

SIMPLIFIED READERS

B1

LEVEL 4

# Poirot Investigates

AGATHA CHRISTIE



# WORKSHEETS

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**ABOUT THE BOOK**

*Poirot Investigates* is a short story collection by the world-famous writer Agatha Christie. It was first published in the UK in 1924. It consists of 11 stories in which a mystery or a crime case is solved by Agatha Christie's famous fictional detective, Hercule Poirot. Poirot appears in 33 novels, two plays and more than 50 short stories written by Christie. He has been portrayed on radio, television and in film by many different actors. In many of Christie's novels and plays, Poirot has a partner and friend named Captain Arthur J. M. Hastings. He is also the narrator of several of Christie's novels and stories. Inspector James Japp is another character who appears in several of Agatha Christie's novels featuring Hercule Poirot, but he has minor roles.

**SUMMARY**

***The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge***

A young man named Roger Havering asks the Belgian detective Poirot to investigate his uncle's murder, which happened the previous night while he was at his club in London. He wants to take Poirot to the family's hunting house in Brighton, where the murder took place. Poirot has Hastings go and investigate the case and report everything to him daily. Hastings arrives at the lodge and talks to Inspector Japp from Scotland Yard, who is working on the case. He learns from the housekeeper that a black-bearded man came to see the old man that night and that the two spoke in the gun-room. She and Roger's wife heard loud voices from the room and then a shot. When the two women entered the room through a window which was left open, they found the old man dead. He was shot by one of the two pistols in the room. The other gun was missing. Hastings sends a telegram to Poirot giving him the facts. Poirot is interested in the descriptions of the two women only. He sends a telegram back to Hastings saying that the housekeeper must be arrested immediately. But she has disappeared. Actually, no one has ever seen her, except for Roger's wife. When Hastings returns to London, Poirot tells him that he has solved the case and discovered who killed the old man. However, no one is arrested due to lack of evidence.

***The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb***

The famous Egyptologist, Sir John Willard, who has excavated the tomb of the Pharaoh Men-her-Ra together with an American investor, dies of a heart attack. Two weeks later, the investor, who was his partner, dies of blood poisoning. And a few days later, the investor's nephew, Rupert, kills himself. Newspapers give the news of an Egyptian curse, which is causing the deaths of the people involved in the excavation. Nevertheless, Sir John Willard's son, Guy Willard, goes to Egypt to continue his father's work. His mother, Lady Willard, who fears that her son will die too, asks for Poirot's help. Before leaving for Egypt, Poirot gets information about Rupert and learns that the young man had money problems and went to Egypt to get help from his uncle. When his uncle refused to help him, he returned to New York with the money that he borrowed from a friend in Egypt. And when his financial situation got worse, he shot himself. When Poirot and Hastings join the expedition team in Egypt, they learn that there has just been another death, the third one in the team. Poirot talks to all the men in the

team and investigates. He soon manages to solve the mystery surrounding the deaths. He identifies the man who is responsible for all the deaths. But the man poisons himself and dies in front of Poirot and Hastings.

***The Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan***

Poirot and Hastings go to Brighton one weekend and stay at the Grand Metropolitan Hotel for a change. There, they run into a rich stockbroker and his wife, who collects expensive jewels. She wants to show Poirot her precious pearl necklace, so she goes to her room to bring it. When she opens her jewel case, she sees that it has been stolen. She asks Poirot to find it. There are only two people who were allowed in the room, her French maid and a chambermaid. The police inspectors question and search both women, who blame each other for the theft. Finally, the pearls are found under the French maid's mattress. The police think the case is over, but when Poirot looks at the pearls, he realises that they are not genuine. He goes on investigating and analysing the clues. He discovers how and by whom the necklace has been stolen. In the end, the pearls are returned to Mrs Opalsen.

***The Disappearance of Mr Davenheim***

Poirot and Hastings have invited Japp to tea. Japp talks about the mysterious disappearance of a rich banker from his country house. Poirot makes a five-pound bet with Japp that he can solve the case in a week without moving from his chair. So Japp gives him the facts of the case. He tells him that Mr Davenheim left the house to go to the village post office on a Saturday afternoon when he was also expecting a visitor named Lowen. Mr Lowen did arrive before Davenheim came home. He waited in the study and left as Davenheim did not return. The police, who were called on Sunday morning, saw that the hidden safe in Davenheim's study was forced open and everything in it was stolen. They took Lowen under observation. After hearing these facts, Poirot is very interested in Davenheim's boat house and the lake nearby, as well as in Davenheim's physical description. The next day, Japp gives Poirot the news that Davenheim's clothes were found in the lake and that Lowen was arrested because a known thief called Billy Kellett saw Lowen throw away Davenheim's ring. Kellett took the ring and sold it. He got arrested for attacking an officer. This helps Poirot solve the mystery and win the bet.

**Discuss before you begin reading:**

- 1 Have you ever heard of a mysterious murder or robbery?
- 2 Have you ever heard of anyone who has disappeared mysteriously?

**A Word Search**

Find ten words about crime and investigation. Complete the sentences below the puzzle with those words.

A	V	H	I	L	G	B	S	F	A	C	S	S	O
F	I	N	G	E	R	P	R	I	N	T	P	I	K
B	M	F	A	E	V	E	C	L	U	E	E	L	X
M	U	R	D	E	R	B	J	M	O	O	J	P	C
P	U	L	X	H	Z	Q	B	A	C	B	C	S	P
J	G	S	U	I	C	I	D	E	P	Q	Z	V	T
H	C	A	P	T	A	I	N	G	G	P	S	G	D
M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	G	M	X	W	N	F	F
D	Y	R	S	C	E	N	E	R	O	P	I	N	J
D	H	T	R	U	I	N	S	P	E	C	T	O	R
R	M	T	D	O	L	Z	E	T	I	A	I	U	U
A	L	I	B	I	T	B	G	Z	V	X	Z	S	T
A	E	B	A	H	E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	Q

- A detective is someone whose job is to investigate and solve a crime like a robbery or a(n) **1** \_\_\_\_\_ by collecting **2** \_\_\_\_\_. S/he can be a police officer or a private **3** \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4** \_\_\_\_\_s are signs or pieces of evidence that help one to find the answer to a problem, question or a(n) **5** \_\_\_\_\_ that cannot be solved. For example, people's **6** \_\_\_\_\_s help police identify criminals. The place where a crime occurs is called the crime **7** \_\_\_\_\_.
- People who commit **8** \_\_\_\_\_ deliberately kill themselves because they do not want to continue living.
- A(n) **9** \_\_\_\_\_ is the person in charge of a ship or an aircraft or the leader of a team but also an officer in a police or fire department.
- Proof or evidence that shows a person was somewhere else when a crime was committed is called a(n) **10** \_\_\_\_\_.

**B Match the sentences and the story titles in the table below. Tick your choices.**

Sentences from the stories	<i>The Mystery of the Hunter's Lodge</i>	<i>The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb</i>	<i>The Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan</i>	<i>The Disappearance of Mr Davenheim</i>
'Did those four men do anything rude to the spirit of Men-her-Ra?'				
'But no one would hate him enough to kill him. If they had, where is the body?'				
'It's a small country house that we use for our shooting parties.'				
'Oh the pearls!' Opalsen smiled. 'Well, they are worth seeing. They cost a lot of money.'				

**A** *The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge*: Before you begin reading page 14 in the story, look at the table below. Put a tick in the boxes under the correct names for each piece of information.

Information about the characters	Housekeeper	Mr Pace	Roger	Visitor	Zoe
had a black beard; spoke with an American accent					
a wealthy old man who was murdered					
took the visitor into the gun-room					
received a telegram about the old man's death					
heard the gun shot					
found the old man dead in the gun-room					
had a red jumper and red hat on					
dressed in black					
did not see the visitor					
has a strong alibi for the night of the murder					

**B** *The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb*: When you've read up to page 34 in the story, match the names of the men in the excavation team (1-8) and the descriptions (a-h).

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <u>1</u> Ames             | <b>a</b> famous archaeologist; died of a heart attack                                   |
| <u>2</u> Mr Bleibner      | <b>b</b> a rich man interested in Egyptology; provides the money for the excavation     |
| <u>3</u> Guy Willard      | <b>c</b> studied in Oxford; in Egypt at the moment, went there after his father's death |
| <u>4</u> Mr Harper        | <b>d</b> young man with money problems; committed suicide in New York                   |
| <u>5</u> Hassan           | <b>e</b> American archaeologist; has just died of tetanus                               |
| <u>6</u> Rupert Bleibner  | <b>f</b> the doctor in the expedition team  |
| <u>7</u> Mr Schneider     | <b>g</b> secretary of Sir John Willard; nice, young man from New York                   |
| <u>8</u> Sir John Willard | <b>h</b> Sir John Willard's servant; a native man                                       |

**C** *The Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan*: Before you begin reading page 46 in the story, guess what Poirot and Hastings will see in Mrs Opalsen's room. Circle your choice(s).

- |  |
|--|
| <b>1</b> Mrs Opalsen is crying; her pearl necklace is missing. She is trying to answer an inspector's questions.                                       |
| <b>2</b> Mrs Opalsen's maid is lying dead on the floor, and she is being questioned by the inspector; her husband is listening.                        |
| <b>3</b> Mrs Opalsen is lying dead on the floor. An inspector is questioning Mr Opalsen; an officer is searching the room.                             |
| <b>4</b> Mrs Opalsen is not in the room. The window is wide open. Mr Opalsen is talking to the inspector.  |
| <b>5</b> A wounded man with a mask on his face is lying on the floor. An officer is putting handcuffs on Mrs Opalsen's wrists. Mr Opalsen is in shock. |

**D** *The Disappearance of Mr Davenheim*: Before you begin reading page 76 in the story, try to guess how Mr Davenheim disappeared. Circle your choice(s).

- |  |
|--|
| <b>1</b> Billy Kellet wanted to steal Davenheim's diamond ring, pointing his gun at him. When Davenheim refused to give it, Kellet shot him and got the ring. Then, he got rid of the body; perhaps he threw it into the lake. |
| <b>2</b> There was no Mr Lowen. Davenheim disguised himself as Mr Lowen and came to the house pretending to be him to get the money, business papers and the jewels in the safe. He went away to begin a new life.             |
| <b>3</b> Davenheim jumped into the lake and swam away. First, he went to the boat house and put on the clothes he had hidden there before. He threw his other clothes into the lake so that everyone would think he drowned.   |
| <b>4</b> Davenheim cut his hair very short and pretended to be a thief. He attacked a policeman so that he could stay in prison for a while. He was going to leave for South America when he got out and begin a new life.     |
| <b>5</b> Mr Lowen came when he knew Davenheim was not at home. He stole the things in the safe. He had hired a man to kill Davenheim on the way to the village. The man's name was Billy Kellet.                               |

**A** *The Mystery of the Hunter's Lodge*: Poirot's partner Mr Hastings was told the four statements below by different characters. Read them and then write who the characters are.

	to Mr Hastings	Who is speaking?	About whom?
1	'I didn't see him. Mrs Middleton showed him into the gun-room and then came to tell my uncle.'		
2	'I didn't even pay attention to the woman. I don't think that I can arrest her, but she will be watched.'		
3	'And no one will ever find her, my friend, because she does not exist.'		
4	'Mr Page's huge fortune passed into the hands of his murderers.'		

**B** *The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb*: Who are the four characters described below?

1	the only person who died of a natural cause	
2	the three men who died because of Doctor Ames	
3	Poirot says that he is the last victim.	
4	Dr Ames tried to poison him with some tea but failed.	

**C** *The Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan*: Fill in the names for the quotes.

	Quotes from the story	Who is speaking?	
1	'I believe in luck. It was fate that made us meet this evening. Only you can get my pearls back for me.'		To whom?
2	'You stole them yourself. I was in the room only three minutes before the lady came up. You were sitting here the whole time, as you always do, like a cat watching a mouse.'		To whom?
3	'I did not actually leave her alone. But I went into my own room through this door twice.'		About whom?
4	'The fingerprints proved that they were two well-known jewel thieves. ... They were clever, but they made a mistake.'		About whom?

**D** *The Disappearance of Mr Davenheim*: Write the answer to the question about each quote.

1	<b>Japp to Poirot and Hastings:</b> 'Also, on Saturday, one of the gardeners saw a figure going around to the side of the house toward the rose garden.'	Who was 'the figure'?
2	<b>Japp to Poirot:</b> 'A man called Billy Kellett did it. He's already known to the police.'	What did the man do?
3	<b>Poirot to Hastings:</b> 'He bought jewels with the money he made. He probably put imitation jewels into the safe and put the real ones in a safe place under another name.'	Who is Poirot talking about?
4	<b>Poirot to Hastings:</b> 'He could not know that he would get the chance to open the safe. He could not know that Mr Davenheim would be absent and that he would be alone in the study.'	Who is Poirot talking about?

**A *The Mystery of the Hunter's Lodge*: Match the two halves of the sentences. (6x4=24 pts)**

- \_\_\_1 Roger Havering planned the murder ...
- \_\_\_2 Poirot had Hastings investigate the case ...
- \_\_\_3 Roger Havering took one of the guns with him when he left for London, ...
- \_\_\_4 Roger couldn't be blamed for the murder ...
- \_\_\_5 Mrs Havering successfully tricked Hastings into believing that she was the housekeeper ...
- \_\_\_6 Mrs Havering had shot the uncle with the gun ...

- a as he had a good alibi: he was in London at the time of the murder
- b because he would inherit his uncle's money
- c which the police took away for inspection
- d and he put it in a brown paper bag and left it near a station
- e because he was ill at the time
- f because she used to be an actress before

**B *The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb*: Mark the correct answers. (10x2=20 pts)**

1 **Sir John Willard's - - - - was worried that there would be more deaths at the camp.**

- a son                      b wife                      c mother

2 **Guy Willard was - - - -.**

- a sure that his father was killed
- b determined to continue working on the site
- c afraid of the curse of Men-her-Ra

3 **What did everyone think about the deaths happening at the camp?**

- a They were a coincidence.
- b There was a killer at the camp.
- c It was the curse of Men-her-Ra.

4 **Who often quarrelled with Sir Bleibner?**

- a Sir Willard      b Dr Ames      c Rupert

5 **Why did Rupert Bleibner commit suicide?**

- a Dr Ames convinced him that he had leprosy.
- b He could not pay back his debts.
- c He felt guilty for killing his uncle.

6 **Where was Rupert when he killed himself?**

- a in London      b in New York      c in Egypt

7 **Dr Ames wanted Rupert to die because - - - -.**

- a the money he inherited from his uncle would pass to Dr Ames according to Rupert's will
- b Rupert knew that Dr Ames killed his uncle
- c Rupert was in a lot of pain due to his illness

8 **Who helped Poirot reveal the killer in the end?**

- a Mr Hastings      b Guy Willard      c Hassan

9 **Which is not true about Dr Ames?**

- a He had no idea that Poirot had discovered the truth about him.
- b He poisoned and killed himself in order not to be arrested.
- c He planned to kill Poirot because he realized that he had discovered the facts.

10 **Who did Poirot think had given Rupert the money to leave Egypt and go back?**

- a Mr Tosswill      b Dr Ames      c his uncle

**C *The Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan*: Mark the sentences as True (T) or False (F). (10x2=20 pts)**

- \_\_\_1 Poirot and Hastings went to the Grand Metropolitan Hotel to meet the Opalsens.
- \_\_\_2 Mrs Opalsen was upset because her jewel case was missing.
- \_\_\_3 When Mrs Opalsen went up to her room, her maid and the chambermaid were both there.
- \_\_\_4 The police inspector did not allow Poirot to investigate.
- \_\_\_5 The inspector had both the maid and the chambermaid searched.
- \_\_\_6 The pearl necklace that the inspector found under the maid's mattress was an imitation.
- \_\_\_7 Poirot discovered that the pearl necklace had been stolen long before.
- \_\_\_8 Poirot tricked the chambermaid and the valet to touch a card to take their fingerprints
- \_\_\_9 The real necklace could not be returned to Mrs Opalsen because the thieves had sold it.
- \_\_\_10 One clue that helped Poirot was the mark that the jewel case left on the dusty table.

**D *The Disappearance of Mr Davenheim*: The paragraph below is about why and how Davenheim disappeared according to Poirot. Put the necessary words in the blanks to complete the sentences. (8x3=24 pts)**

Davenheim knew that his banking business would have a(n) **1** \_\_\_\_\_. So, he decided to disappear, and he began to prepare a new life for himself. He bought a lot of expensive **2** \_\_\_\_\_ and hid them in a secret place. Then, he spent three months in **3** \_\_\_\_\_ as a thief named Billy Kellet; but everyone thought that he was in **4** \_\_\_\_\_ at that time. When he got out and returned home, he had to wear a wig and a false **5** \_\_\_\_\_. He made a(n) **6** \_\_\_\_\_ with Mr Lowen at his house on Saturday to talk about a business in South America. But that day, he left home to go to the **7** \_\_\_\_\_ in the village and never came back. He had changed himself back into the Billy Kellet's appearance. He sold his **8** \_\_\_\_\_ and attacked a police officer so that he would go to prison, where he could easily hide.

**E Match the words/phrases (1-12) with the stories (a-d). (3 for each story) (12x1=12 pts)**

- a The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_
- b The Adventure of the Egyptian Tomb: \_\_\_\_\_
- c The Jewel Robbery at the Grand Metropolitan: \_\_\_\_\_
- d The Disappearance of Mr Davenheim: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 diamond ring      2 bonds      3 chalk
- 4 sand      5 actress      6 superstition
- 7 dressing table      8 five pounds      9 plane crash
- 10 French      11 curse      12 the flu

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