

level
B1.2

READING ACTIVITY 1/7



DEATH ON THE NILE

INTRODUCTION

Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile* is one of her most popular and intriguing mystery stories. It is set in Egypt during a cruise on the Nile River. Linnet Doyle has everything: beauty, money.....and her best friend's fiancé. However, her honeymoon cruise on the Nile River turns into a real nightmare when one of the passengers is murdered! Hercule Poirot, the brilliant Belgian detective, must find the murderer on this dangerous cruise with its eccentric passengers.

PREDICTION • WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Linnet Doyle is a very unhappy young woman. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. Linnet Doyle's best friend is angry with her. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. The passenger who is murdered is a government spy. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4. There are expert jewellery thieves on the cruise. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5. Revenge is the reason behind the murder on the cruise. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 6. More than one murder takes place on the cruise. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

Mark your answers and when you finish reading the story, check them to see if you predicted correctly.



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READING ACTIVITY 2/7



READING ACTIVITY

Part 1 – Read the excerpt and then do the activities below.

Linnet Ridgeway is a young and beautiful millionaire and this is the beginning of the story.

‘Linnet Ridgeway!’ that’s her!’ said Mr Burnaby, as he looked out the window of the Three Crowns Pub. He and his friend stared. A red Rolls-Royce had just stopped in front of the village post office. A girl jumped out, a confident, beautiful girl with golden hair.

‘She’ll bring money into this town,’ Said Mr Burnaby. ‘Her mother was the only daughter of one of those American millionaires.’

As she drove away, the other man followed her with his eyes. ‘Money and looks! It doesn’t seem fair.’

‘You know, Linnet, I really do envy you,’ said Joanna Southwood. She and Linnet Ridgeway were in the bedroom of Linnet’s beautiful old house. Joanna went on.¹ ‘Here you are at twenty, with money, looks, perfect health. You’ve even got *brains!*² When will you be twenty-one?’

‘Next June,’ said Linnet. ‘I shall have a grand coming-of-age party in London.’ Joanna picked up a pearl necklace from the table. ‘Darling, these really are incredible. Let me wear them till dinnertime. It would be so exciting.’

Linnet laughed. ‘Of course, if you like.’

Just then, one of Linnet’s servants told her that she had a telephone call. Linnet left the room for a few minutes. When she came back, she was smiling.

‘Jackie’s on her way from London,’ Linnet said. ‘Jacqueline de Bellefort. We’ve known each other since we were children. Poor Jackie—she’s had the most terrible bad luck. Her parents lost all their money in the Wall Street Crash and left her with nothing.’

(from Chapter 1)

1 <?> **went on** : past tense of the verb *go on*; continue

2 <?> **brains** : intelligence



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READING ACTIVITY 3/7



ODD ONE OUT!

2A. Choose the word that does not belong to the group.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. shy | embarrassed | confident | awkward |
| 2. beautiful | attractive | handsome | ugly |
| 3. health | disease | illness | sickness |
| 4. exciting | thrilling | sensational | boring |
| 5. daughter | friend | uncle | aunt |
| 6. American | British | French | United States |

2B. Now complete the sentences with the odd word.

1. I fell asleep during the film because it was
2. Jackie was Linnet's good
3. His old, dirty shoes were
4. Linnet was a very lovely, girl.
5. The Wall Street Crash took place in the
6. Smog is bad for everyone's

QUICK QUIZ!

3. Complete the sentences with either FOR or SINCE.

1. She has lived in London last summer.
2. He wants to go to college five years.
3. They waited for the bus an hour.
4. I've known Jack we were kids in kindergarten.
5. The test went on thirty minutes.



READING ACTIVITY

4/7



PART 2 – Read the excerpt.

Poirot is dining in a fashionable restaurant and he's observing a young couple.

Hercule Poirot sat at his table alone. A jazz band was playing and the dance floor was full. Poirot noticed a young couple: a tall, handsome man with blue eyes and curly, brown hair and a pretty, dark-haired young girl. They moved to the music in perfect happiness and seemed to be deeply in love.

The music stopped and the couple returned to their table. It was very close to Poirot's. The girl was laughing, though her eyes showed another emotion.¹ Hercule Poirot shook his head.

'She cares too much, that little one,' he said to himself. 'It is not safe. No, it is not safe.' And then a word caught his attention. Egypt.

'Simon, don't worry. Linnet won't disappoint us!' the girl said. 'And it's just the right job for you. We'll wait three months and then we'll be married. After that, we'll go to Egypt for our honeymoon. The Nile and the Pyramids and the sand...'

'Yes, we'll see it together, Jackie,' the young man said. 'Won't it be wonderful?' 'I wonder.' The girl seemed afraid. 'Will it be as wonderful to you? Do you really care—as much as I do?'

Hercule Poirot murmured² to himself, 'Yes, I wonder too.'

(from Chapter 1)

4. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Hercule Poirot sat at a table with a young couple. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. The young couple danced to the music of the jazz band. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. Hercule Poirot said that the girl laughed a lot but she cared too little. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4. Simon will probably go and work for Linnet. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5. The young couple wanted to spend three months in Egypt for their honeymoon. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 6. The girl asked Simon if he cared as much as she did. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

1 **emotion** : feeling

2 **murmur** : say something in a soft, low voice



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READING ACTIVITY 5/7



QUICK QUIZ!

5. **WATCH THE VIDEO** about Death on the Nile.
(<https://youtu.be/gfX5pCnXHeA>)
Then match the word with its meaning.

1. figure out
 2. deceitful
 3. tragedy
 4. never misses a trick
 5. bitter
-
- a. something terrible that happens
 - b. very angry about something that happened in the past
 - c. solve a problem
 - d. tells lies easily
 - e. someone who is alert and quickly gets important information

