venetia Kerr about Lady Horbury.
- 4 Hercule Poirot about Jane.

2 Vocabulary

- 1 VERDICT
 - 2 CORONER
 - 3 QUESTION
 - 4 JURY
 - 5 EVIDENCE
 - 6 WITNESS
 - 7 MORTUARY
- KEYWORD:** INQUEST

3 Grammar

The tense we use to talk about events in the past that have already happened is the past perfect tense.

- 1 had fallen
- 2 had taken
- 3 had not seen
- 4 had noticed
- 5 had left
- 6 had found
- 7 had been

4 Comprehension

- 1 Lady Horbury was on holiday at Le Pinet.
- 2 Jean Dupont killed the wasp.
- 3 Norman and Jane had met playing roulette.
- 4 Only Clancy walked past Madame Giselle during the flight.
- 5 The blowpipe was found behind seat 9.
- 6 Madame Giselle was a moneylender.
- 7 Madame Giselle left everything to her daughter, Anne.
- 8 Norman and Ryder went to the toilet during the flight.

Part 2 (Chapters 9–15)

1 Vocabulary

- 1 b
- 2 h
- 3 j
- 4 i
- 5 c
- 6 a
- 7 d
- 8 e
- 9 g
- 10 f

2 Comprehension

(The exact words may differ.)

- 1 Giselle's papers were hidden in the chest.
- 2 Georges recognized Lady Horbury from the magazine photograph.
- 3 The blowpipe that the antiques dealer sold was 'cheap foreign rubbish'.
- 4 Monsieur Antoine gave Jane a pay rise 'unwillingly'.
- 5 Norman Gale's business is doing badly because his patients think he might be a murderer.
- 6 Mr Clancy is writing a story about a murder on a plane.

3 Grammar

- 1 She had the eyes of a *cold-blooded* killer.
- 2 He hated the *brightly-coloured* tie his mother had bought him.
- 3 The dentist's bill was *eye-watering*. He didn't have the money to pay for it.
- 4 The children were very *well-behaved* in class – until the bell went!
- 5 She was very *old-fashioned* in her attitudes to divorce.

4 Language

- 2 Family is more important than other people.

5 Follow-up activity

- 1 c

- 2 a
- 3 d
- 4 f
- 5 e
- 6 b

6 Language

- 1 When I think I served that old woman a coffee while she was dead it makes my *blood run cold*.
- 2 When I think of poor lovely Stephen married to that horrible tart, it makes my *blood boil*.
- 3 That doorman wouldn't say anything. It was *like getting blood out of a stone*.
- 4 Barraclough might easily pretend to be an American. After all, acting is *in his blood*.
- 5 I shouldn't have taken that bribe. I feel I have *blood on my hands*.

7 Follow-up activity

- 1 Henry Mitchell or Albert Davis, the stewards
- 2 Venetia Kerr
- 3 Monsieur Fournier
- 4 Hercule Poirot
- 5 Jules Perrot

Part 3 (Chapters 16–22)

1 Comprehension

- 1 e
- 2 b
- 3 f
- 4 a
- 5 c
- 6 d

2 Grammar

- 1 must
- 2 have to
- 3 must
- 4 have to
- 5 have to
- 6 must

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3 Language

Before 1937, if a husband or wife wanted a divorce, one had to be guilty of infidelity and the other had to be innocent. And there had to be a witness who would give evidence in court that they had seen the married person and their lover in a hotel bedroom together. Sometimes this event was set up, which meant that people had to lie in court, which is a crime called perjury.

4 Language

R	X	T	V	O	X	K	A	B
B	L	A	C	K	M	A	I	L
D	R	A	K	A	U	J	T	E
W	G	J	S	D	R	H	H	Z
D	V	Q	B	A	D	D	E	D
A	M	A	F	E	E	H	F	E
N	V	U	D	U	R	D	T	D
P	E	R	J	U	R	X	H	I
V	R	G	E	F	S	Q	U	L

5 Language

- b. the cause of death is first recorded by a doctor.
- c. a post mortem is carried out by a pathologist.
- a. there will be an inquest by a coroner.

Part 4 (Chapter 23–25)

1 Comprehension

the wasp	Norman hoped that it would be blamed for Madame Giselle's death.
the passenger's baggage	Norman used the matchbox to carry the wasp.
the extra coffee spoon	Norman (disguised as a steward) needed a reason to approach Madame Giselle.

2 Comprehension

- He married Anne Morisot.
- He found out that Anne Morisot was Madame Giselle's daughter.
- He hid the blowpipe down the back of a chair.

- He strangled Anne on the train. He **poisoned** Anne on the train.
- He fell in love with Jane Grey.
- He bribed the airline agent to put Madame Giselle on the midday flight.
- He met Anne in Nice.
- He realized that Poirot might recognize Anne Morisot.
- He bought a blowpipe.
- He murdered Madame Giselle by placing the dart in her neck.
- He told Anne Morisot to claim her inheritance.

Down

- spoon
- Bloomsbury
- alibi
- Croydon
- inherit
- thread

3 Playing detective

- Anne Morisot
- Lady Horbury
- Dr Bryant
- James Ryder
- Daniel Clancy
- The Duponts

4 Follow-up activity

- Anne hid the truth because Norman told her she might become a suspect if she didn't.
- Lady Horbury lied because she thought she would become a suspect and endanger her marriage.
- Bryant reveals the 'pretty' woman is a patient and he was not being blackmailed.
- Poirot tests him and discovers that he had no loan with Madame Giselle.
- In fact, Daniel Clancy was NOT the only other person to pass Madame Giselle; Norman did as well.
- The Duponts knew the antiques dealer, but they did not buy the blowpipe from him.

5 Comprehension

Across

- accomplice
- boomslang
- blowpipe
- roulette
- bribery
- Persia
- wasp