

READING ACTIVITY 1/4

MURDER AT COYOTE CANYON

Read the excerpt from Chapter 2 of *Murder at Coyote Canyon* and then do the exercises.

Suddenly a very old Chumash on a white horse appeared at the end of the parade. He had long white hair and wore a headdress. He was holding a big sign that said:

*JACOB RICHARDSON, GET OUT OF COYOTE CANYON!
STOP BUILDING HOUSES ON OUR ANCIENT CEMETERY!*

The noisy crowd of people was suddenly silent. The old man got off his horse and stood in front of the Town Hall. Then he took the microphone from the master of ceremonies¹, Linda Jones, and asked, "Can I talk to the people of Portola Point?"

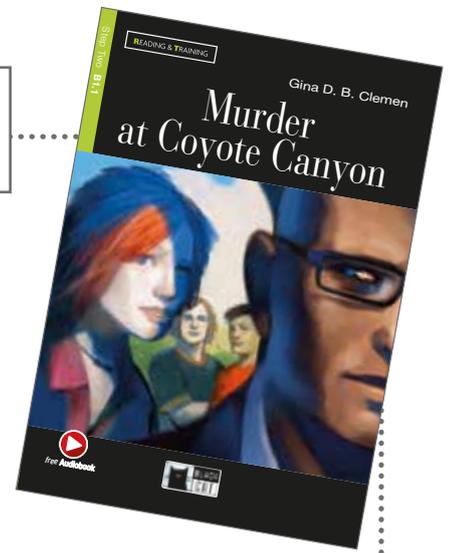
Linda was surprised and said, "Well, OK."

"My name is Wild Wolf and I live on the Chumash Reservation. I am a shaman and the Great Spirit Manito speaks to me. Yesterday's earthquake and the other earthquakes are signs from the Great Spirit Manito. He is very angry because Jacob Richardson is building houses on our ancient cemetery at Coyote Canyon. No one must build there! If you continue, there will be bigger disasters. Go and build your houses in another place, or we will stop you, Jacob Richardson! Do you hear me? We will stop you!"

Wild Wolf looked at Jacob Richardson who was standing in the crowd. Then he gave the microphone back to Linda, got on his horse and rode away. The people in the crowd turned around and looked at Jacob Richardson. He was a short man of about fifty with gray hair and blue eyes. He was rich. He had a successful construction company and built expensive homes in Hollywood and Los Angeles. He was now building beautiful homes with swimming pools and big gardens in Coyote Canyon, the ancient Chumash cemetery.

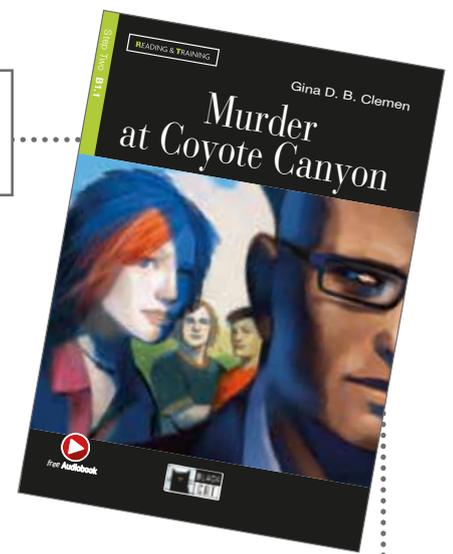
"What does that crazy old man want?" Richardson said angrily. "I bought that land from the state of California and paid a lot of money for it. It's mine and I'm going to build there. Nobody's going to stop me! Ha! Ancient cemetery...what nonsense!"

¹ **master of ceremonies** : the person who speaks during an event



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EXERCISES

1 Choose the correct answer - a, b or c.

1. Wild Wolf wanted to talk to

- a. Linda Jones.
- b. Jacob Richardson.
- c. the people of Portola Point.

2. Wild Wolf was holding

- a. a written sign.
- b. the American flag.
- c. a bow and arrow.

3. Wild Wolf said that the recent earthquakes were

- a. signs of global warming.
- b. signs from the Great Spirit Manito.
- c. caused by Jacob Richardson's construction company.

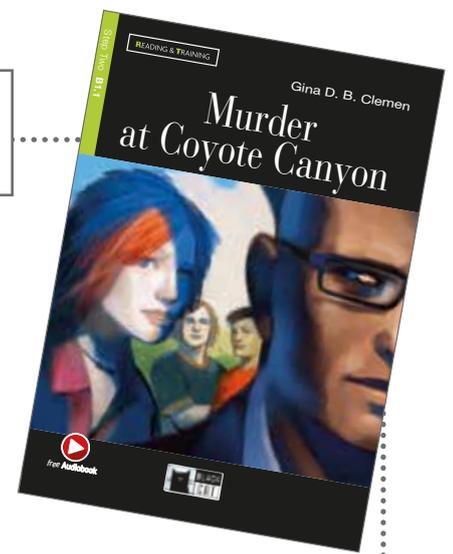
4. Jacob Richardson was now building houses

- a. in Hollywood and Los Angeles.
- b. in a big park in Portola Point.
- c. on an ancient cemetery.



READING ACTIVITY

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2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. The ancient cemetery was at Portola Point. T F
2. Linda Jones was the mayor of Portola Point. T F
3. Wild Wolf was very old and he was a shaman. T F
4. Jacob Richardson was young and tall. T F
5. Wild Wolf lived at Coyote Canyon. T F
6. Jacob Richardson bought the land from the state of California T F

