

Why Didn't They Ask Evans?

Agatha Christie

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 1 (Chapters 1–6)

1 Comprehension

- 1 What falls out of the man's pocket? What does Bobby feel about it?
.....
- 2 Why does Bobby go to London?
.....
- 3 Why doesn't Bobby's father ever invite the Derwents to his house?
.....
- 4 Why did Bobby have to leave the Navy?
.....
- 5 What does Frankie think of Badger?
.....
- 6 Why was Bobby so disappointed at the inquest?
.....
- 7 Why does Bobby's father think someone is offering Bobby such a good job?
.....

2 Comprehension

Who ...

- 1 ... is good-looking, dark-haired, in a red skirt, short green jacket and blue hat, and has sad dark eyes?
- 2 ... is middle-aged, with a cheerful face?
- 3 ... is aged about thirty-five, with a rather weak face?
- 4 ... is under thirty, with wide-set eyes, fair, and has a slightly sad beauty?
- 5 ... is suntanned, and has clear, deep blue eyes, a strong jaw, and an attractive face?
- 6 ... is pleasant-looking, young, with honest brown friendly eyes?
- 7 ... has funny eyes and a silly laugh?
- 8 ... is heavily made-up, with dyed hair?
- 9 ... big, red-faced, friendly, with a cold, dishonest gaze?

3 Comprehension

Can you find and correct the eight mistakes? (Look on pages 7 and 8 to help.)

Badger is an old friend of Bobby's. Once he was riding a bike when he fell off and got his feet stuck in some mud, and Frankie and her friends had to pull him out with some rope. He started a chicken farm, and made lots of money from it. He went to Siam for a while, then came back. He won the lottery and bought a garage for six cars, so his parents gave him £100 to buy fashionable new sports cars with.

4 Comprehension

Frankie has a very interesting character. Look at some of the things she says, and discuss with your partner what they tell us about her.

- 1 'You're not putting any money into this garage business, are you?' (p. 7) ___
- 2 'That doesn't matter,' said Frankie kindly. 'I'll pay the difference.' (p. 5) ___
- 3 'I don't suppose someone pushed him over?' (p. 9) ___
- 4 'What is ridiculous,' she said, 'is to argue about the damned woman.' (p. 14) ___
- 5 'You can bring Badger if you like. There's friendship for you.' (p. 18) ___
- 6 'Goodbye, my dear. It's been marvellous to have you to make use of.' (p. 18) ___
- 7 'Anyway, ... I think you made the right decision!' (p. 17) ___
- 8 'It's not one of your brightest mornings.' (p. 14) ___

Now match them to some possible explanations. Do you agree with the explanations?

- a) She is angry that Bobby says he doesn't want to meet her in London because of social class.
- b) She doesn't want Bobby to leave.
- c) She is rich, and doesn't worry about money. She is generous, and likes Bobby.
- d) She is joking. Bobby forgot to tell the Caymans about their brother-in-law's last words.
- e) She is bored and wants something exciting to happen.
- f) She thinks Badger is stupid and annoying. She only wants to meet him because Bobby likes him.
- g) She doesn't trust Badger's business idea. She thinks Bobby will lose his money.
- h) She is jealous of the woman in the photograph.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 3 (Chapters 16–27)

1 Comprehension

Answer the questions about Henry Bassington-french's death.

- 1 What does Dr Nicholson tell Sylvia Bassington-french?
- 2 What is Roger's excuse for exchanging the photographs?
- 3 Why does Roger go back into the house before Henry kills himself?
- 4 Does anything happen while he is away?
- 5 Why do Roger, Frankie and Sylvia go to check Henry's study?
- 6 Why does Roger break the study window?
- 7 Why do they all think that Henry's death was suicide?
- 8 Which two deaths are given a verdict of 'Suicide while of Unsound Mind'?

2 Language

This is a summary of what Mr Spragge tells Frankie. The lines are all mixed up. Number them in order 1–11. The first one has been done for you.

	a ship. He went to stay
	not have cancer. He left all his money to Mrs
	did not want a slow painful death, so he committed
	with her. Then he thought he had cancer. He
	Templeton and to some charities. His friend,
1	John Styles was extremely wealthy. He met
	Alan Carstairs, came to investigate because
	a beautiful woman called Mrs Templeton. He fell in
	he did not believe the will was real.
	love with Mrs Templeton on board
	suicide. His doctor said at the inquest that he did

3 Vocabulary

Find the 15 phrasal verbs from the story that all use 'up'.

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

- 1 _____ up = call on the telephone
- 2 _____ up = change a photograph
- 3 _____ (things) up = spoil
- 4 _____ up = confuse / be involved
- 5 _____ up (your mind) = decide / invent / cosmetics
- 6 _____ up = become happy
- 7 _____ up = hide
- 8 _____ up (a name) = search for (and find)
- 9 _____ up (so much time) = occupy
- 10 _____ up (the problem of the photographs) = solve
- 11 _____ up (the photograph) = tear into pieces
- 12 _____ up (drugs) = quit
- 13 _____ up = stop sleeping
- 14 _____ up = bind with rope
- 15 _____ up = put on special clothes

4 Vocabulary

Use 10 of the words to complete sentences from the story. (You need to change them slightly to fit.)

Can you remember/guess who said them or who they are talking about?

- 1 I think I'll _____ Nicholson. I'd like to have a talk with him.
[Roger, just before Henry dies.]
- 2 Look, Frankie. This is the picture you said was _____.
[.....]
- 3 Just when everything has gone well from the Caymans' point of view – you _____ things ____!
[.....]
- 4 Dr Nicholson is _____ in all this. I'm afraid of that man.
[.....]
- 5 It was hard to believe that the wide-eyed beauty in the photograph could have become this heavily _____ woman with dyed hair.
[.....]
- 6 You're so bright and amusing – it _____ me ____.
[.....]
- 7 Dr Nicholson's nursing home would be a very good _____ for illegal drug dealing.
[.....]
- 8 She had been to Somerset House to _____ the will of John Savage.
[.....]
- 9 The three friends stood looking down with pleasure at a man who was securely _____.
[.....]
- 10 If he can _____ the exchange of the photographs, it might be very valuable to have him on our side.
[.....]

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Part 4 (Chapters 28–32)

1 Comprehension

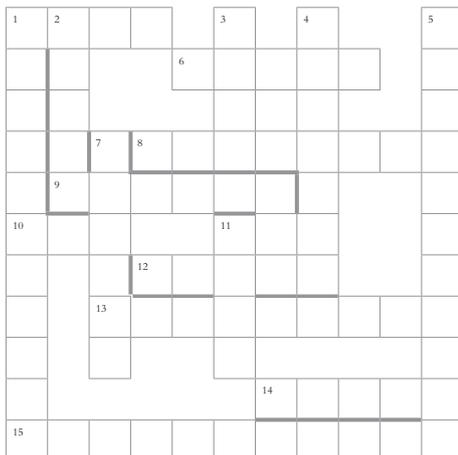
Roger	Evans	Marchbolt	Merroway	Badger	Henry
	John Savage	Bobby	Frankie	Moira	

Write the names above in the right place then match the actions to the reasons.

- Roger went to the doctor pretending to be _____ **because**
- Frankie asks her father to help _____'s business **because**
- Frankie knocked over Bobby's coffee in the Orient Cafe **because**
- Roger tried to kill Henry and his son Tommy **because**
- Carstairs went to Marchbolt **because**
- Moira looked scared when _____ first met her at the sanatorium **because**
- Bobby is going to work in Kenya **because**
- Roger used a firework in the study **because**
- Nobody heard _____ shoot Henry **because**
- News about Bobby and Frankie's engagement is all over _____ **because**

- she guessed _____ had put poison in it.
- they kissed in front of members of Mr Jones's church.
- he wanted people to think that John Savage thought he was dying of cancer.
- she thought he suspected her.
- he wanted to find _____ and ask her about John Savage's will.
- he wanted people to think it was _____ shooting himself.
- the noise of the aeroplane hid the sound of the gun.
- he wanted to inherit _____.
- _____ 's father offered him a job.
- Badger saved her life.

2 Language



Across

- to look at something very hard
- something that is based on fact
- to fall down suddenly because you are ill or tired
- make a telephone call
- a sticky mixture of earth and water
- to copy a banknote, or a document to make it look real
- taking harmful drugs and being unable to stop
- to say unkind or insulting things
- when two events happen at the same time by chance

Down

- thinking that bad things are going to happen
- looking or sounding as if you expect something interesting or enjoyable to happen
- turn over and over
- something that is very surprising and unexpected
- to pretend to be a person to deceive people
- to take someone when they don't want to go and only give them back when you are given money
- to smile widely

3 Vocabulary

under	over	above
-------	------	-------

The words above have many different meanings. Decide which of these three words fits in each sentence below.

- He came _____ her spell. (p. 76) = *be controlled by*
- Very few people have been poisoned with morphia and got _____ it. (p. 21) = *recover*
- 'She was certainly _____ thirty.' (p. 3) = *less than*
- Nobody _____ fifty has any sense. (p. 3) = *more than*
- Sleep _____ came him. (p. 19) = *cover completely*
- I ought to be dead sixteen times _____. (p. 20) = *again and again*
- Bobby went _____ in his mind the possibilities. (p. 23) = *consider*
- ... travelled all _____ the world. (p. 41) = *cover every part*
- Bassington-ffrench *must* be _____ suspicion. (p. 27) = *free from*
- We must ask the Nicholsons _____ for dinner. (p. 42) = *come towards*
- She travelled _____ various names. (p. 98) = *have a name*
- You're mad _____ a tired old bitch! (p. 14) = *because of*
- He seems to have fallen completely _____ this woman's influence. (p. 76) = *be controlled by*

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ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Part 1 (Chapters 1–6)

1 Comprehension

- 1 A photograph. Bobby is attracted to the woman in it.
- 2 To meet a friend who wants Bobby to work in his garage with him.
- 3 He thinks his house is too low class for the upper-class Derwents. He thinks they wouldn't like it.
- 4 Because he has eye problems.
- 5 She thinks he is a bad businessman, and Bobby will lose his money if he helps Badger. Bobby thinks he is 'one of the very best' – a really good person.
- 6 The woman from the photograph is no longer beautiful.
- 7 Because he believes everyone in the world thinks that British people are the most honest.

2 Comprehension

- 1 Frankie
- 2 Dr Thomas
- 3 Bassington-ffrench
- 4 The girl in the photograph
- 5 The dead man
- 6 Bobby
- 7 Badger Beadon
- 8 The woman at the inquest (Amelia Cayman)
- 9 Mr Cayman (Alex's brother-in-law)

3 Comprehension

Badger is an old friend of Bobby's. Once he was riding a horse when he fell off and got his head stuck in some mud, and Bobby and his friends had to pull him out by the legs. He started a chicken farm, but it failed. He went to Australia for a while, then came back. An aunt of his died, and left him a garage for six cars, so his parents gave him £100 to buy second-hand cars with.

4 Comprehension

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

Part 2 (Chapters 7–15)

1 Comprehension

- 6, 10, 9, 4, 8, 3, 7, 2, 1, 5

2 Comprehension

- 1 Frankie is a Lady, so she thinks Bobby must be important, too.
- 2 They put 8 grains of morphia in his beer – half a grain is enough to kill someone.
- 3 It's not the same as the photograph Bobby put back in the dead man's pocket.
- 4 Because he didn't want to look suspicious. If he gave a false story, the police would investigate him.
- 5 Evans is a very common name in Wales, where the murder was committed. Too many people have that name.
- 6 Because she is lying to them, and she likes Sylvia.
- 7 He doesn't really have one.
- 8 He thinks he is a drug-addict.
- 9 He will threaten to tell (and upset) Sylvia if Henry refuses to go.
- 10 The woman in the photograph.

3 Language

- 1 dangerously
- 2 crash
- 3 where
- 4 wife
- 5 doctor
- 6 jump
- 7 concussion
- 8 moved
- 9 be
- 10 moustache

4 Playing detective

Map key:

- 1 the main road to London
- 2 to the village of Staverley
- 3 steep hill
- 4 Merroway Court
- 5 Dr Arbuthnot's car
- 6 Frankie's crashed car
- 7 Reeves, the message boy's bicycle route

Part 3 (Chapters 16–27)

1 Comprehension

- 1 Henry is a drug-addict. Dr Nicholson wants her to persuade Henry to become a patient at the sanatorium.
- 2 The woman in the photograph is Moira, a friend of his, and he wants to save her from scandal.
- 3 To call Dr Nicholson.
- 4 No, they only hear the sound of an aeroplane flying over.
- 5 Because they hear a noise like a gunshot.
- 6 Because they cannot get into the study to help Henry: the door and windows are all locked.
- 7 Because they found a suicide note.
- 8 John Savage and Henry Bassington-ffrench's.

2 Language

- 1 John Savage was extremely wealthy. He met
- 2 a beautiful woman called Mrs Templeton. He fell in
- 3 love with Mrs Templeton on board
- 4 a ship. He went to stay
- 5 with her. Then he thought he had cancer. He
- 6 did not want a slow painful death, so he committed
- 7 suicide. His doctor said at the inquest that he did
- 8 not have cancer. He left all his money to Mrs
- 9 Templeton and to some charities. His friend,
- 10 Alan Carstairs, came to investigate because
- 11 he did not believe the will was real.

3 Vocabulary

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

- 1 ring up
- 2 touch up
- 3 mess up
- 4 mix up
- 5 make up
- 6 cheer up
- 7 cover up
- 8 look up
- 9 take up
- 10 clear up
- 11 tear up
- 12 give up
- 13 wake up
- 14 tie up
- 15 dress up

4 Vocabulary

(Changes to the words are underlined.)

- 1 ring up
- 2 touched up [Bobby when he sees the picture in the newspaper]
- 3 mess (things) up [Frankie to Bobby, when he's in hospital]
- 4 mixed up [Bobby to Frankie, when he sees Moira at the sanatorium]
- 5 made-up [Bobby, when he sees the woman at the inquest]
- 6 cheers (me) up [Sylvia to Frankie]

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- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 7 cover up [Frankie to Bobby] | 5 over(came) |
| 8 look up [Frankie] | 6 over |
| 9 tied up [Frankie, Bobby, and Badger when they catch Roger] | 7 over |
| 10 clear up [Frankie, about Roger] | 8 over |
| | 9 above |
| | 10 over |
| | 11 under |
| | 12 over |
| | 13 under |

Part 4 (Chapters 28–32)

1 Comprehension

- Roger went to the doctor pretending to be John Savage because he wanted people to think that John Savage thought he was dying of cancer.
- Frankie asks her father to help Badger's business because Badger saved her life.
- Frankie knocked over Bobby's coffee in the Orient Cafe because she guessed Moira had put poison in it.
- Roger tried to kill Henry and his son Tommy because he wanted to inherit Merroway.
- Carstairs went to Marchbolt because he wanted to find Evans and ask her about John Savage's will.
- Moira looked scared when Bobby first met her at the sanatorium because she thought he suspected her.
- Nobody heard Roger shoot Henry because the noise of the aeroplane hid the sound of the gun.
- Roger used a firework in the study because he wanted people to think it was Henry shooting himself.
- Bobby is going to work in Kenya because Frankie's father offered him a job.
- News about Bobby and Frankie's engagement is all over Marchbolt because they kissed in front of members of Mr Jones's church.

2 Language

¹ P	² E	E	R		³ R		⁴ M		⁵ I
E	A			⁶ S	O	L	I	D	M
S	G				L		R		P
S	E	⁷ K	⁸ C	O	L	L	A	P	S
I	⁹ R	I	N	G	U	P	C		R
¹⁰ M	U	D			¹¹ G		L		S
I		N	¹² F	O	R	G	E		O
S		¹³ A	D	D	I	C	T	I	O
T		P			N				A
I					¹⁴ T	A	U	N	T
¹⁵ C	O	I	N	C	I	D	E	N	C

3 Vocabulary

- under
- over
- under
- over