

The Man in the Brown Suit

Agatha Christie

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 1 (Chapters 1–7)

1 Vocabulary

Read the definitions and complete the words.

- 1 something that helps you find the answer to a puzzle or mystery c ---
- 2 an official inquiry into the cause of someone's death i -----
- 3 when a person kills themselves because they do not want to live s -----
- 4 something you see or experience that makes you believe a thing is true e -----
- 5 a decision made in a court of law at the end of a trial v -----
- 6 when two or more similar events occur at the same time without planning c -----
- 7 someone who forgets things is a -----

2 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

glue envy telegram hang onto prehistoric strangled

- 1 A police say that the victim was _____ by a rope.
- 2 In the 1920s, a new way to send messages was by _____.
- 3 My brother is studying archaeology; he's studying _____ remains in France.
- 4 This book is useful, I think I'll _____ it for a while.
- 5 We used _____ to stick the photos onto our display.
- 6 I really _____ Sue: she always gets good marks but she doesn't seem to study too hard.

3 Grammar

Put the words in order to make sentences from the story.

- 1 I / adventures / have / to / wanted / always / have

- 2 just / come / has / from / he / abroad

- 3 arrived / he / day / the / had / before

- 4 wearing / a / was / suit / he / brown

- 5 hospitals / I / during / worked / had / in / War / the

- 6 taken / doctor / have / it / the / body / must / from / the

4 Grammar

Complete the sentences from the story with the correct past simple form of the verb.

tell live stand hear die give enjoy take

- 1 His mind _____ in Palaeolithic times.
- 2 I _____ reading the adventures and love affairs in these books.
- 3 He _____ four days later.
- 4 He _____ me that my father had only left me £87.
- 5 I _____ her voice raised as she entered the drawing-room below.
- 6 He _____ a step backwards.
- 7 The doctor _____ upright and shook his head.
- 8 She _____ the name of Mrs de Castina.

5 Comprehension

Are the sentences true or false? Rewrite any that you think are false.

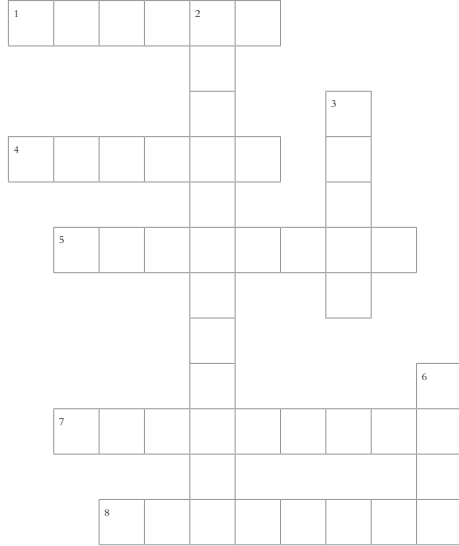
- 1 Anne has to look after her father because he isn't very practical. _____
- 2 Professor Beddingfeld leaves his daughter a lot of money. _____
- 3 Mrs Flemming is very happy when Anne comes to stay with them. _____
- 4 The man who died in the Tube station had spent time in a sunny country. _____
- 5 The doctor who examined him had a black beard and brown glasses. _____
- 6 The woman who was murdered in Mill House was not identified at first. _____
- 7 The Man in the Brown Suit went into Mill House with Mrs de Castina. _____
- 8 Anne gives Lord Nasby the piece of paper she found in the station. _____
- 9 Mr Pagett had to offer Mrs James more money to stay at Mill House. _____
- 10 Anne finds the roll of camera film under a chair in the room. _____

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 2 (Chapters 8–14)

1 Vocabulary

Complete the crossword.



Across

- 1 when the police take a person to a police station because they believe they may have committed a crime
- 4 the most important male servant in a wealthy house
- 5 someone who has killed or harmed another person by using poison
- 7 the activity of using spies to find out the political or military secrets of your enemies
- 8 not having committed a crime which you are accused of

Down

- 2 an irrational fear or belief
- 3 someone who deliberately causes pain or distress to people or animals is...
- 6 something you owe to another person – usually money

2 Vocabulary

Match the words to the definitions.

- 1 the ceremony that is held when the body of someone who has died is buried or cremated
- 2 behaving in a way that upsets or embarrasses other people
- 3 feeling ill because you are travelling on the water
- 4 to go over the side of a ship into the water
- 5 being sure of your own abilities
- 6 a woman who works on a ship, looking after passengers and serving meals to them

- a sea-sick
- b confident
- c funeral
- d stewardess

- e overboard
- f offensive

3 Grammar

Complete the passive sentences from the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 A woman has _____ (have/murder) in your house.
- 2 I _____ (be/help) up and put in a deck-chair.
- 3 I'm sorry, but Number 17 _____ (have/give) to me.
- 4 Tea _____ (be/serve) and I ate hungrily.
- 5 He _____ (have/stab) in the left shoulder.

4 Grammar

Complete the sentences from the story with the correct present perfect form of the verb.

forgive make go work choose ask be not meet

- 1 The sea _____ them both ill.
- 2 Sir Eustace _____ Number 17 as being suitable for his needs.
- 3 I hope you _____ me about Cabin 17.
- 4 I _____ for the last two years amongst the cannibals in East Africa.
- 5 He won't let me invent stories about people I _____.
- 6 He _____ her to dine with him.
- 7 I suppose you _____ to Kimberley and seen the mines, Colonel Race?
- 8 How long _____ he _____ your secretary?

5 Comprehension

Put these events in order.

- a A stranger comes to Anne's cabin in the night. _____
- b Suzanne and Anne discover diamonds in a tin container. _____
- c Anne starts her journey feeling very ill. _____
- d Sir Eustace Pedler sends Pagett to Florence. _____
- e Colonel Race tells a story about stolen diamonds. _____
- f Anne meets Suzanne Blair. _____
- g Sir Eustace gets a new secretary called Harry Rayburn. _____
- h Three people want Cabin 17. _____

6 Comprehension

Complete the sentences with the correct character.

- 1 _____ is a hard-working man, but he looks cruel.
- 2 Augustus Milray asks _____ to go to South Africa.
- 3 _____ gives Anne some money for her journey.
- 4 _____ advises Anne to change to a cabin with a sea view.
- 5 Anne has lunch with _____, who has been working in Christian churches abroad.
- 6 Pagett suggests that _____ should get a bigger cabin.
- 7 _____ went to the Fancy Dress party dressed as a gipsy.
- 8 _____ was killed in the War.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 3 (Chapters 15–20)

1 Vocabulary

Match the words to the definitions.

- 1 to lose consciousness for a short time
 - 2 having very strong feelings about something or someone
 - 3 violent and uncontrolled
 - 4 a room at the top of a house, just below the roof
 - 5 to think that a person has done something dishonest
 - 6 someone who accompanies another person to make sure that he or she is safe
- a passionate
b attic
c suspect
d savage
e faint
f chaperone

2 Vocabulary

Read the definitions and find the words.

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

- 1 The person who is in charge of the objects in a museum.

- 2 An organization which finds out information about what other countries are doing. _____
- 3 A permanent mark on the skin, caused by an injury.

- 4 A room on a boat which a person sleeps in. _____
- 5 A woman who has magic powers. _____
- 6 A valuable stone which is shiny when polished. _____
- 7 A person who looks after ill or injured people. _____
- 8 A sport in which people ride waves in the sea. _____

3 Grammar

Complete the sentences with *can't have*, *might have*, or *must have*.

- 1 The Man in the Brown Suit _____ killed Nadina – he went into the house after her, then came out alone, and he is the only suspect.
- 2 Perhaps he didn't come through the gate. Instead, he _____ climbed over the wall.
- 3 Harry Rayburn _____ hit Pagett, because Pagett was on the floor when they found him.
- 4 Anne _____ enjoyed surfing, because she wanted to go again.
- 5 Chichester _____ known that Anne was listening at the door, because he thought she was upstairs.
- 6 Suzanne _____ been pleased when Anne came home safely, because she cares about her deeply.

4 Comprehension

Are these sentences true or false? Rewrite any that you think are false.

- 1 Suzanne knows Colonel Race well. _____
- 2 Lucas was definitely killed in the War. _____
- 3 Suzanne thinks that Harry Rayburn is the Man in the Brown Suit. _____
- 4 Anne discovers who put the diamonds in Suzanne's room. _____
- 5 Guy Pagett knows a lot about Florence. _____
- 6 Somebody attacks Anne, but at first she doesn't know who it is. _____
- 7 Harry isn't surprised when Anne calls him 'Mr Lucas'.

- 8 Sir Eustace hasn't seen Pagett since they arrived in Cape Town. _____

5 Comprehension

Match the questions and answers.

- 1 What does Suzanne think Colonel Race does?
 - 2 Who paid the steward to put the tin container into Suzanne's cabin?
 - 3 Who will pay for Anne's hotel in Cape Town?
 - 4 Where does Anne think Pagett was at the time of the murder?
 - 5 Who does Anne think she is going to visit in Cape Town?
 - 6 Where is Anne kept by the tall Dutchman?
- a In an attic room.
b Carton, the man who died in the Tube station.
c He works for the Secret Service.
d In Marlow.
e Suzanne.
f A friend of her father's.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 4 (Chapters 21–33)

1 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

code	spoil	ruined	revolution	host	betrayal
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- 1 His behaviour has been a real _____, and I am very upset.
- 2 After the _____, a different political party was in charge of the country.
- 3 Don't tell Lucy, that would _____ the surprise!
- 4 We can't understand the message, because it is written in _____.
- 5 Many businesses were _____ after the collapse of the economy.
- 6 You have been a wonderful _____ this evening – it's a great party.

2 Vocabulary

Read the definitions and find the words.

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

- 1 to treat someone unfairly
- 2 a deep, narrow valley with steep sides
- 3 if you get _____ of a person you want to speak to, you find them
- 4 an identity _____ is a special badge with information about a person
- 5 an area like a large balcony around the outside of the ground floor of a house
- 6 a _____ message is one sent over a long distance using radio signals

3 Grammar

Complete the past perfect sentences from the story.

come	finish	talk	feel	move	never + see
------	--------	------	------	------	-------------

- 1 Suzanne and I _____ half the night, making our plans.

- 2 I had a strong feeling that I _____ home ... yet I had never been here before.
- 3 I _____ anything so grand and beautiful.
- 4 I _____ him to be near me.
- 5 We _____ our meal and were sitting in the doorway of the little house.
- 6 He _____ the stones which mark the path.

4 Grammar

Put the words in order to make questions from the story.

- 1 best / the / is / train / day / the / Rhodesia / to / this / in / ?

- 2 down / we / shall / go / ?

- 3 are / laughing / why / you / me / at / ?

- 4 Mill House / murder / why / the / chosen / was / the / for / ?

- 5 bullets / you / load / can / with / a / gun / ?

- 6 you / Marlow / what / doing / were / 8th January / at / on / ?

- 7 not / why / you / did / truth / tell / me / the / ?

5 Comprehension

Put the events from the story in the correct order.

- a Anne receives a message from Harry.
- b Harry and Anne are attacked on the island.
- c Anne, Suzanne, Pedler and Colonel Race arrive in Bulawayo.
- d Harry tells Anne his story.
- e Anne, Suzanne, Pedler and Colonel Race visit Victoria Falls.
- f Harry finds Anne, who has been injured.
- g Anne discovers that Pedler is the Colonel.
- h Anne returns to Kimberley and finds Suzanne.
- i Harry and Anne return to the island.
- j Colonel Race arrests Sir Eustace.

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ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Part 1 (Chapters 1–7)

1 Vocabulary

- clue
- inquest
- suicide
- evidence
- verdict
- coincidence
- absent-minded

2 Vocabulary

- strangled
- telegram
- prehistoric
- hang onto
- glue
- envy

3 Grammar

- I have always wanted to have adventures.
- He has just come from abroad.
- He had arrived the day before.
- He was wearing a brown suit.
- I had worked in hospitals during the War.
- The doctor must have taken it from the body.

4 Grammar

- lived
- enjoyed
- died
- told
- heard
- took
- stood
- gave

5 Comprehension

- True
- False. Professor Beddingfeld leaves his daughter £87.
- False. Mrs Flemming does not like Anne because she is good-looking.
- True
- False. The man had a brown beard and glasses with gold frames.
- True
- False. The two people entered the house separately.
- False. Anne refuses to give him the paper.
- True
- False. Anne finds the roll of film in a cupboard.

Part 2 (Chapters 8–14)

1 Vocabulary

- Across**
- arrest
 - butler

- poisoner
- espionage
- innocent

Down

- superstition
- cruel
- debt

2 Vocabulary

- c
- f
- a
- e
- b
- d

3 Grammar

- been murdered
- was helped
- has been given
- was served
- had been stabbed

4 Grammar

- has made
- has chosen
- have forgiven
- have worked
- have not met
- has asked
- have been
- has / been

5 Comprehension

- d
- g
- c
- f
- h
- a
- e
- b

6 Comprehension

- Guy Pagett
- Sir Eustace Pedler
- Mrs Flemming
- Suzanne
- the Reverend Edward Chichester
- Sir Eustace
- Anne
- John Eardsley

Part 3 (Chapters 15–20)

1 Vocabulary

- e
- a
- d

- b
- c
- f

2 Vocabulary

- curator
- secret service
- scar
- cabin
- witch
- diamond
- doctor
- surfing

3 Grammar

- must have
- might have
- can't have
- must have
- can't have
- must have

4 Comprehension

- False. This is the first time Suzanne has met Colonel Race.
- False. He was missing in action. It isn't certain that he is dead.
- True
- True
- False. Guy Pagett doesn't know much about Florence.
- True
- False. Harry is very surprised when Anne calls him Mr Lucas.
- False. Sir Eustace hasn't seen Rayburn since they arrived in Cape Town.

5 Comprehension

- c
- b
- e
- d
- f
- a

Part 4 (Chapters 21–33)

1 Vocabulary

- betrayal
- revolution
- spoil
- code
- ruined
- host

2 Vocabulary

- cheat
- gorge
- hold
- disc

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- 5 verandah
- 6 wireless

3 Grammar

- 1 had talked
- 2 had come
- 3 'd never seen
- 4 had felt
- 5 had finished
- 6 had moved

4 Grammar

- 1 Is this the best train in the day to Rhodesia?
- 2 Shall we go down?
- 3 Why are you laughing at me?
- 4 Why was the Mill House chosen for the murder?
- 5 Can you load a gun with bullets?
- 6 What were you doing at Marlow on 8th January?
- 7 Why did you not tell me the truth?

5 Comprehension

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