

# The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

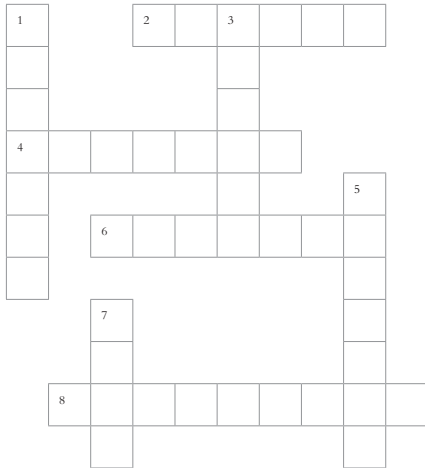
*Agatha Christie*

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Part 1 (Chapters 1–6)

#### 1 Vocabulary

Complete the crossword puzzle.



#### Across

- 2 a small, thin knife
- 4 to admit to something wrong you have done
- 6 a son of a person's husband or wife, from a previous relationship
- 8 threatening to hurt someone or reveal a secret unless that person gives you money

#### Down

- 1 when a person takes their own life
- 3 informal conversation about what other people are doing
- 5 to get money or property from a person when they die
- 7 a formal document which says what should happen to your money and property when you die

#### 2 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

widow	overdose	fireplace	hairdresser
alcoholic	lid	mourning	footprints

- 1 She died of an \_\_\_\_\_ of veronal.
- 2 When he was just twenty-one, Ackroyd married a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Sadly, Mrs Ackroyd was an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 'There's no doubt that the man is a retired \_\_\_\_\_.'
- 5 The sound I had heard was this \_\_\_\_\_ being shut down!
- 6 In the light of the torch, several \_\_\_\_\_ could be seen.
- 7 Blunt stood in front of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Mrs Ferrars had a year of \_\_\_\_\_ after her husband died.

#### 3 Grammar

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

- 1 I was still thinking of it when I \_\_\_\_\_ face to face with Roger Ackroyd himself. (come)
- 2 It must \_\_\_\_\_ very hard for Caroline to have to admit that she didn't know. (be)
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ up weeds when a heavy object flew past my ears and fell at my feet. (dig)
- 4 We \_\_\_\_\_ for about a month, but it was only announced yesterday. (be engaged)
- 5 Hector Blunt \_\_\_\_\_ more wild animals in Africa and India than any man living, and every year he spends a fortnight at Fernly. (shoot)
- 6 As I \_\_\_\_\_ the door behind me I was surprised to see Parker nearby. (close)
- 7 The village church clock \_\_\_\_\_ nine o'clock as I passed by the gatekeeper's cottage. (ring)
- 8 I met Parker just outside the door and \_\_\_\_\_ him Uncle's message. (give)

#### 4 Comprehension

Match the parts of the sentences.

- |                                     |                                            |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 Dr Sheppard lost money            | a outside Ackroyd's study.                 |
| 2 Caroline wants to find out        | b the door of Ackroyd's study.             |
| 3 Raymond, Parker and Sheppard open | c speculating on oilfields and gold mines. |
| 4 Mrs Ferrars killed her husband    | d lots of information about her neighbour. |
| 5 Parker saw Flora                  | e from a silver table in the drawing-room. |
| 6 The dagger was taken              | f because he was a cruel man.              |

#### 5 Comprehension

Put these events in the correct time sequence.

- a Ackroyd invites Sheppard into his study.
- b Ackroyd meets his neighbour, 'Mr Porrott'.
- c Ackroyd invites Sheppard to Fernly Park for dinner.
- d Mrs Ferrars writes a letter to Ackroyd.
- e Caroline hears Ralph Paton talking to a woman in the woods.
- f Mrs Ackroyd commits suicide.
- g Sheppard receives a phone call saying that Ackroyd is dead.
- h Flora tells Sheppard that she and Ralph are engaged.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 2 (Chapters 7–12)**

**1 Vocabulary**

Match the words with the definitions.

- |                                                                             |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 someone who does something as a hobby and not as a job                    | <b>a</b> income  |
| 2 money that you earn or receive                                            | <b>b</b> adopted |
| 3 money or property which someone leaves to you in their will when they die | <b>c</b> legacy  |
| 4 someone who has been legally taken in as a child by another family        | <b>d</b> observe |
| 5 to watch or study someone or something carefully                          | <b>e</b> inquest |
| 6 an official inquiry into the cause of someone's death                     | <b>f</b> amateur |

**2 Vocabulary**

Read the definitions and find the words.

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

- 1 a small machine used to record someone speaking, so that their words can be played back later
- 2 to feel very sad about someone's death
- 3 a female servant who does cleaning and other work in someone's house
- 4 a small room or large cupboard where food is kept
- 5 a comfy chair for one person to sit in
- 6 an area of hard ground in front of a house, where people can walk or sit
- 7 a place where trains arrive in and leave a town
- 8 paper money

**3 Grammar**

Complete the sentences from the story with the correct future tense of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 We \_\_\_\_\_ that young gentleman's fingerprints as soon as we find him. (take)
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ honoured. (be)
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ through with it to the end. (go)
- 4 Well, Monsieur Poirot, this \_\_\_\_\_ much of a case. (not be)
- 5 Mr Hammond \_\_\_\_\_ to lunch with us. (stay)
- 6 Monsieur Poirot \_\_\_\_\_ who killed Uncle. (find out)
- 7 Captain Paton \_\_\_\_\_ a very rich man. (be)
- 8 Certainly. I \_\_\_\_\_ you up now. (take)

**4 Comprehension**

Put these events in the correct time sequence.

- a Poirot, Dr Sheppard and Colonel Melrose visit Ackroyd's study. \_\_\_\_\_
- b Sheppard goes to the Three Boars to see Ralph Paton. \_\_\_\_\_
- c Inspector Raglan goes to the Three Boars. \_\_\_\_\_
- d Poirot and Sheppard go to the police station. \_\_\_\_\_
- e Dr Sheppard and Geoffrey Raymond have their fingerprints taken by the police. \_\_\_\_\_
- f Flora takes Sheppard to meet Poirot. \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Comprehension**

Match these statements to the person who might have said them.

- |                                                                                |                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 'The fire was almost out when I came into the study.'                        | <b>a</b> Raymond          |
| 2 'I didn't notice what position the chair was in when I came into the study.' | <b>b</b> Flora Ackroyd    |
| 3 'We have to find Ralph Paton and take his fingerprints.'                     | <b>c</b> Parker           |
| 4 'I shouldn't feel happy about his death, but I do.'                          | <b>d</b> Ursula Bourne    |
| 5 'Ralph often didn't have enough money.'                                      | <b>e</b> Hammond          |
| 6 'I'm leaving my job because I had an argument with my employer.'             | <b>f</b> Inspector Raglan |

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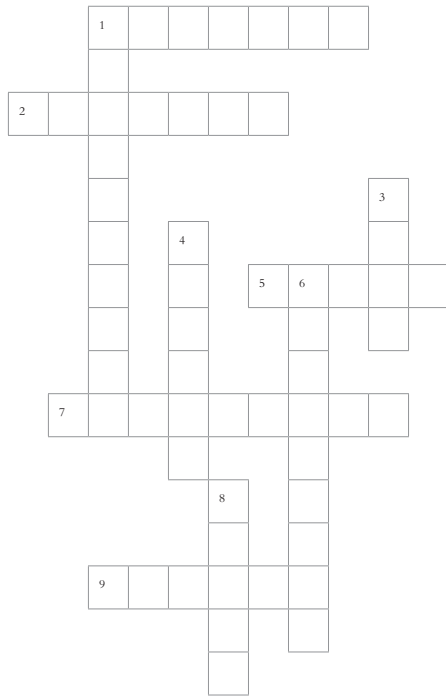
*Agatha Christie*

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Part 3 (Chapters 13–18)

#### 1 Vocabulary

Complete the crossword puzzle.



#### Across

- to cover or hide something carefully
- a punishment for a crime
- something that proves you were in a different place when a crime happened
- an unexplained feeling that something is true, without any evidence to prove it
- to make other people aware of something

#### Down

- the act of admitting that you have done something you are ashamed of
- if you are in this, you owe someone money
- a story or piece of information that may or may not be true
- in a way which uses logic or reason
- the desire to have more of something than is necessary or fair

#### 2 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

guilty frowning genius theft subconscious blind

- I think the \_\_\_ of the money will be discovered soon.
- Do you think he will plead \_\_\_ to the blackmail?

- It wasn't a definite idea, but more of a \_\_\_ feeling, which made her suspect the butler.
- How could I have missed the clues – I've been so \_\_\_!
- She is a \_\_\_ in mathematics, but she is very shy and modest too.
- Look at Elsa, she's \_\_\_ – I wonder what's wrong with her.

#### 3 Grammar

Choose the correct words to complete these questions from the story.

- How *did / am* I to know?
- What / Where* about the telephone call?
- How *am / do* I know that?
- Do / Are* you realize that there are three separate motives staring us in the face?
- Why *were / did* you leave the lid open?
- Where *have / had* she been?
- How are you *will / going to* find this out?
- Has / Have* you often blackmailed people?

#### 4 Comprehension

Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- Poirot doesn't think that Caroline Sheppard is very helpful. \_\_\_\_\_
- Dr Sheppard thinks it is unlikely that Ralph is guilty. \_\_\_\_\_
- Mrs Ackroyd doesn't trust Ursula Bourne. \_\_\_\_\_
- Caroline discovers that Ralph's boots were brown. \_\_\_\_\_
- The money which Raymond is given by Ackroyd is very helpful to him. \_\_\_\_\_
- On the night of the murder, Parker saw Flora coming out of the study door. \_\_\_\_\_
- Parker has been arrested by the police because of blackmail before this job. \_\_\_\_\_
- Hammond, the family lawyer, had suspected that Mrs Ferrars was being blackmailed. \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 4 (Chapters 18–25)**

**1 Vocabulary**

Read the definitions and find the words.

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

- 1 to speak or read aloud for someone else to write down what you are saying
- 2 to keep a person in a place under the control of someone else, usually the police
- 3 to do something which hurts or disappoints a person who loves and trusts you
- 4 brave and determined
- 5 to suggest that someone is the person responsible for something bad, especially a crime
- 6 a message that is sent by telegraph
- 7 an old-fashioned term for a radio
- 8 a room or building which contains tools for making or repairing things

**2 Grammar**

Read the situations from the story and write suitable sentences in direct speech.

- 1 Ursula was determined to earn her living and disliked the idea of being a nursery governess.  
*I'm determined to earn my living and I don't want to be a nursery governess.*
- 2 Ralph had said that his stepfather would never let him marry a girl with no money.
- 3 It was now Roger Ackroyd's greatest wish that Ralph should marry Flora, and he told the young man that this was what he wanted.

- 4 Ralph took the easy way and agreed that he would ask Flora to marry him.
- 5 Ralph implored Ursula to keep silent for a little while longer.
- 6 Ursula, hurt and angry, told Ralph that she hated the way he had behaved.
- 7 She told me that she had eaten with Poirot at seven thirty, and that Poirot had then gone to my workshop to finish reading my manuscript.
- 8 The first question I asked him when he came to my house yesterday morning was what he was wearing on his feet on the night of the murder.

**3 Comprehension**

Match the parts of the sentences.

- |                     |                                                       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Poirot invents    | a got married in secret to avoid upsetting his uncle. |
| 2 Ursula Bourne     | b is not invited to Poirot's final meeting.           |
| 3 Ralph Paton       | c a newspaper story about Ralph Paton.                |
| 4 Poirot finds      | d had an angry meeting with Ursula Bourne.            |
| 5 Caroline Sheppard | e is surprised when Poirot discovers the truth.       |
| 6 Dr Sheppard       | f is upset by a story she reads.                      |
| 7 Flora             | g Ralph Paton in a nursing home.                      |
| 8 Roger Ackroyd     | h was kind when Ursula revealed her secret.           |

**4 Comprehension**

Put the sentences in the correct time sequence.

- a Sheppard removes the dagger from the silver table. \_\_\_\_
- b Sheppard receives a phone call, which he says is from Parker. \_\_\_\_
- c Sheppard records a conversation on the Dictaphone. \_\_\_\_
- d Sheppard and Ackroyd meet in the study. \_\_\_\_
- e Sheppard removes the envelope from the study. \_\_\_\_
- f Ackroyd tells Sheppard about Mrs Ferrars' letter. \_\_\_\_
- g Mrs Ferrars tells Ackroyd that she murdered her husband.
- h Geoffrey Raymond hears Ackroyd talking in the study.

# The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

*Agatha Christie*

## ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

### Part 1 (Chapters 1–6)

#### 1 Vocabulary

- Across**  
2 dagger  
4 confess  
6 stepson  
8 blackmail

- Down**  
1 suicide  
3 gossip  
5 inherit  
7 will

#### 2 Vocabulary

- 1 overdose  
2 widow  
3 alcoholic  
4 hairdresser  
5 lid  
6 footprints  
7 fireplace  
8 mourning

#### 3 Grammar

- 1 came  
2 have been  
3 was digging  
4 've been engaged  
5 has shot  
6 closed  
7 rang  
8 gave

#### 4 Comprehension

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

#### 5 Comprehension

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

### Part 2 (Chapters 7–12)

#### 1 Vocabulary

- 1 f  
2 a  
3 c  
4 b

- 5 d  
6 e

#### 2 Vocabulary

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

- 1 Dictaphone  
2 grieve  
3 housemaid  
4 pantry  
5 armchair  
6 terrace  
7 station  
8 banknotes

#### 3 Grammar

- 1 're going to take  
2 will be  
3 will go  
4 isn't going to be  
5 is staying  
6 is going to find out  
7 will be  
8 'll take

#### 4 Comprehension

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

#### 5 Comprehension

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

### Part 3 (Chapters 13–17)

#### 1 Vocabulary

- Across**  
1 conceal  
2 penalty

- 5 alibi  
7 intuition  
9 reveal

#### Down

- 1 confession  
3 debt  
4 rumour  
6 logically  
8 greed

#### 2 Vocabulary

- 1 theft  
2 guilty  
3 subconscious  
4 blind  
5 genius  
6 frowning

#### 3 Grammar

- 1 am  
2 What  
3 do  
4 Do  
5 did  
6 had  
7 going to  
8 Have

#### 4 Comprehension

- 1 F  
2 F  
3 T  
4 F  
5 T  
6 F  
7 F  
8 T

### Part 4 (Chapters 18–25)

#### 1 Vocabulary

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

- 1 dictate  
2 detain

## The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

*Agatha Christie*

- 3 betray
- 4 heroic
- 5 incriminate
- 6 telegram
- 7 wireless
- 8 workshop

### 2 Grammar

*Suggested answers:*

- 1 I'm determined to earn my living, and I don't want to be a nursery governess.
- 2 My stepfather will never let me marry a girl with no money.
- 3 It is my greatest wish that you should marry Flora (and this is what I want you to do.)
- 4 OK – I will ask Flora to marry me.
- 5 Please keep silent for a little while longer.
- 6 I hate the way you've behaved!
- 7 I ate with Poirot at seven thirty, then Poirot went to your workshop to finish reading your manuscript.
- 8 What were you wearing on your feet on the night of the murder?

### 3 Comprehension

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

### 4 Comprehension

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