



Crime Story Collection

Photocopiable

While reading

Story 1

- 1 **Who's who? Match the phrases below to one of Ronald's three wives.**

north of England seaside hotel court case
young reporter valuable ring girls' school
local newspaper sick father difficult questions
insurance company

Mary	Dorothy	Edyth

- 2 **Talk about why are these times and figures important in the story.**

- a five o'clock
- b three weeks
- c four years ago
- d forty-three
- e five weeks
- f one, two ... three
- g half an hour
- h £17,000 ... £18,600 ... £21,940
- i two days ago

- 3 **Write what Ronald really means when he thinks about ...**

- a an 'accident'.
- b his next 'subject'.
- c 'her future'.

Story 2

- 4 **Who says these sentences? Who do they say them to? What are they talking about?**

Don't look at the book! Work with another student. Your partner can look at the book and tell you if you are right or wrong. Take 3 sentences each.

- a 'Don't move her. Let the ambulance people do it.'
- b 'She seems to be alive.'
- c 'Why was she on the freeway instead of at work?'
- d 'You know I'm not allowed to give out information like that!'
- e 'I'm sure he had a reason for giving a false name.'

- f 'She really thought he was crazy.'
- g 'No clear pictures of him.'
- h 'This has been right here, in this condition, for six months.'

- 5 **Who did it? Choose the right words and complete the sentences.**

Michelle Spurrier Judy Layton Terry Layton
Caroline Spurrier Emerald Lieutenant Dolan
John Birkett Ron Cagle

- a forced open the car door.
- b asked Kinsey to find the murderer.
- c sent Mrs Spurrier to see Kinsey.
- d told Kinsey about Benny Secco.
- e had a difficult relationship with her mother.
- f had just finished a relationship with a man.
- g took photographs at the scene of the crash.
- h had a dark blue Toyota with no wheels or engine.

Story 3

- 6 **Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**

Change the wrong sentences.

- a Humphrey liked gardening. ☐
-
- b Mr Potter went to Antwerp instead of Mr Brownlow. ☐
-
- c The competition prize was enough for Humphrey to go to Canada. ☐
-
- d Humphrey had to stay with the company for another month before he could leave. ☐
-
- e Humphrey became confused by Sergeant Wallace's questions. ☐
-
- f Humphrey's mother looked younger than she was. ☐
-
- g Humphrey had planned to kill his mother for a long time. ☐
-



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- 7 Read pages 28–29 again and look at Sergeant Wallace's questions.

Why does he believe that Humphrey has killed his mother? Find four reasons.

Story 4

- 8 What is it? Who is she? Explain the underlined words.

- a 'Do the police know why she was shot?'
- b 'Sorry. It was just such a shock.'
- c 'I thought you might know something about it, Ernesto.'
- d 'Why are you interested in her?'
- e 'They could be on a computer disk.'
- f 'She teaches Spanish, too, and she's very busy.'
- g 'It may all be a mistake.'

- 9 Which words go together? Match the adjectives and nouns.

interests punishment top loud private
crash angry story detective different
suitable cry

Story 5

- 10 Write why ...

- a Skip's wife left him.
- b Skip was able to stop smoking and drinking.
- c Andy refused to accept Skip's offer of money.
- d Skip shot himself.

- 11 Discuss with another student and then complete.

- a Skip could see the river from his farm, but
- b Skip made Frosby a very generous offer, but
- c Skip hadn't bought Maggie a horse, but
- d Skip told Maggie to stop seeing young Peter Frosby, but

Story 6

- 12 What did Clive do first? What did he do next?

Put the sentences in the right order.

- a ☐ put Mildred's body in Marat's bath.
- b ☐ took a coat from one of the wax figures.
- c ☐ dropped the keys.
- d ☐ cleaned everything he had touched.
- e ☐ arranged the taller man's body on the toilet.
- f ☐ found some keys and a pocketknife.

- g ☐ put the smaller man in Woodrow Wilson's chair.
- h ☐ locked the back door.
- i ☐ turned off the lights.

- 13 Find the mistakes in this newspaper story. Change the wrong words.

MYSTERY KILLER:

Four Dead in Waxworks Hall

This afternoon at 4.30 ticket man Arthur Keating and several visitors to Monsieur Thibault's Hall of Waxworks discovered four wax figures. They were models of Mrs Mildred Veery, aged 41, George Hartley, 43, and Richard McFadden, 37, all employed at the Hall. Police believe the murders happened at about ten this morning. Because the figures were put in place of real bodies, police are looking for a killer with a sick mind.

Story 7

- 14 Explain why ...

- a Albert didn't recognise Emily's voice on the phone.
- b Millicent wanted to know about Cynthia.
- c Emily took very few clothes with her.
- d Albert took a spade into the woods but didn't do any digging.
- e Albert told Millicent the letter was from his aunt.
- f Emily hadn't told anyone about the health farm.
- g Millicent had tried to trick Albert.
- h Albert had tricked Millicent.

After reading

- 15 Tell the stories. Work with another student.

Student A: Look at the names of the stories on the Contents page. Use them to tell your friend the seven stories in the book.

Student B: After you hear the story of each chapter, tell your partner if he / she forgot anything important.



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Stories 1–2

1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Ronald thought that the more often you murder people, the easier it becomes. ☐
- b Ronald always used the same methods to meet and marry his wives. ☐
- c As he was preparing Edyth's bath, Ronald started to feel nervous. ☐
- d As soon as everything was quiet, Ronald forced the bathroom door open and shouted for help. ☐
- e The couple next door had contacted the police. ☐

2 What happened first? Write the numbers, 1–10.

- a ☐ Lt. Dolan sent Michelle to see Kinsey.
- b ☐ Judy told Kinsey about the problem with Terry.
- c ☐ Kinsey found the .45 used to kill Caroline.
- d ☐ Lt. Dolan gave Kinsey a list of names.
- e ☐ Terry tried to escape in a dark green Ford.
- f ☐ Kinsey found Ron Cagle and his Toyota.
- g ☐ Birkett helped Kinsey with the photograph.
- h ☐ The apartment manager gave Kinsey an address.
- i ☐ Emerald found the name of Benny Seco.
- j ☐ Kinsey received a cheque for \$4,000.

Stories 3–4

3 Complete the sentences using the number.

- a Humphrey ... ☐
- b Reg ... ☐
- c Mrs Denton ... ☐
- d Mr Brownlow ... ☐
- e Mr Potter ... ☐
- f Sergeant Wallace ... ☐
- g Mrs Partridge ... ☐
- 1 put out the fire in the kitchen.
- 2 was too busy to go to Antwerp.
- 3 spread news about people around the village.
- 4 grew up in a children's home.
- 5 wanted to go to Canada with Humphrey.
- 6 had to go to Rome instead of Antwerp.
- 7 never believed what Humphrey said.

4 What's the right answer? Circle 1, 2 or 3.

- a The swimming competition was organised by ...
 - 1 Berman Airplanes for its engineers.
 - 2 different businesses to get money for sick people.
 - 3 the University of Illinois for its students.

- b Victoria didn't know which lane Alicia was in because ...
 - 1 three of the swimmers were wearing red suits.
 - 2 she was too far away to be seen very well.
 - 3 the programme gave the wrong information.
- c Ernesto helped Victoria because ...
 - 1 he was a good friend of hers.
 - 2 he knew Louise Carmody.
 - 3 she had helped his boss in the past.
- d Victoria realised where Alicia was when she ...
 - 1 remembered Miss Finley was a friend of Alicia's.
 - 2 recognised the sounds of the old swimming hole.
 - 3 heard Miss Finley's voice in the background.
- e Tom dropped his gun when ...
 - 1 Victoria stepped on his foot.
 - 2 Alicia fell to the floor.
 - 3 Miss Finley shouted at him.

Stories 5–7

5 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a After her parents' divorce Maggie went to live with her mother. ☐
- b Skip needed the scarecrow to protect the corn he was trying to grow. ☐
- c Young Peter Frosby was an uneducated country boy. ☐
- d Andy accepted three hundred dollars to go away for the weekend. ☐
- e Skip started drinking again when his daughter ran away. ☐
- f Skip shot Frosby with one of his two guns. ☐

6 What's the right answer? Circle 1, 2 or 3.

- a Millicent was surprised that Emily had gone to San Francisco because ...
 - 1 it was so far away.
 - 2 Emily didn't know anyone there.
 - 3 she had seen Emily in town.
- b Cynthia died in a boating accident because ...
 - 1 Albert murdered her.
 - 2 she couldn't swim.
 - 3 she fell out of the boat.
- c Emily wanted to lose weight in order to ...
 - 1 look as attractive as Cynthia.
 - 2 fit into her old clothes.
 - 3 be as thin as her sister.