

Before Reading

TALKING ABOUT THE COVER

- What do the four different things in the picture suggest to you?
- So what kind of story do you think this will be? (*Love story, murder story, detective story?*)

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 43)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

1 No 2 Yes 3 Yes 4 Yes

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

1 No 2 Yes 3 No 4 No 5 Yes

ACTIVITY 3 BEFORE READING

Encourage discussion about detective stories in films, television, or books, and whether the detective is always successful. Encourage students to guess that the title may refer to different motives for the murder of Molly. Which motive do they think is more likely to result in murder?

While Reading

CHAPTER 1 WHILE READING

- Diane.
- Because Diane always asked for money.
- She wanted her to get the house ready for the weekend, and go to the village to get her tablets.
- Because he lost his job after Molly wrote a letter to his office.

CHAPTER 2 WHILE READING

- Albert. 3 Roger. 5 Diane.
- Jackie. 4 Molly.

CHAPTER 3 WHILE READING

- Diane. 3 Diane. 5 Dr Pratt.
- Roger. 4 Molly. 6 Dr Pratt.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 4

Encourage students to assess the clues so far and to eliminate the less likely suspects. Which motives for the murder have been revealed, and which motives seem stronger?

CHAPTERS 4 AND 5 WHILE READING

- Somebody put sleeping tablets in *Molly's hot milk*.
- Everybody* saw Molly in her room that night.
- Albert needed money because *his wife* was ill.
- Diane* made hot milk and took it to *Molly*.

- At midnight *Molly* went downstairs to see the dogs.
- Peter Hobbs *lost* his job because of Molly.
- Roger *wanted* his mother to sell the house.
- Diane *didn't like* her mother.

CHAPTER 6 WHILE READING

- Tom Briggs. 3 Peter Hobbs. 5 Peter Hobbs.
- Peter Hobbs. 4 Tom Briggs. 6 Tom Briggs.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 7

Ask students to look back at the answers they chose before Chapter 4, think about the new evidence and clues that have emerged, and to decide which suspect is now more likely, and which is less likely. (Some students may know the answer by this stage, but ask them not to tell the others.)

CHAPTER 7 WHILE READING

- 'Why is Albert King selling his house?'
- 'Because he needs the money for a nurse for his wife.'
- 'Tom Briggs didn't do it. So why is he important?'
- 'He's important because he was the Clarksons' gardener many years ago.'
- 'Diane visited her mother every month and took money from her. How do we know that?'
- 'Because Mrs Clarkson told Dr Pratt, and he told me.'
- 'And Roger – why does he want to build houses?'
- 'Because he lost his job last month and needs money.'
- 'What about Jackie? Does she need money?'
- 'No, she doesn't need money. She needs love.'
- 'Did the angry young man, Peter Hobbs, do it?'
- 'No. He talked a lot about killing, but he didn't do it.'
- 'So who *did* put those tablets in the hot milk?'
- 'Come on, Sergeant – you tell me!'

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

- Molly 5 Albert's 9 Diane 13 Diane
- Jackie 6 Jackie 10 Roger 14 Jackie
- Diane 7 Molly 11 Albert 15 Molly
- Roger 8 Albert 12 Molly 16 Roger

Possible descriptions:

- Molly was fifty years old *and (she)* was very rich. *She* didn't like Tom Briggs *and (she)* didn't want Jackie to marry *him*.
- Jackie wanted to marry Tom Briggs but Molly said no. *So she* killed Molly with sleeping tablets in hot milk *and (she)* put the empty bottle in Diane's bag.
- Diane was a good singer but could never get work. *She* always got money from her father *so she* was very sorry when *he* died.

- Roger lived in an expensive house. *He* lost his job last month *so he* wanted to build houses in Molly's garden.
- Albert's wife was Molly's sister. *Albert* didn't want to sell his house *but he* needed money for his sick wife.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

If students need help with this, encourage them to look at links in the language, for example: *You're a good driver – Good drivers . . . / I didn't want to kill him. – Yes, you did.*

- 5 DIANE: Here's your hot milk, Mother.
- 1 MOLLY: Thank you. Where are my sleeping tablets?
- 8 DIANE: Here's the bottle, on your table. No, don't open your book. I want to talk to you about money.
- 2 MOLLY: Well, I don't want to talk. I'm not going to give you more money, Diane.
- 6 DIANE: Oh yes, you are! Or do you want me to talk to the police about Daddy? You wanted to kill him, I know.
- 9 MOLLY: I didn't want to kill him, Diane! It was an accident!
- 4 DIANE: An accident! No mother. Why did you hit that tree? It was daytime and you're a good driver.
- 7 MOLLY: Good drivers can have accidents too, you know. Listen, Diane, it was an accident. How many times must I tell you? I was angry with Daddy, but I didn't want to kill him.
- 3 DIANE: Yes, you did. You wanted his money. I heard you at Christmas when you told Aunt Annie that. I'm going to talk to her about it.
- 10 MOLLY: Please don't do that! Annie is very ill!

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Encourage discussion. For each chapter, the heading which is irrelevant should be easy to spot. The other two are possibilities. Encourage students to notice and follow two different styles: 1) headings with verbs, and 2) noun phrases.

Not good:

- 1 The Hottest Day of the Year
- 2 A Wonderful Dress
- 3 Diane and the Dogs
- 4 Sergeant Foster and the Tennis Club
- 5 Sergeant Foster and Diane
- 6 Inspector Walsh Feels Hungry
- 7 Accident!

Good (1)

- 1 Diane Needs Money
- 2 Molly Says No
- 3 Dr Pratt Phones the Police
- 4 The Police Ask Questions
- 5 I Didn't Kill My Mother
- 6 Inspector Walsh Knows the Answer
- 7 Mother Gave Me Nothing

Good (2)

- 1 The Clarkson Family
- 2 A Birthday Dinner
- 3 The Bottle of Sleeping Tablets
- 4 A Cup of Hot Milk
- 5 An Old Love Story
- 6 The Picture of a Friend
- 7 Love and Money

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

- 1 Diane. She is taking a cup of hot milk to her mother's (Molly's) room.
- 2 Jackie and Roger.
- 3 Albert is upstairs, in his bedroom.
- 4 **Possible answer:** Roger went to his room and Diane took the hot milk in to Molly. Diane left, and Jackie went up to Molly's room to say good night. Then Molly remembered the dogs and went downstairs to get some dinner for them. When Molly was out of the room, Jackie put the sleeping tablets in her mother's hot milk.

Lines taken from the story would make suitable captions, for example:

- *'Diane made hot milk and took it to Mother,' said Jackie.*
- *'Jackie wanted everyone to go up and say good night to Molly.'*

Or students might want to invent something more imaginative, for example:

- *Everybody went to talk to Molly – first Albert, then Roger, then Diane, and last, the murderer.*
- *'The dogs are hungry,' Jackie thought. 'Mother is going to come downstairs to get their dinner. And then . . .'*

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Encourage students to discuss these different endings, and to suggest other possibilities.

- 1 Jackie went to prison for the *murder* of her mother and at first *nobody* visited her. In the end Roger and Diane went to see her, but they *didn't* talk about Molly.
- 2 After ten years Jackie came out of prison and *married* Tom Briggs. They lived very quietly and they didn't have much *money*, but they were *happy*.
- 3 Roger lived in Molly's *house*. He built ten houses in the *garden* and was soon a very *rich* man. Diane found a husband, but she didn't *love* him. She married him because he had a lot of *money*.
- 4 Jackie *never* saw Tom Briggs again because he sold his *farm* to Roger and went to live in Australia. Jackie never married, and so she never found *love*.
- 5 The Clarkson family are nicer people now. After their mother died, they learnt something – they learnt that *love* is more important than *money*.