

They Do It With Mirrors

Agatha Christie

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 1 (Chapters 1–5)

1 Comprehension

Look at the sentences below and circle the best answer:

1 Ruth wants Miss Marple to go to Stonygates because

- a she thinks Miss Marple needs a holiday.
- b she's worried about her sister, Carrie Louise.
- c she would like Miss Marple to meet Lewis.
- d she's planning a student reunion party.

2 Carrie Louise's first husband Eric Gulbrandsen

- a had two sons with his first wife.
- b was an accountant.
- c married Carrie Louise for her money.
- d was over 50 years old when she married him.

3 Lewis Serrocold began to be enthusiastic about helping juvenile delinquents when he

- a got married to Carrie Louise.
- b was a marine in the war.
- c was an accountant and worked with men who'd committed frauds.
- d met Edgar Lawson and decided to help him.

4 Steve Restarick is

- a in charge of drama at Stonygates.
- b Miss Marple's nephew.
- c Gina's American husband.
- d Carrie Louise and Eric Gulbrandsen's son.

5 Edward Lawson believes he is

- a heir to the English throne.
- b General Montgomery's son.
- c Winston Churchill's brother.
- d being spied on by Germans.

6 Doctor Maverick, the psychiatrist at Stonygates,

- a thinks the delinquents should be punished.
- b thinks Lewis should call the police about Edgar.
- c is in love with Gina.
- d believes everyone is a little mad.

2 Comprehension

After having been at Stonygates for a couple of days, Miss Marple sends Ruth a postcard.

Put these words in the gaps:

in pain large Liverpool agree unusual share
bad-tempered Mildred modernize passionate

Dear Ruth

I've been here for a couple of days now. Lewis has to go to _____ to help a young boy and will be back tomorrow night. I've met so many people, all of them linked to Carrie Louise, but, it's funny, only _____ is her blood relative here. Gina is lovely but I do find her husband Walter a little _____. It's true, Lewis is _____ about his cause, although not everyone seems to _____ this passion.

I _____ with what you said about Stonygates being a horrible place, it's so _____ I feel lost in it. Carrie Louise doesn't want to _____ the buildings.

Anyway, for the moment, nothing _____ has happened. Carrie Louise is her usual sweet self, despite being _____ from arthritis.

I'll stay in touch,

Love Jane xx

3 Language

The jumbled words in the box below are all adjectives which describe the characters in the story. Find the words and match them to the characters they describe.

adm inlpa nhit rkwedlin ppmul eahtlw
hnsmdoe rdymae desangruo eeylrdl etilufbau

Name	Description
Mildred	p____, p____
Gina	b_____, w_____
Stephen	h_____
Jolly	t____, e_____
Carrie Louise	w_____, d_____
Edgar	m____, d_____

Now match these adjectives with their opposites (antonyms).

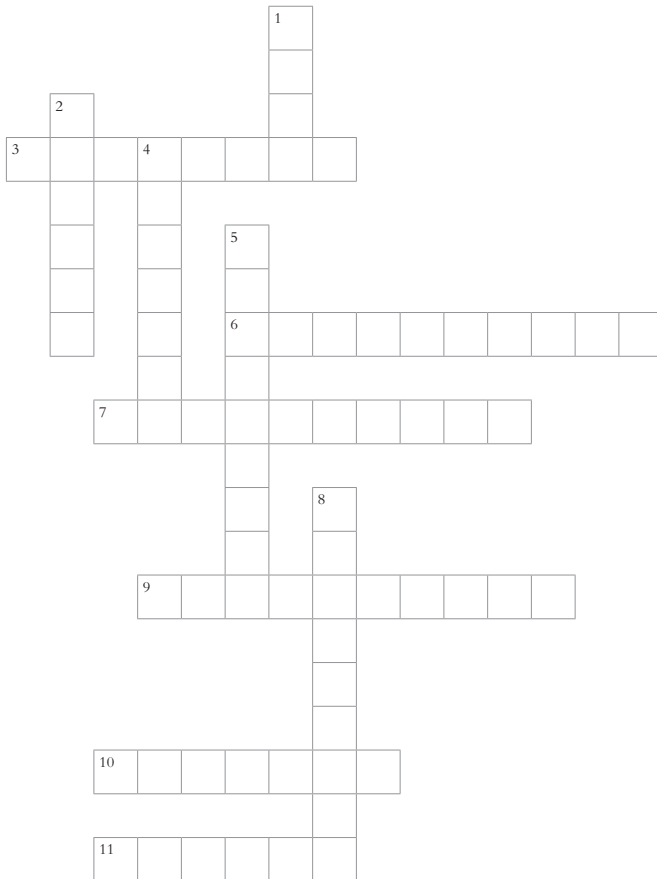
Adjective	Opposite meaning (antonym)
	slim
	sane
	safe
	young
	smooth-skinned
	beautiful, distinguished
	poor
	fat
	not attractive, ugly (x 2)
	concentrated, down-to-earth

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 2 (Chapters 6–11)

1 Comprehension

Look at the clues below and complete the crossword.



Across

- 3 Christian Gulbrandsen is worried that Carrie Louise is being _____.
- 6 Carrie Louise's income finances a lot of Alex and Stephen's _____ work.
- 7 Mildred says that Edgar is unbalanced and _____.
- 9 During the argument with Lewis, Edgar laughs, yells, shouts and screams horrible swear words in a _____ voice.
- 10 _____ was found in Carrie Louise's medicine bottle.
- 11 Christian Gulbrandsen was shot when he was _____ a letter.

Down

- 1 All the lights went out, so Walter put in a new _____.
- 2 Miss Marple says everyone in the house had a financial _____ to poison Carrie Louise.
- 4 Christian Gulbrandsen is Carrie Louise's _____.
- 5 Carrie Louise's _____ has got much worse lately.
- 8 When Lewis came out of the study he was _____ hard, as though he had been running.

2 Language

A Match the two parts of the sentences.

1 Mildred is never happy,...	a ...but she's very observant.
2 Miss Bellever is....	b ...very loyal to his father and his ideas.
3 Christian Gulbrandsen says Carrie Louise was....	c ...probably because she's jealous.
4 Walter is so...	d ...seemed so young and helpless.
5 After the argument with Lewis, Edgar...	e ...have been very dramatic.
6 Miss Marple tells Inspector Curry that the events of the evening...	f ...totally devoted to Carrie Louise.
7 Sergeant Lake remarks that Miss Marple is old,...	g ...clever with electrical things.

B Put the underlined words with their correct meanings:

Word	Meaning
1	caring for and loving another person very much
2	good, intelligent, bright
3	defenceless, lost, weak
4	someone who notices everything around them
5	exciting and unexpected
6	envious, resentful of another person
7	supportive, faithful

3 Comprehension

Inspector Curry writes a report after his first day at Stonygates. Find 8 mistakes in his report and correct them:

I interviewed Juliet Bellever, Lewis Serrocold's assistant, as she found the body. She said she had gone to the victim's room to take him a cup of tea and found him dead at this desk. Miss Bellever says she heard a shot at 9 o'clock.

I then spoke to Miss Marple, the victim's sister, who had been listening to Stephen playing the violin at the time of the murder. She said that after dinner she had overheard Mr Serrocold and Mr Gulbrandsen saying that they had to save Carrie Louise from knowing something. Afterwards I spoke to Lewis Serrocold who explained that the victim, Christian, had believed that someone was poisoning Carrie Louise. Mr Serrocold showed me the victim's letter he had been typing to Carrie Louise. Mr Serrocold says he's going to take a sample of his wife's medicine.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 3 (Chapters 12–16)

1 Vocabulary

A Find 15 words connected to the theatre in the word search.

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

B Match the words you found with the correct definitions:

Word	Definition
	a story at the theatre, what Shakespeare wrote
	a man who plays a role
	a woman who plays a role
	to practise your lines before a production
	a classical dance
	sounds, music, things which help create an atmosphere on stage
	an actor's part
	part of a play
	where the play takes place
	people watching the play
	behind the scenes, not seen by the audience
	script of a play or film
	appears to exist, but in reality does not exist
	items used on stage by actors in a play
	scenery used on stage to identify the background of a play

2 Grammar

Choose the correct verbs:

1 Miss Marple _____ (has/has had) a lot of experience of the bad side of human nature.

- 2 Carrie Louise _____ (already gave/has already given) half her money to Lewis.
 3 Miss Marple _____ (was/has been) in the Hall last night.
 4 Alex _____ (heard/had been hearing) gun shots in the garden.
 5 Edgar says that Lewis _____ (has been/ is being) so good to him.
 6 'Look Carrie Louise,' said Jolly, 'you _____ 've received/'ve been receiving) a parcel.'

3 Grammar

The present perfect (have + past participle) is often used to speak about a recent or past action which has a consequence in the present.

Complete these extracts from newspaper articles using the present perfect and the verbs in the box.

to find to be shot to carry out to confirm
to interview

- 1 A trustee _____ at Stonygates.
 2 The police _____ many residents at Stonygates following a shooting there.
 3 The police _____ traces of arsenic in a medicine bottle.
 4 Inspector Curry _____ a reconstruction of what took place during the night of the crime.
 5 Alex Restarick _____ that he was outside the Hall at the time of the murder.

4 Language

Put a preposition in the gaps.

- 1 He is totally devoted _____ his wife.
 2 I agree _____ you.
 3 I was _____ school with your wife.
 4 He switched _____ the lights because it was dark.
 5 When I'm angry everything else just goes _____ of my mind.
 6 Edgar said he was sorry _____ what he had done.

5 Playing detective

Who is described as...

- 1 ...being strange, dangerous, sorry, normal and not normal? _____
 2 ...being gentle and kind? _____
 3 ...telling lies? _____
 4 ...having been able to leave the Hall and then return without being seen? _____
 5 ...saying he's fitter than Constable Dodgett? _____

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 4 (Chapters 17–23)

1 Odd one out

Look at the list of words below and say which word is the 'odd one out' and explain why.

e.g. actors scenery music **chocolates**

'Chocolates' is the odd one out as the other words are connected to the theatre.

- Christian Carrie Louise Ernie Alex _____
- vanishing ladies piano mirrors illusion _____
- poisoning embezzlement fraud murder _____
- humble devoted passionate hard-working _____
- sad shocked thin frail _____
- Alex Stephen Gina Mildred _____

2 Comprehension

Put an appropriate word in each sentence.

- 1 Carrie tells Lewis he is _____, she doesn't believe someone is trying to poison her.
- 2 Alex said he thought Inspector Curry was a _____ man as he tried to frighten him.
- 3 Ernie told Gina that he gets out of his room at night and _____ around the garden.
- 4 Miss Bellever says that Carrie Louise doesn't live in the _____ world.
- 5 A big _____ had fallen on Alex and Ernie.
- 6 Alex had given Carrie Louise some special _____ to cut her nails.
- 7 Christian Gulbrandsen had really come to Stonygates to discuss his suspicions of embezzlement of the trust's _____.
- 8 Both Edgar and Lewis _____ in the lake.

3 Comprehension

Put the events of the story in the correct order. Be careful – one sentence is not true!

- a — Lewis shot Christian Gulbrandsen.
- b — Carrie Louise went to the opera with Miss Marple.
- c — Miss Marple studied English Literature.
- d — Gina wrote a letter to her Aunt Ruth, telling her about the deaths at Stonygates.
- e — Miss Marple thought someone was trying to poison Carrie Louise.
- f — Christian discovered Lewis was embezzling trust funds.
- g — Carrie Louise married Eric Gulbrandsen.
- h — Miss Marple met Ruth in London.
- i — Miss Marple went to Carrie Louise's wedding to her second husband.
- j — Dr Galbraith came to comfort Carrie Louise.
- k — Edgar and Lewis had an argument.

4 Language

Put the correct question word in the questions below and then match them with the correct answers:

Questions	Answers
_____ was Ernie murdered?	To see if she'd been poisoned.
_____ are Walter and Gina going to go now?	Edgar's.
_____ did Alex collect Carrie Louise's nail clippings?	A cup of soup.
_____ was killed with Ernie?	Because the murderer believed he'd seen him when he was in the garden.
_____ criminal record had the police looked up?	Back to the United States.
_____ Edgar know how to swim?	Alex.
_____ did Miss Marple bring Carrie Louise to drink?	No, he didn't.

5 Grammar

Miss Marple has solved another mystery, what is going to happen now?

We use will + verb for a prediction, or for a future event which is unsure or unplanned.

We use going to + verb when the future action is already decided or planned.

What does the future hold for these characters and Stonygates? Complete the sentences:

- Gina and Walter _____
- Miss Marple _____
- Carrie Louise _____
- Ruth _____
- Stonygates _____

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Part 1 (Chapters 1–5)

1 Comprehension

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

2 Comprehension

- Liverpool
- Mildred
- bad-tempered
- passionate
- share
- agree
- large
- modernize
- unusual
- in pain

3 Language

Name	Description
Mildred	<i>plump, plain</i>
Gina	<i>beautiful, wealthy</i>
Stephen	<i>handsome</i>
Jolly	<i>thin, elderly</i>
Carrie Louise	<i>wrinkled, dreamy</i>
Edgar	<i>mad, dangerous</i>

Adjective	Opposite meaning (antonym)
<i>plump</i>	slim
<i>mad</i>	sane
<i>dangerous</i>	safe
<i>elderly</i>	young
<i>wrinkled</i>	smooth-skinned
<i>plain</i>	beautiful, distinguished
<i>wealthy</i>	poor
<i>thin</i>	fat
<i>handsome, beautiful</i>	not attractive, ugly (x 2)
<i>dreamy</i>	concentrated, down-to-earth

Part 2 (Chapters 6–11)

1 Comprehension

Across

- 3 poisoned
- 6 theatrical
- 7 ungrateful
- 9 hysterical
- 10 arsenic
- 11 typing

Down

- 1 fuse
- 2 motive
- 4 stepson
- 5 arthritis
- 8 breathing

2 Language

A

- 1 c
- 2 f
- 3 b
- 4 g
- 5 d
- 6 e
- 7 A

B

- 1 devoted
- 2 clever
- 3 helpless
- 4 observant
- 5 dramatic
- 6 jealous
- 7 loyal

3 Comprehension

I interviewed Juliet Bellever, Lewis Serrocold's (Carrie Louise's) assistant, as she found the body. She said she had gone to the victim's room to ~~take him a cup of tea~~ (to see if he wanted anything) and found him dead at this desk. Miss Bellever says she heard a shot at 9 o'clock. (at 9.23 pm)

I then spoke to Miss Marple, the victim's sister (Carrie Louise's friend) who had been listening to Stephen playing the violin (piano) at the time of the murder. She said that ~~after~~ (before) dinner she had overheard Mr Serrocold and Mr Gulbrandsen saying that they had to save Carrie Louise from knowing something. Afterwards I spoke to Lewis Serrocold who explained that the victim, Christian, had believed that someone was poisoning Carrie Louise. Mr Serrocold showed me the victim's letter he had been typing to Carrie Louise. (Dr Galbraith) Mr Serrocold says he's ~~going to take a sample of his wife's medicine~~: (he has already taken a sample)

Part 3 (Chapters 12–16)

1 Vocabulary

A

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

B Match the words you found with the correct definitions:

Word	Definition
play	a story at the theatre, what Shakespeare wrote
actor	a man who plays a role
actress	a woman who plays a role
rehearse	to practise your lines before a production
ballet	a classical dance
special effects	sounds and music which help create an atmosphere on stage
Word	Definition
role	an actor's part
scene	part of a play
stage	where the play takes place
audience	people watching the play
off stage	behind the scenes, not seen by the audience
scenario	script of a play or film
illusion	appears to exist, but in reality does not exist
props	items used on stage by actors in a play
set	scenery used on stage to identify the background of a play

2 Grammar

- 1 has had
- 2 has already given
- 3 was
- 4 heard
- 5 has been
- 6 you've received

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

3 Grammar

- 1 has been shot
- 2 have interviewed
- 3 have found
- 4 has carried out
- 5 has confirmed

4 Language

- 1 to
- 2 with
- 3 at
- 4 on
- 5 out
- 6 for

5 Playing detective

- 1 Edgar
- 2 Carrie Louise
- 3 Edgar
- 4 Mildred
- 5 Alex

Part 4 (Chapters 17-23)

1 Comprehension

Carrie Louise is the only one not killed
piano isn't connected to a magician's show
poisoning – this crime didn't actually take place
in the story
humble – Lewis did not have this quality
sad – the other adjectives are applied to Carrie
Louise
Mildred has no interest in the theatre

2 Comprehension

- 1 wrong
- 2 cruel
- 3 wanders
- 4 real
- 5 counterweight
- 6 scissors
- 7 funds
- 8 drowned

3 Comprehension

- 1 c
 - 2 g
 - 3 b
 - 4 h
 - 5 f
 - 6 k
 - 7 a
 - 8 e
 - 9 d
 - 10 j
- Sentence **i** is not true.

4 Language

Questions	Answers
Why was Ernie murdered?	Because the murderer believed he'd seen him when he was in the garden.
Where are Walter and Gina going to go now?	Back to the United States.
Why did Alex collect Carrie Louise's nail clippings?	To see if she'd been poisoned.
Who was killed with Ernie?	Alex.
Whose criminal record had the police looked up?	Edgar's.
Did Edgar know how to swim?	No, he didn't.
What did Miss Marple bring Carrie Louise to drink?	A cup of soup.

5 Grammar

Suggested answers:
Gina and Walter are going to return to the States.
Miss Marple is going to spend a few more days with her friend.
Carrie Louise will probably sell Stonygates.
Ruth will probably get married again.
Stonygates will be modernized.