

# The ABC Murders

## Book key

- 1.1 Open answers
- 1.2 Open answers (1 a 2 c 3 c)
- 2.1 Possible answers:
- his marriage > the time before his marriage
  - Captain Hastings > Hercule Poirot
  - The dead woman's husband owns > The dead woman owned
  - expensive railway guides > cheap railway timetables
  - must be a man > could be a man or a woman
- 2.2 1 burglars 2 checked 3 empty 4 shone  
5 counter 6 body 7 guide
- 2.3 1 had been written 2 had been threatened  
3 had spent 4 had been hit 5 had had  
6 had been taken 7 had been left 8 had hoped
- 2.4 1 Open answers  
2 Open answers (a Poirot b A B C c There will be another murder. d They don't know how to stop the next murder.)
- 3.1 1 b 2 c 3 d 4 d 5 b 6 c 7 b 8 d  
9 d 10 a 11 b 12 c
- 3.2 a 6 b 1 c 4 d 7 e 3 f 5 g 2
- 3.3 1 knew, was, would find 2 would run, was(/were)  
3 found, would save 4 would learn, listened  
5 were(/was), would answer
- 3.4 1 Open answers (a The murdered girl b Someone from the murdered girl's family; very sad, upset and confused.)  
2 Open answers (a Hastings, Poirot b There has been another murder, of a different kind.)
- 4.1 1 a D b C c B d A  
2 A 3 B 4 C 1 D 2
- 4.2 1 Crome 2 Franklin Clarke 3 Thora Grey  
4 Megan Barnard 5 Hastings 6 Donald Fraser
- 4.3 Possible answers: 1 so dark that 2 so drunk that  
3 so successful/famous that 4 so pretty/attractive/  
popular that 5 so hungry that 6 so clever/  
intelligent that 7 so fair that
- 4.4 Open answers (1 Alexander Bonaparte Cust  
2 The murders 3 'A nasty business – eh?')

Name	Place where he/she lived	Job	Relatives/people close to victim
Alice Ascher	Andover	Owned a tobacco and newspaper shop	1. Franz Ascher (husband) 2. Mary Drower (niece)
Betty Barnard	Bexhill-on-sea	Waitress	1. Megan Barnard (sister) 2. Donald Fraser (fiancé)
Sir Carmichael Clarke	Churston	Retired throat specialist. Art collector.	1. Lady Clarke (wife) 2. Franklin Clarke (brother) 3. Thora Grey (secretary)

- 5.2 1 f 2 d 3 b 4 a 5 e 6 c
- 5.3 1 may 2 must 3 must 4 may 5 may  
6 may
- 5.4 1 a Mr Cust  
b A suitcase and an ABC railway guide  
c Open answers (To the railway station)  
2 a Mr Cust has dropped his ticket.  
b–c Open answers  
3 Open answers (a Mr Cust b It is covered with blood.)
- 6.1 Open answers
- 6.2 1 Thora Grey, about Mr Cust  
2 Inspector Crome, about Poirot  
3 Sir Carmichael Clarke, about Thora Grey  
4 Mr Cust, about Lily Marbury  
5 Mr Cust, about Poirot
- 6.3 1 was hurrying to catch the train.  
2 was enjoying the film.  
3 was going downstairs.  
4 was dancing with Tom.  
5 were making plans.  
6 was looking for her employer.

## 6.4 Open answers

**Talk about it** Open answers

**Write about it** Open answers

**Project** Open answers

## Discussion activities key

- Possible motives: money, power, jealousy, revenge, protection of a secret, craziness etc.
- Some famous films about serial killers are: *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Seven*, *The Bone Collector*, *Copycat*, *Halloween*, *Hannibal*, *Jack the Ripper* etc.
- 4 Open answers

## The ABC Murders

- 5 Possible questions: Did you know Mrs Ascher well? What was she like? What was Mr Ascher like? Did Mrs Ascher have any trouble with him? Was she afraid of him? Did Mrs Ascher receive any strange letters? Have you ever seen Mrs Ascher with an ABC railway guide? Who did you see go into the shop last night?
- 6 Above the shop.
- 7–13 Open answers
- 14 Possible questions: Have you had a happy life? What jobs have you done? What was it like in the war? Were you afraid when you were arrested? Did you really believe you killed those people? How do you feel now?
- 15 Open answers

### Activity worksheets key

- 1 a Captain Hastings  
b Inspector Japp  
c Alexander Cust  
d Mr Ascher  
e Mary Drower  
f Poirot  
g Mrs Ascher
- 2 solve a – crime  
shop – counter  
threaten – to kill  
arranged – carefully  
shake – your head  
hair – colouring  
high – society  
feel – pity
- 3 a reaching  
b wedding  
c reporter  
d pretended  
e attention  
f shaking  
g waitress
- 4 a ✓ b ✗ c ✗ d ✓ e ✓ f ✗
- 5 a Paris > London  
b blond > black  
c many > no  
d second > third  
e car > train  
f drink > walk

- 6 a him b do c has d such e send f of  
g to
- 7 a Headaches.  
b Franklin Clarke.  
c Some stockings.  
d Because Lady Clarke told her to.  
e That she was a liar and she didn't like her.  
f Killing Megan Barnard.
- 8 a coin b hide c upset d advertisement  
e treatment f foolish g knock h criticise
- 9 a doorstep b untasted c swimsuit d fond  
e hurrying f hunted g wondered
- 10 a selling stockings.  
b his ticket.  
c Thora Grey.  
d his brother.  
e his coat.  
f the wrong victim/person.
- 11 a interrupt b promised c grateful d enemy  
e behaving f customers
- 12 a The letters prove that the murders were planned crimes.  
b Poirot was mysteriously absent for a lot of the time.  
c Mr Cust got the offer of a job selling stockings.  
d Donald's motive for killing his girlfriend could only be jealousy.  
e Two detectives arrested Franklin Clarke and took him away.

### Progress test key

- 1 a ✓ b ✗ c ✓ d ✓ e ✗ f ✓ g ✗ h ✓  
i ✗ j ✓
- 2 a 4 b 10 c 1 d 8 e 5 f 2 g 6 h 9  
i 3 j 7
- 3 a Mary Drower b Mr Cust c Hastings d Poirot  
e Megan Barnard f Franklin Clarke g Thora Grey  
h Mrs Ascher i Donald Fraser j Lily Marbury
- 4 a agent b foxes c suspiciously d clues  
e retired f stabbed g threatened h carry  
i nodded j alibi