



READING & TRAINING

Robert Louis Stevenson

The Rajah's Diamond

The Rajah's Diamond, the most precious diamond in the world, seems to bring bad luck on everyone who comes into contact with it. The diamond is the property of a certain Sir Thomas Vandeleur, but Sir Thomas's wife tries to sell it to pay her debts. But the diamond is stolen and then falls into the hands of various people, who are all corrupted by its great beauty and value. Follow the diamond as it travels from London to Edinburgh to Paris and find out what happens to it...

- Wide range of activities practising the four skills
- PET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grades 4/5)
- Dossiers: *The Hope Diamond*, *The Thousand and One Nights*, *Gentlemen's Clubs* and *The Empire Strikes Back*
- Internet project
- Story recorded in full
- Exit test with answer key



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Step Two	■	CEFR B1.1	Exam Preparation PET
Step Three	■	CEFR B1.2	Exam Level PET
Step Four	■	CEFR B2.1	Exam Preparation FCE
Step Five	■	CEFR B2.2	Exam Level FCE
Step Six	■	CEFR C1	Exam Preparation CAE

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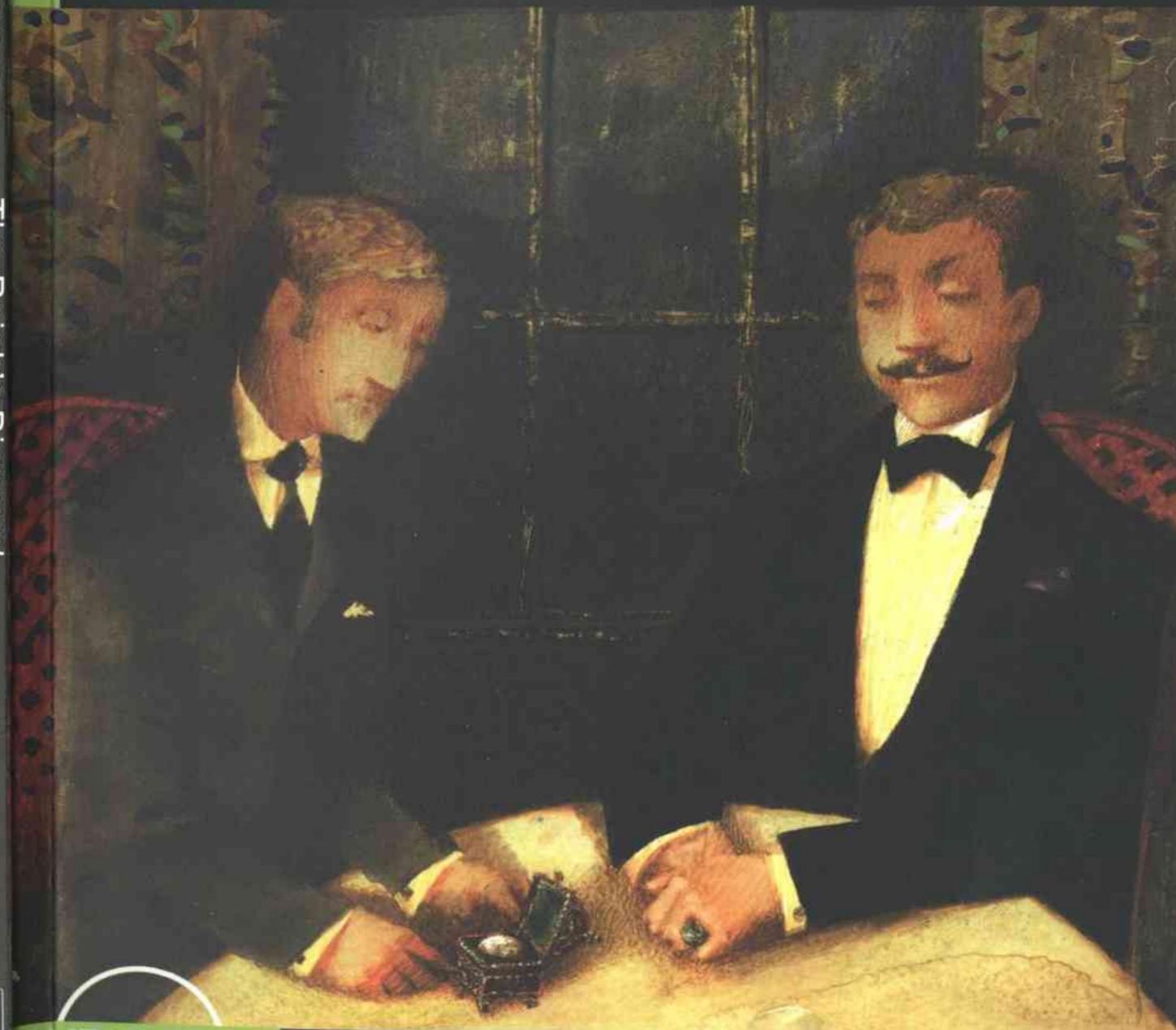
Book + CD

Robert Louis Stevenson

The Rajah's Diamond

Step Two B1.1

The Rajah's Diamond



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Robert Louis Stevenson
THE RAJAH'S DIAMOND
ISBN 978-88-530-0495-6
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Kenneth Brodey wrote the dossiers *The Empire Strikes Back*,
Gentlemen's Clubs and *The Thousand and One Nights*

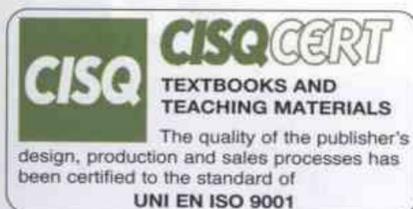
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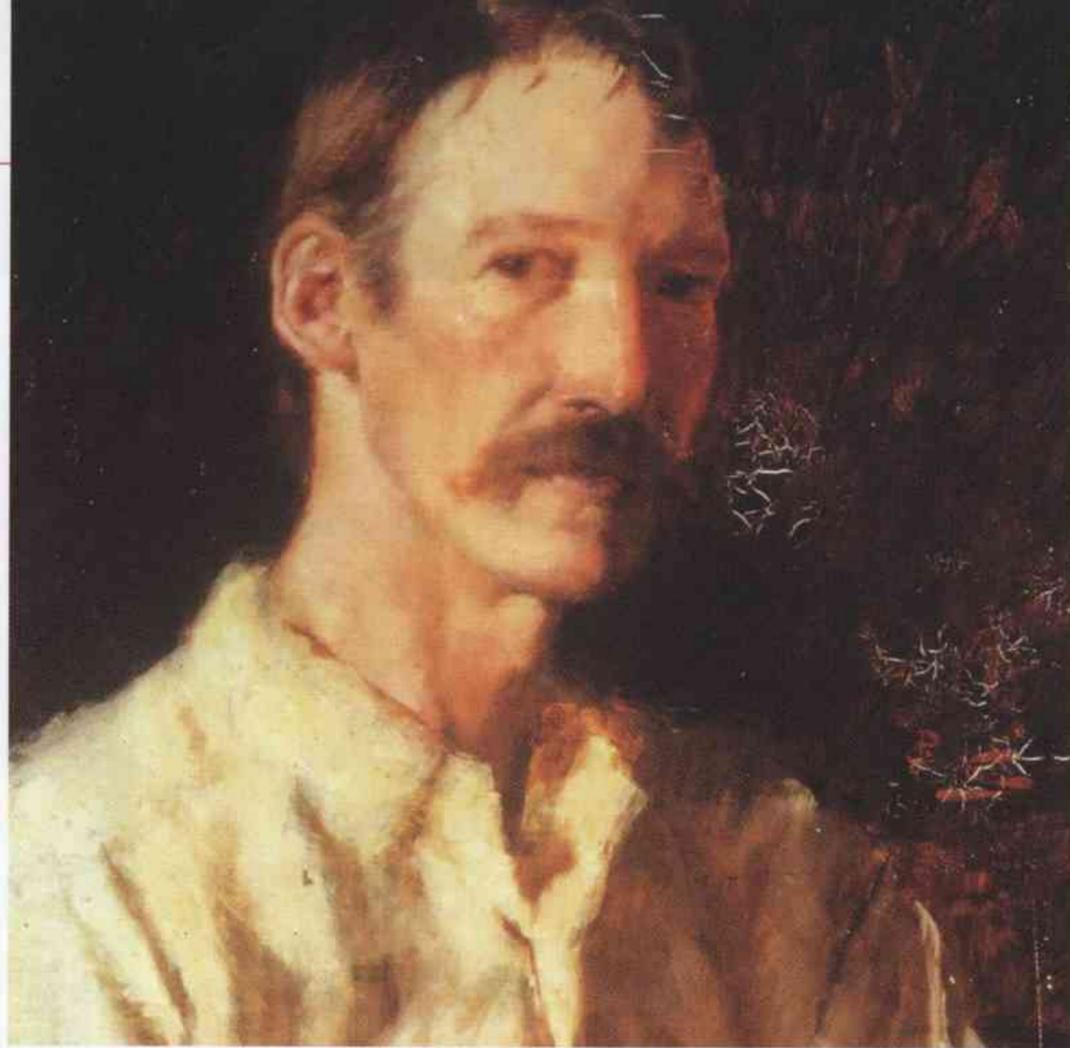
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PET Cambridge PET-style activities

T: GRADES 4/5 Trinity-style activities (Grades 4/5)

This story is recorded in full.

 These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts
linked to the listening activities.



Robert Louis Stevenson (1892) by Girolamo Pieri Nerli.

About the Author

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on 13 November 1850. He was often ill as a child with lung¹ disease, which later led to tuberculosis.²

For a short time he studied engineering at Edinburgh University, but he did not want to become an engineer like his father, so he started to study law.

By the time he finished university Stevenson knew he did not want to be a lawyer either. He loved writing and his first works began to

1. lung :



2. tuberculosis : a serious disease which affects someone's lungs.

The Characters

appear in various magazines. These were mostly stories of adventure and mystery. His first book, *An Inland Voyage*, was published in 1878. Stevenson met Fanny Osborne, an American woman eleven years older than himself, in 1876. The two fell in love and four years later, in 1880, when Stevenson was 30, they got married.

Stevenson continued to publish his stories of adventure and mystery. Written in a sophisticated style and exploring the psychology of the characters, these stories were intended to be read by both adults and children.

Fascinated by the mysterious *The Thousand and One Nights*, Stevenson wrote a collection of stories which were published as *The New Arabian Nights* (1882). 'The Rajah's Diamond' was part of this collection.

In 1883, Stevenson published the book which began to make him popular, *Treasure Island*. Three years later, his best-known novel was published, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. This novel explores the contrast between a person's respectable outer personality and his tormented inner one.

In 1888, Louis and Fanny left Britain to travel to the South Seas. The following year, the couple decided to live on the Samoan Island of Upolu. Stevenson realised that the warmer temperatures were good for his health.

The South Seas also inspired numerous stories set in this area of the world. Among these is the collection of short stories, *Island Nights' Entertainments*, published in 1893, just one year before Stevenson's death.

For six years, Stevenson and his family lived a happy, active life in the South Seas. But, sadly, Stevenson's health was never good and he

The Characters

died on 3 December 1894. He was 44 years old. As he requested, he was buried on the top of Mount Vaea in Samoa.

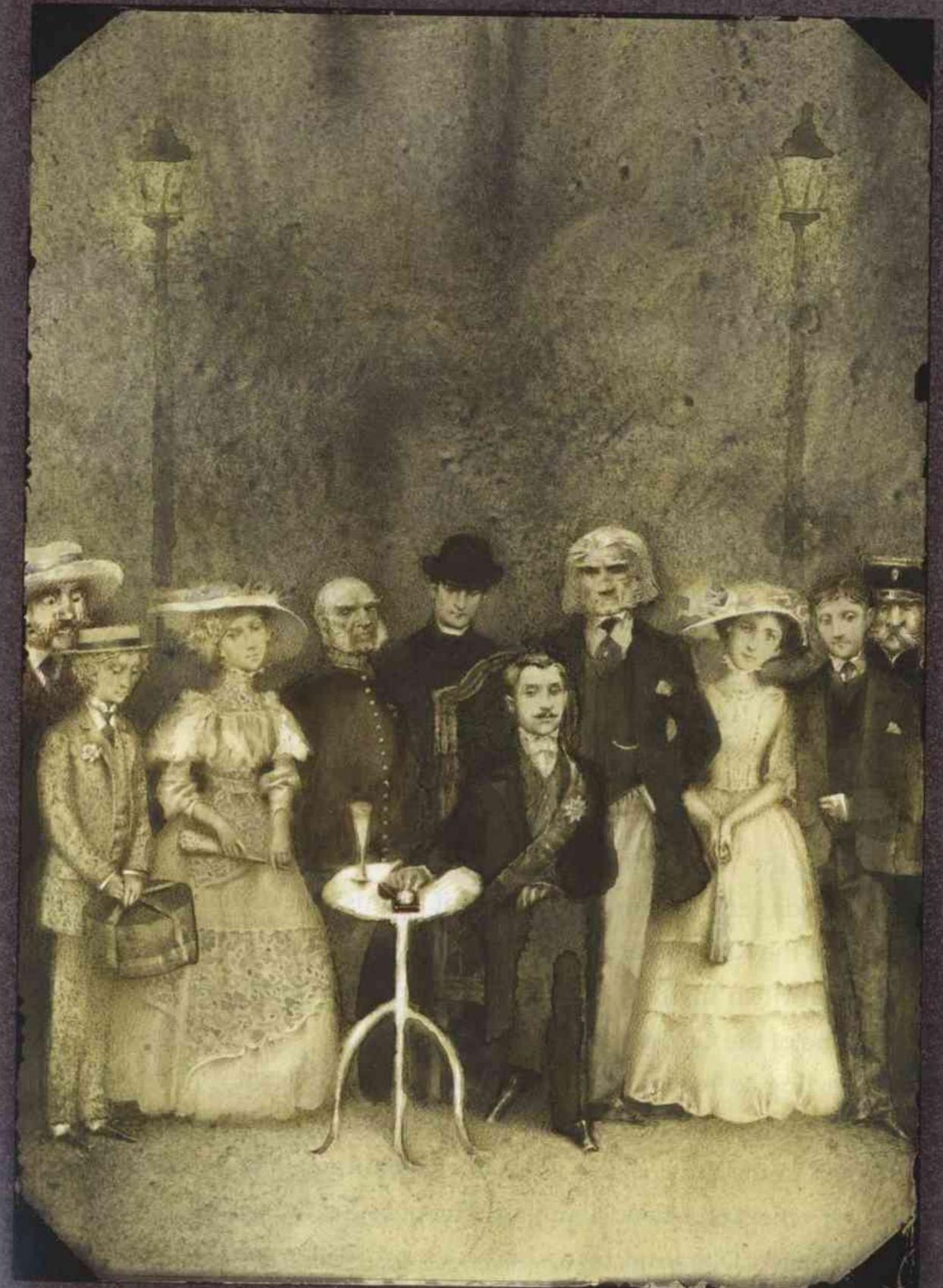


Robert Louis Stevenson sitting with friends. Samoa 1891.

1 Comprehension check

Complete the missing dates or events listed in the table below.

1850	
	Publishes first book
	Meets his future wife
1880	
1883	
	Stevenson's masterpiece is published
	Stevenson lives on the island of Upolu
1888-1894	
1894	



From left to right : Mr Raeburn, Harry Hartley, Lady Vandeleur, Sir Thomas Vandeleur, Mr Rolles, Prince Florizel, John Vandeleur, Miss Vandeleur, Francis...

The Empire Strikes Back

The English first arrived as traders in India in the early 1600s. For the next 200 years many of these traders took on the customs of the Indians and learned Indian languages; some even married Indian women. But after Britain conquered all of India in the 1850s and it became part of the Empire, tension grew.

In 1857, the sepoy – Indian soldiers who fought for the British – began a revolt. The Sepoy Rebellion, as the British call it, or First War of Indian Independence, as the Indians call it, frightened the British. This fear of violence within the Empire often appeared in British literature. Usually there is some object from India or the Empire that, almost magically, brings evil to Britain.

Arthur Conan Doyle wrote about a snake from India in his 1892 short story 'The Speckled Band'. Another famous short story, 'The Monkey's Paw' (1902) by W.W. Jacobs is about an evil and magical monkey paw from India.

Perhaps the most famous evil or magical objects from India were diamonds, and the most famous of all historical diamonds from India is the Koh-i-noor diamond. It was taken from an Indian temple by the British in 1849. In 1850, it was given to Queen Victoria. It is still one of the Crown Jewels.

According to legend, the Koh-i-Noor diamond brings bad luck to men, but does not hurt women.

Robert Louis Stevenson's 1882 tale, 'The Rajah's Diamond', might refer to the Koh-i-noor diamond. The question for the reader is: does the Rajah's Diamond bring bad luck or do the people themselves create the bad luck?

Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter One and answer the following questions. For each question put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- 1 What kind of a person was Harry Hartley?
A a kind, shy old man
B a loud but kind young man
C a kind, shy young man
- 2 Harry Hartley became private secretary to Sir Thomas Vandeleur because
A he was an excellent singer.
B of his various talents and a bit of luck.
C he finished school at an early age.
- 3 When Sir Thomas first went to India he was
A a rich cook.
B a young teacher.
C a poor soldier.
- 4 How did Sir Thomas get the diamond?
A the Rajah gave it to him
B he stole it from the Rajah
C he bought from the Rajah
- 5 Harry's job with Sir Thomas was
A fun and he did lots of different things for him.
B really boring but they had a good relationship.
C more about Lady Vandeleur and helping her.



Lady Vandeleur's Hatbox

H

Harry Hartley was a kind, shy young man. Until his sixteenth birthday, he received the education most English gentlemen get. Harry did not like studying very much, so he was allowed to finish his education before most young men do. However, Harry loved music and he could sing and play the piano well.

These talents, and a bit of luck, helped Harry to find a job when his parents died just two years after he finished school. That was how Harry Hartley began a new life as private secretary to Major-General Sir Thomas Vandeleur.

When he was young, Sir Thomas Vandeleur was a soldier in India. He was poor when he left England, but he made a good career for himself working for the Rajah of Kashgar. When Sir

Thomas returned to England, he had with him one of the largest diamonds in the world. This was known as the Rajah's Diamond. The Rajah of Kashgar gave this wonderful diamond to Sir Thomas to thank him for something he did for the Rajah.

Nobody knew exactly what Sir Thomas did to get the famous diamond, but the diamond made him one of the richest and most important men in England. In his new life he was always invited to exclusive parties. Soon he was married to one of the richest and most beautiful women in England.

But for Harry life was not so pleasant in the Vandeleur household. Sir Thomas was a very difficult man to live with and Harry did not really like working for him. Sir Thomas was often angry and shouted at Harry. But Sir Thomas's wife, Lady Vandeleur, liked Harry very much and treated him like a son. Harry liked Lady Vandeleur too, and he was happy to do different jobs for her. Most days she gave Harry some money and sent him to different expensive shops to buy her hats or other things she wanted.

Early one morning Harry was in the living room, and he could hear the conversation Lady Vandeleur was having with her brother Charlie Pendragon. Charlie was a lazy young man. 'It must happen today — or never!' said Lady Vandeleur to her brother.

'Oh, Clara,' he replied, 'I know it must happen today, but it is such a bad thing to do.'

'Don't be silly, Charlie!' said Lady Vandeleur. 'Remember what I always say: The family before all... and Clara before the family!'

'Yes, dear sister, you're so clever!' said Charlie. 'I must go now, I don't want him to find me here.'

Charlie left quickly by the back stairs.

'Harry,' said Lady Vandeleur, turning to look at him, 'I have an important errand¹ for you this morning. It's a secret and no one must know about it. Sir Thomas may get very upset.'

Lady Vandeleur continued: 'I want you to take my hatbox to an address on the other side of London and give it to a man I know there. Please remember to get a receipt² for it. Do you understand?'

Harry started repeating her instructions, but just then Sir Thomas came into the room, his face red with anger.

'Look at this bill,³ madam!' he cried. 'I know you married me for my money... but I don't want you to spend all of it!'

'Mr Hartley,' said Lady Vandeleur, 'please go on your errand.'

'Wait!' said Sir Thomas, looking at Harry. Then he turned to Lady Vandeleur and said, 'What is this errand? I don't trust him or you. After all, what does he do to earn his money? It's a mystery to everyone.'

'I thought you had something to tell me privately,' said Lady Vandeleur.

'Don't try to change the subject,' insisted Sir Thomas. 'You spoke about an errand.'

'I don't want our servants to listen to our arguments. Mr Hartley, you may go.'

Harry quickly left the room, and as he ran upstairs to get the hatbox he could hear Sir Thomas's loud, angry voice and Lady Vandeleur's cold replies. Harry often went on these secret errands for Lady Vandeleur. He knew Lady Vandeleur's spending

1. **errand** : a short journey in order to buy or do something for someone.
2. **receipt** [ri:si:t] : a piece of paper which confirms delivery of the object.
3. **bill** : a document which shows an amount of money which needs to be paid.

was a problem and he often went around London paying small amounts of money to different people for her. But Harry was always loyal to¹ his lady. Besides, he disliked Sir Thomas and he understood Lady Vandeleur's love for expensive things.

It was a hot day and Harry decided to walk through Kensington Gardens to stay in the open. Harry walked near the magnificent Kensington Palace and was almost through the gardens when Sir Thomas suddenly appeared in front of him.

'Where are you going?' demanded Sir Thomas.

'I'm just taking a little walk in the park on this lovely day,' replied Harry, lying to his employer.

'With that thing?' said Sir Thomas pointing at Lady Vandeleur's hatbox. 'You're lying, and you know it! Where did my wife tell you to go?' cried Sir Thomas.

Sir Thomas started to raise his walking stick² to hit Harry, but suddenly Charlie Pendragon appeared. 'Sir Thomas! You can't treat Mr Hartley like this!'

'No one can tell me what to do!' said Sir Thomas, raising his walking stick and trying to hit Charlie. A moment later they were fighting and a crowd of people was looking at them.

'Run, Harry, Run!' cried Charlie, as he continued fighting.

Harry ran away as fast as he could, thinking all the time: 'Why was Sir Thomas so curious about what was in the hatbox? What doesn't Lady Vandeleur want her husband to know? Is she doing something dishonest? Why were they arguing?' But Harry stopped thinking when he suddenly realised that he was lost.

He was now in a very narrow street. It had high garden walls on both sides. Everything was still and silent. As Harry hurried

1. **loyal to** : true to.

2. **walking stick** :





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The Rajah's Diamond

along the street he wondered¹ where he was. This part of London was completely new to him. While he was wondering where he was, someone shouted his name. He turned around and saw Charlie Pendragon coming quickly after him: he looked angry. Harry knew that Charlie helped him earlier, but by now Harry was so frightened that he ran. He knew that he had to hide. He ran around a corner, climbed over a garden wall and fell over into a garden with a soft 'thump!'

Harry was not hurt, but he lay on the soft, wet ground for a few seconds and thought, 'What am I going to do now?'

But he had no time to think any more. A large man was looking down at him. He picked Harry up easily and stood in front of him.

'Who are you?' demanded the man angrily. 'And why did you come into my garden in this way?'

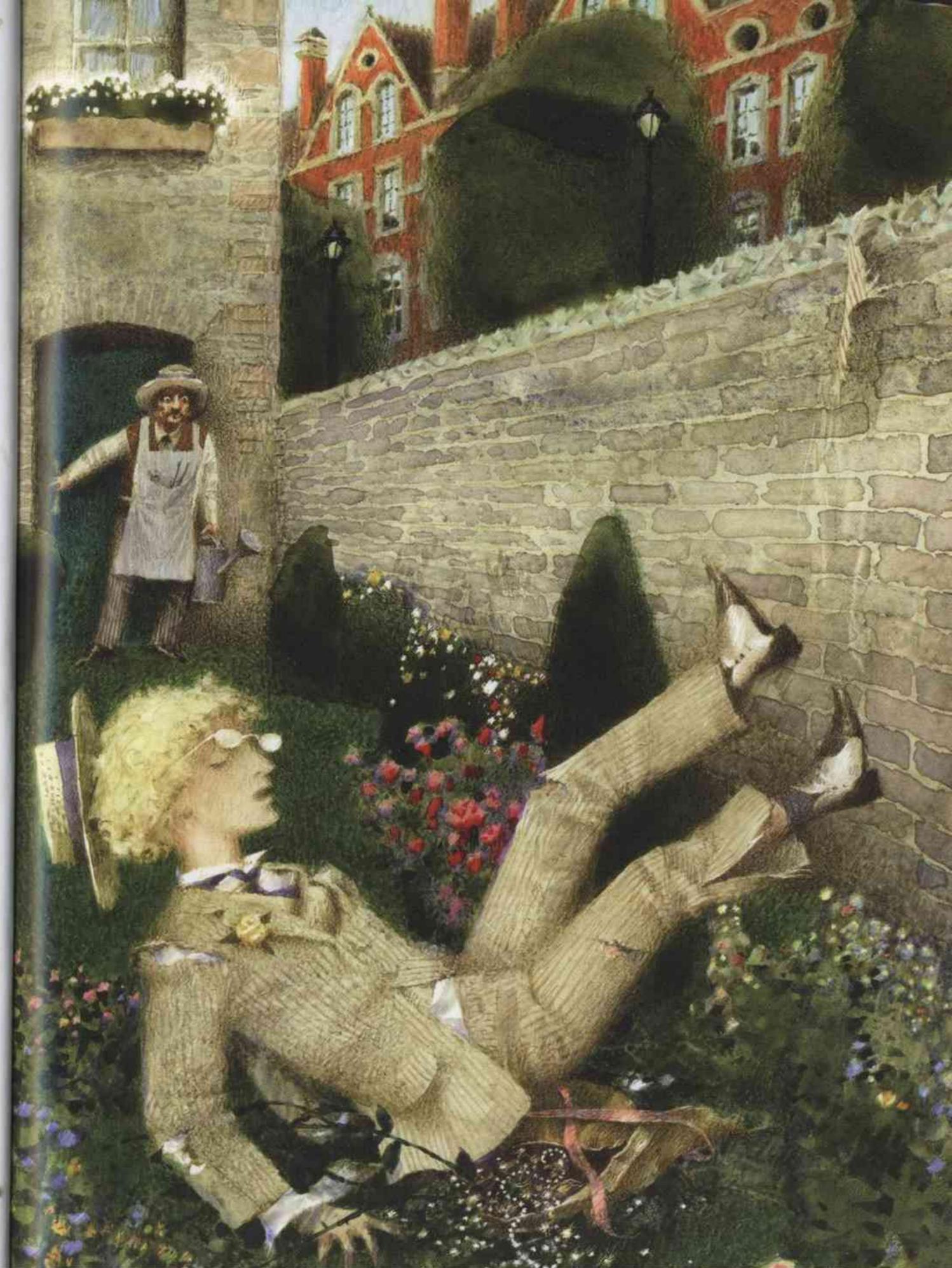
Harry was too frightened to speak. So the man went on, 'Speak up, young man, or I'll take you to the nearest police station. Just look what you have done to my flowers.'

But as the man looked at the ground his eyes opened wide and he said, 'What's all this?'

Harry looked where the man was looking. The hatbox was open and, all over the ground around them, between their feet and under the roses, were diamonds. There were diamond rings, diamond earrings, a magnificent tiara² made of diamonds, and dozens of diamonds shining in the sun.

1. **wondered** : asked himself.

2. **tiara** :



Go back to the text

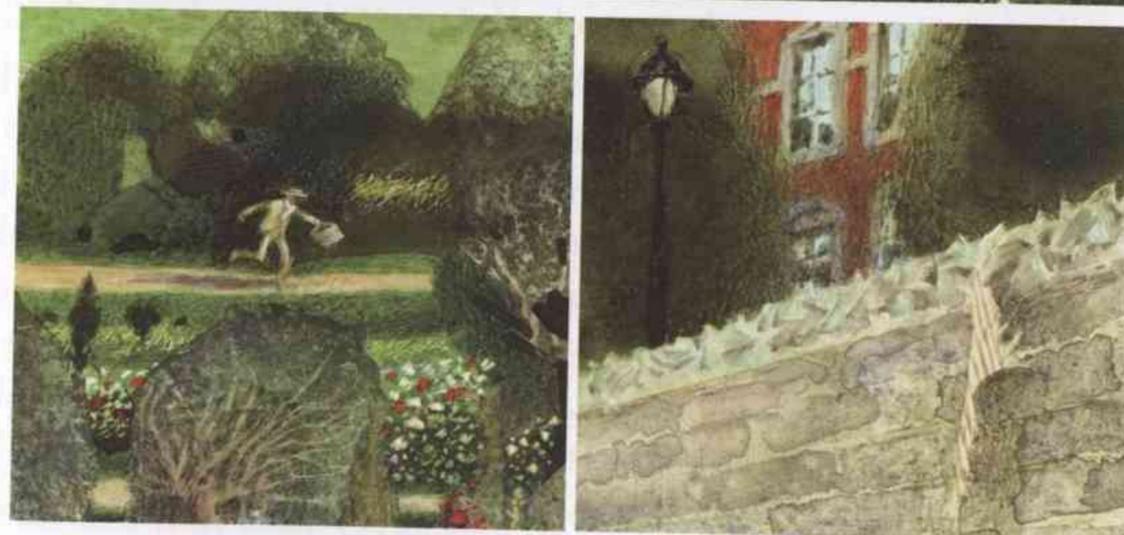
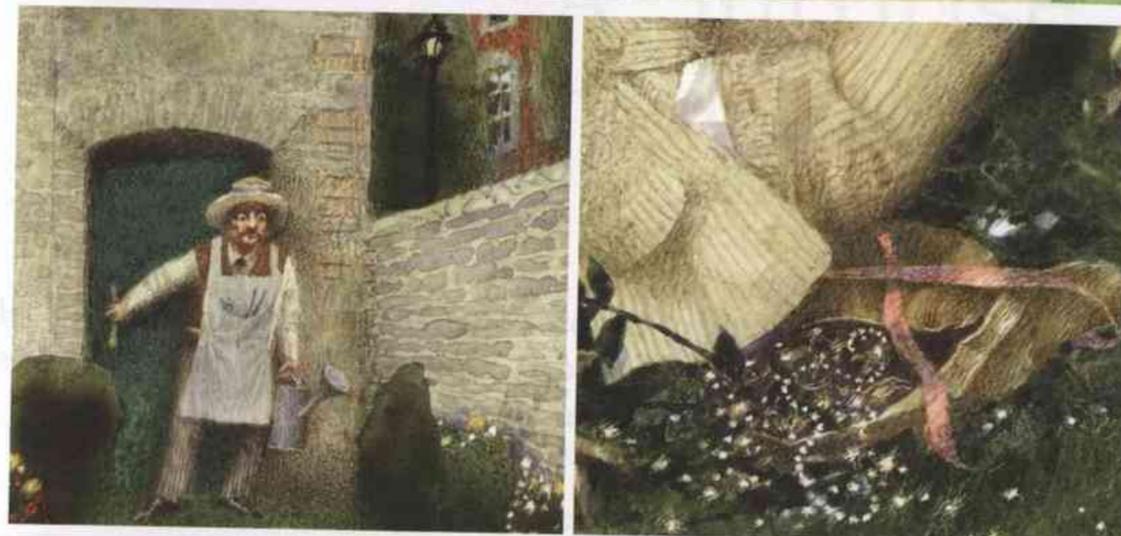
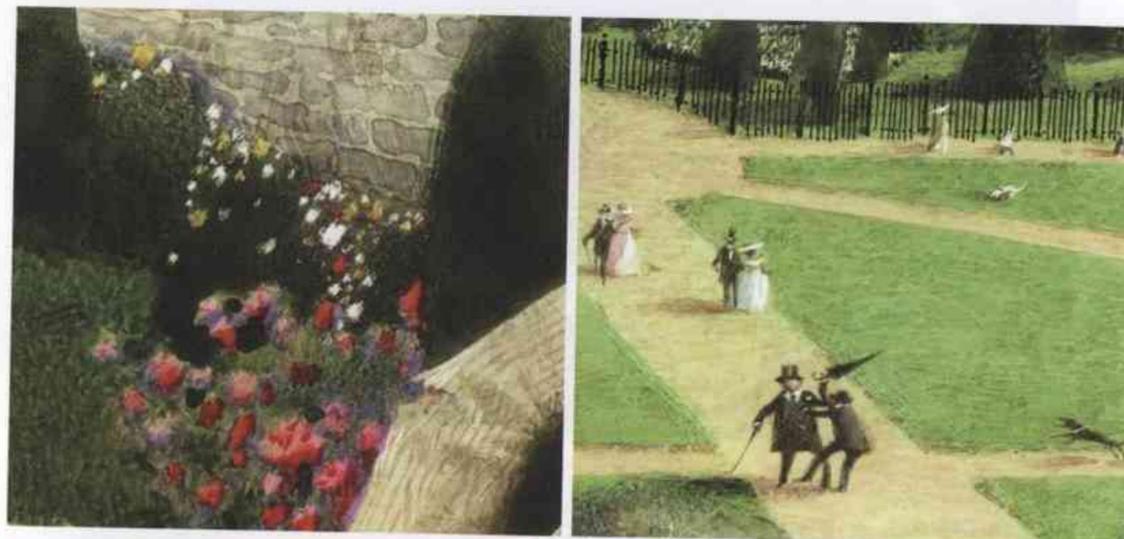
PET 1 Comprehension check

For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

- Lady Vandeleur wants Harry to
 - get a receipt for the hatbox.
 - take a walk through Kensington Gardens.
 - open the hatbox.
 - lie to Sir Thomas.
- In Kensington Gardens, Harry sees
 - Lady Vandeleur.
 - a thief.
 - some lovely flowers.
 - Sir Thomas.
- After he runs away from Charlie Pendragon, Harry
 - finds a walking stick.
 - thinks Lady Vandeleur is very honest.
 - finds somewhere to hide.
 - notices he is lost.
- The man into whose garden Harry falls
 - asks Harry if he wants some tea.
 - calls the police when Harry does not answer him.
 - is furious that Harry is in his garden.
 - opens the hatbox Harry is carrying.
- On the ground before them, Harry and the man see
 - some shining metal.
 - lots of diamonds.
 - a hat.
 - a pile of grass.

2 Picture summary

Look at the pictures below. They all appear in Chapter One. Use the pictures to retell the story in your own words.



3 Characters

Complete each of the sentences below with the adjective from the box that best describes the character from the story.

shy brave difficult kind angry dishonest loud

- 1 Sir Thomas was a very man to live with.
- 2 By giving Harry the hatbox, Lady Vandeleur did something
- 3 Harry thought Sir Thomas was and often became
- 4 Harry was very, but he did something when he climbed the garden wall.
- 5 Harry thought Lady Vandeleur was to him.

Before you read

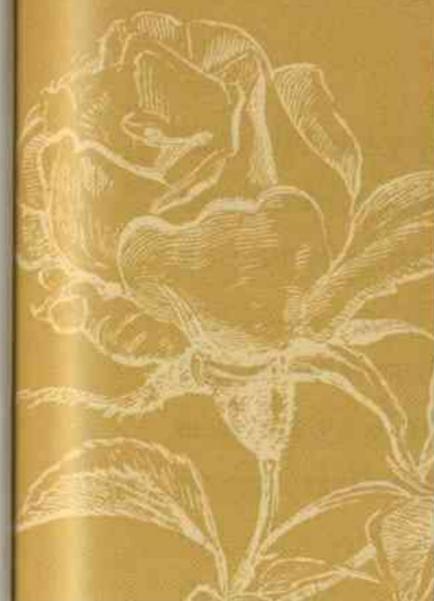


1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two. Decide if each sentence below is correct or incorrect. If it is correct put a tick (✓) under A for Yes. If it is not correct put a tick (✓) under B for No.

- | | A | B |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 There are so many diamonds that two people can share them. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The man puts the diamonds back in the hatbox. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Harry believes that Lady Vandeleur is spending too much money. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Lady Vandeleur probably wants to give the diamonds away. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Mr Rolles is older than the other man. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 The man tells Mr Rolles that Harry has come to see some flowers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Mr Rolles thinks he knows Harry from somewhere else. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Harry and the man are happy to talk to Mr Rolles. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

CHAPTER TWO



A Surprise in the Garden

H

Harry could not think of anything to say. All he could do was look at the diamonds. The man was silent for a long time, too, before he finally spoke.

‘Now I understand. You stole these and ran away. But don’t worry, I see there are enough for two here.’

He went down on his knees and started to quickly pick up the diamonds and put them back in the hatbox.

‘Let’s go inside where no one can see us,’ said the man, getting up.

The two men walked across the garden. Harry was so afraid he still could not speak. He understood that he was in big trouble.

The idea that Lady Vandeleur was doing something dishonest

made Harry sad. He thought, 'Now I understand why Sir Thomas shouted at his wife before I left the house. She's spending too much money. She probably wanted to sell her diamonds to pay her bills.'

Just as Harry and the man were about to go into the man's house, a young man came into the garden. By the way he was dressed, Harry could see he was either a priest or studying to become a priest.

The older man touched Harry's arm and whispered,¹ 'Don't say a word.'

Then he said, 'Hello, Mr Rolles, this is a young friend of mine who came to see my beautiful roses.'

'How do you do? Oh, but haven't we met before?' asked Mr Rolles. 'Aren't you Mr Hartley?'

The man did not give Harry time to answer. He quickly pushed Harry inside the house and said, 'I'm sorry, Mr Rolles, but my friend can't stay long; we really must go now.'

So Harry and the man went inside and left Mr Rolles outside in the garden.

The man immediately closed the curtains and then he sat down at the table. He divided Lady Vandeleur's diamonds into two unequal piles.² He gave the smaller one to Harry.

'Now leave and don't ever come here again!' he said angrily.

Harry did not know what to do, but he knew he could not fight this man. The man then pushed him into the street and he fell to the ground. The diamonds in his pocket were now all over the road. As he lay there a man in dark clothes appeared and

1. **whispered** : said very quietly.

2. **piles** : masses of things placed one on top of the other.

quickly picked up most of the diamonds and ran off. Now what could he say to Lady Vandeleur?

When Harry got back to the Vandeleur house he found Sir Thomas, Lady Vandeleur and Charlie Pendragon waiting for him. Obviously Sir Thomas now knew everything about his wife's plans to sell the diamonds. Harry gave Sir Thomas the few diamonds he still had, but Sir Thomas was so angry, both with his wife and Harry, that he didn't believe the story of the man in the garden.

Finally, when he was a bit calmer he said, 'And now, Mr Hartley, I'm going to take you straight to the police station. You can tell them everything.'

Harry knew he had no choice but to go with Sir Thomas. When they got there, Harry told his story to an inspector.

The inspector listened carefully and after Harry stopped talking said, 'I'll take you back to that man's house again. If what you say is true, we must find this man and get the diamonds back immediately.'

But while Harry and the inspector were walking back to the man's house, Mr Rolles was still in the garden, thinking.

After meeting his landlord's¹ friend, Mr Rolles was certain that it was Sir Thomas Vandeleur's private secretary, Harry Hartley. This made him curious about why Harry was there. He could not believe that Harry really was a friend of his dishonest landlord, Mr Raeburn.

So Mr Rolles decided to look around the garden. He noticed some damaged² roses near the garden wall and was curious to

1. **landlord** : owner of a building where someone lives. A landlord receives money (rent) from another person for letting the person use this building.

2. **damaged** : broken.

The Rajah's Diamond

find out why. This was very strange because Mr Raeburn loved his roses. Near them he saw a piece of material and recognised it as the same material as that of Harry's trousers. Now he knew how Harry got into the garden and how the roses were damaged.

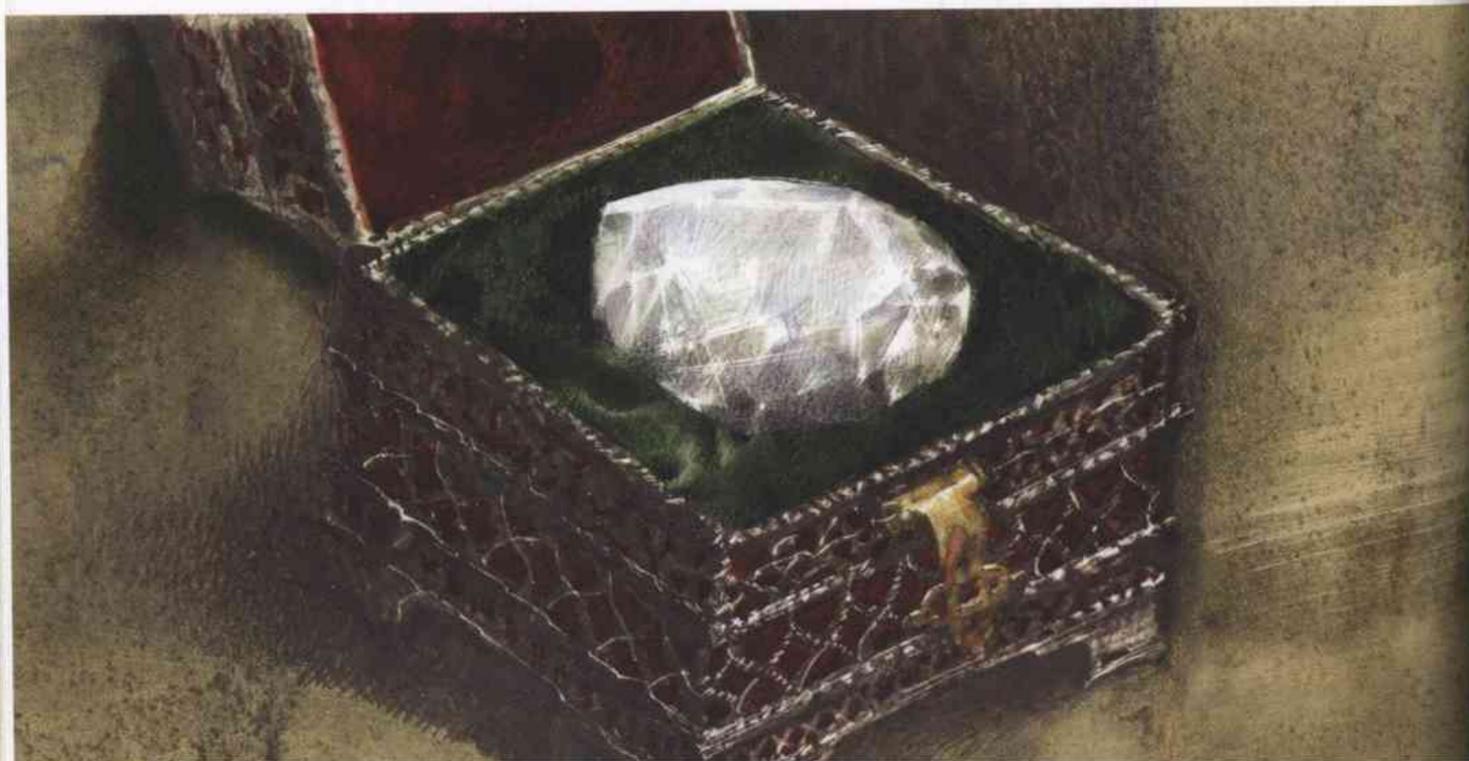
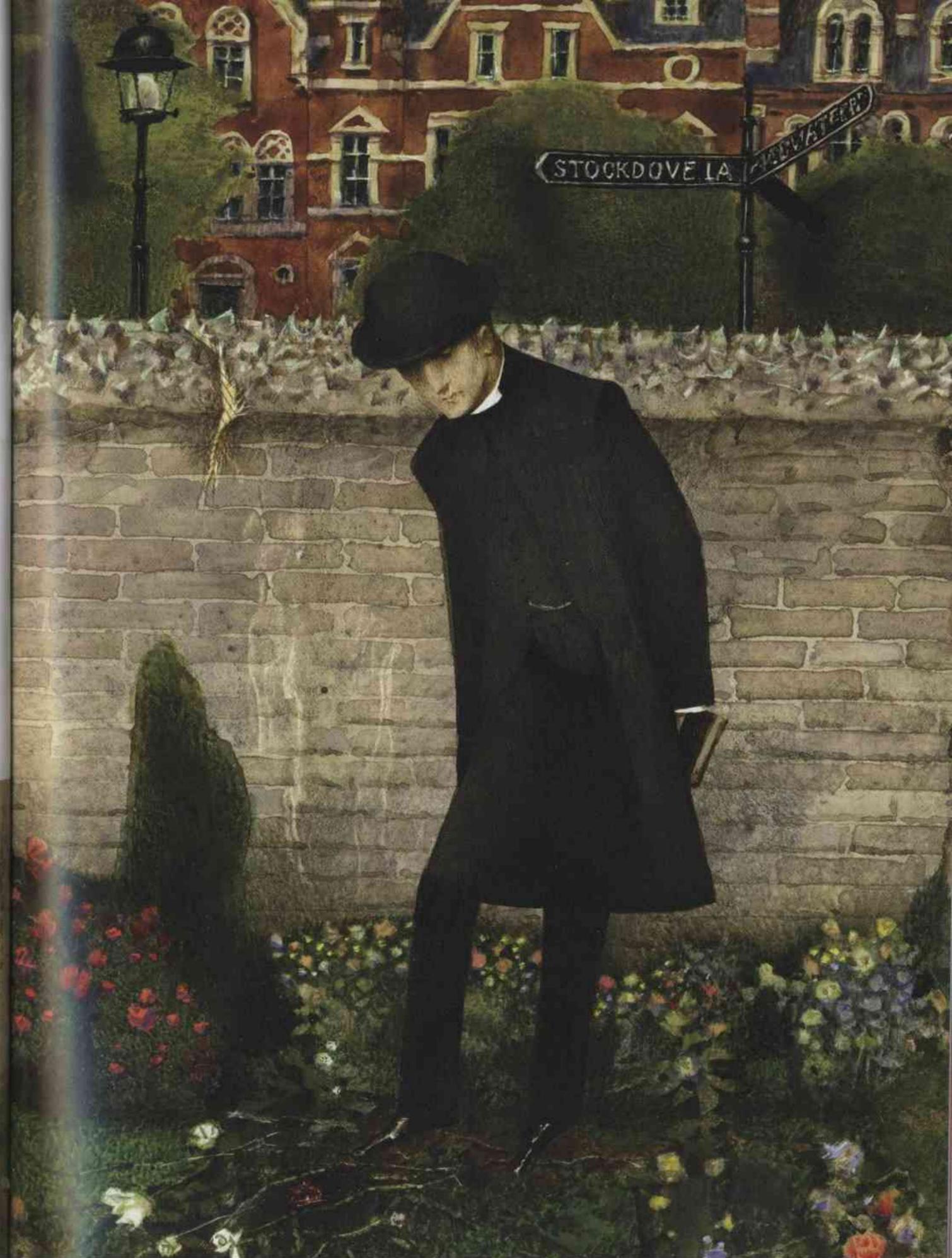
'Well, well, this is becoming quite interesting,' thought Mr Rolles.

Just then, he noticed something buried¹ under the roses. He quickly dug it out² with his foot. It was a leather jewellery box. Clearly, his landlord and Harry did not know about it.

Mr Rolles turned the box in his hands. He then opened it and was amazed to see what was inside. On a piece of soft, green velvet was the largest diamond Mr Rolles ever saw. He knew very little about diamonds, but he knew at once that this was very probably the most precious diamond in the world.

1. **buried** : covered with earth.

2. **dug it out** : made a hole to uncover it.



Go back to the text

1 Comprehension check

What happened in Chapter Two? Answer the questions below.

- 1 What did the man do as soon as he went inside?
- 2 What did he give to Harry?
- 3 How did the man say goodbye to Harry?
- 4 Why was the pile of diamonds even smaller when he gave it to Sir Thomas?
- 5 Who did Harry then have to tell his story to?
- 6 Why did Mr Rolles not believe that Harry was a friend of Mr Raeburn?
- 7 What did the piece of material that Mr Rolles found help him find out?
- 8 Why did Mr Rolles dig something out from under the roses?



2 Listening

You will hear the police inspector questioning Harry. Complete the form with the information you hear.

Kensington Police Report

Suspect's name: (1)

Job: (2)

Employer: (3)

Accused of: (4)

Accuser: (5)

Time of incident: (6) morning afternoon evening

Suspect claims he's: (7) innocent guilty

What reason does suspect give? (8)

Why didn't suspect get the police to help him?

(9)

Does suspect's story seem true? (10) yes no

3 Vocabulary

All of the words in the box below appear in Chapter Two. For each sentence, complete the spaces with the correct word from the box.

landlord material velvet bills curtains piles

- 1 The man into whose garden Harry fell was a
- 2 The man divided the diamonds into two unequal
- 3 Before he divided the diamonds, the man was careful to close the at the windows.
- 4 Harry thinks Lady Vandeleur tried to sell her diamonds to pay her
- 5 Mr Rolles knew Harry climbed over the garden wall because he found a piece of nearby.
- 6 The box containing the Rajah's Diamond had a piece of green inside.

4 Characters

Who said or thought the following? Explain why.

- 1 'I'll take you back to that man's house again.'
.....
- 2 'Let's go inside where no one else can see us.'
.....
- 3 'Well, well, this is becoming quite interesting.'
.....
- 4 'I'm going to take you straight to the police station. You can tell them everything.'
.....
- 5 'Now what could he say to Lady Vandeleur?'
.....

Before you read

1 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Three and answer these questions.

- How did Mr Rolles describe the size of the Rajah's Diamond?
.....
- What did the inspector say about the possibility of selling the diamond?
.....
- Where did Mr Rolles's friend live?
.....
- How could this friend help him?
.....
- What did Mr Rolles leave at the railway station?
.....

2 Vocabulary

In Chapter Three, Mr Rolles is going to take a train. Look at the pictures below. They are all connected with trains and railway stations. Match a word from the box to each picture.

compartment corridor carriage ticket office timetable conductor



A



B



C



D



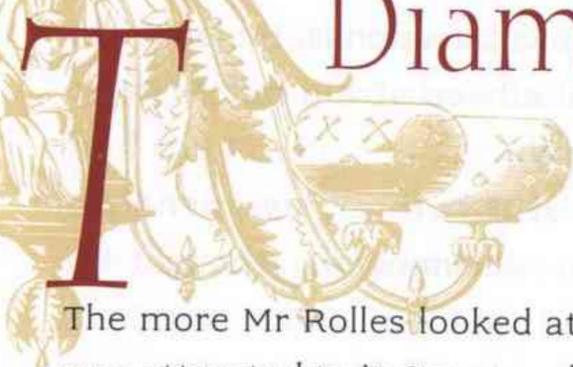
E



F



The Prince and the Diamond Hunter



The more Mr Rolles looked at the Rajah's Diamond, the more he was attracted to it. It was as large as a duck's egg! Mr Rolles next did something very unusual for his character. He quickly looked around the garden to see if anyone was there. When he saw that no one was there, he quickly put the box with the diamond inside his pocket. Then he quietly left the garden and took it back to his room. Now Mr Rolles was a thief!

Mr Rolles still needed to talk to his landlord so he returned to the garden. A few minutes later the police inspector arrived with Harry Hartley. Terrified, Mr Raeburn immediately gave

1. **thief** : person who takes something which does not belong to him.

The Rajah's Diamond

back all the diamonds he had. As for Mr Rolles, he told the police what he knew, and added, 'I suppose your investigation is finished now.'

'Oh no! We're still missing some other jewels. There's a magnificent tiara and also the most valuable piece, the Rajah's Diamond,' answered the inspector.

'I suppose you'll find it soon. It must be very difficult to sell such a famous diamond,' replied Mr Rolles nervously.

'Not really; the thief can cut the diamond into smaller pieces. Then he can sell them separately,' said the inspector.

After everyone left, Mr Rolles returned to his room. He was happy that now he knew how to sell the diamond. There was only one problem: he did not know how to cut diamonds. He looked in all his books, which had no useful advice at all, but then he remembered an old friend in Edinburgh.

'Of course! Why didn't I think of it before? My friend's a jeweller — he can teach me how to cut diamonds,' thought Mr Rolles.

He decided he could not wait so he decided to take the night train to Edinburgh the next day. The following afternoon, he left his bags at the railway station because his train was not leaving until the evening. He had time to have dinner at his club¹ first.

He met a friend of his when he arrived at the club.

'You're lucky to be here tonight. Prince Florizel of Bohemia and John Vandeleur are having dinner here,' said his friend.

1. **club**: gentlemen's club. A private social place for men. (See dossier p. 38)

The Prince and the Diamond Hunter

CHAPTER THREE

'I know Sir Thomas Vandeleur, but I have never met his brother,' Mr Rolles replied.

'Well, John Vandeleur is a great adventurer. He travels around the world looking for diamonds. He knows all about them,' said his friend.

When he heard this, Mr Rolles suddenly became very interested in the two men.

'You must try to listen to their conversation. I'm sure it's going to be very interesting,' added his friend.

'But how will I know who they are?' asked Mr Rolles.

'Oh, you can't miss them! Prince Florizel is the finest gentleman in Europe. John Vandeleur is about seventy, with long, white hair and a scar¹ across his face,' answered his friend.

Mr Rolles hurried to the dining room. It was not difficult to find the Prince and John Vandeleur. The two of them sat at a table together, and were talking intently. There was no one at the table nearest to theirs.

'Good! This is my big chance!' thought Mr Rolles as he sat down at the table. He tried to listen to what the two men were saying.

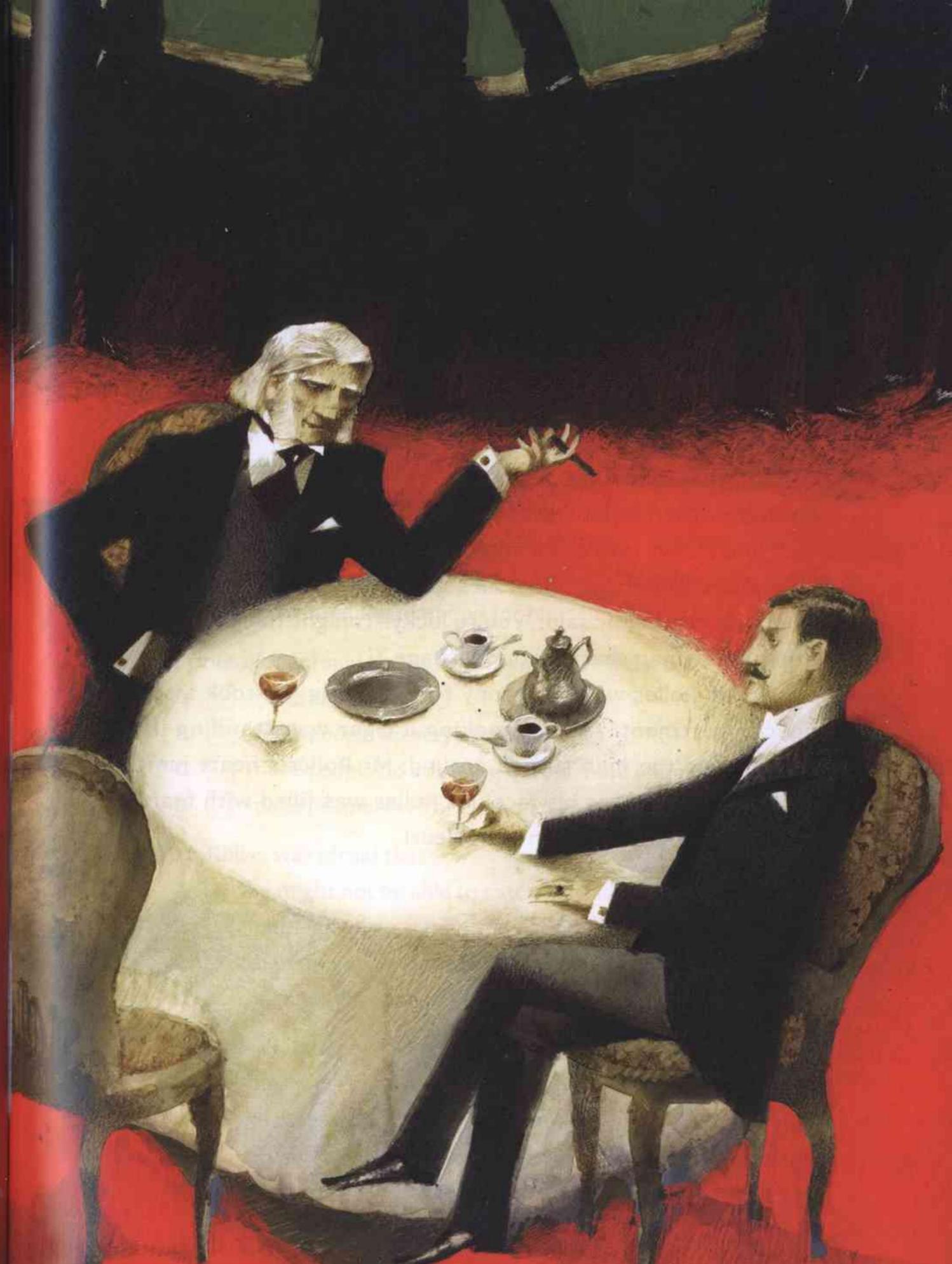
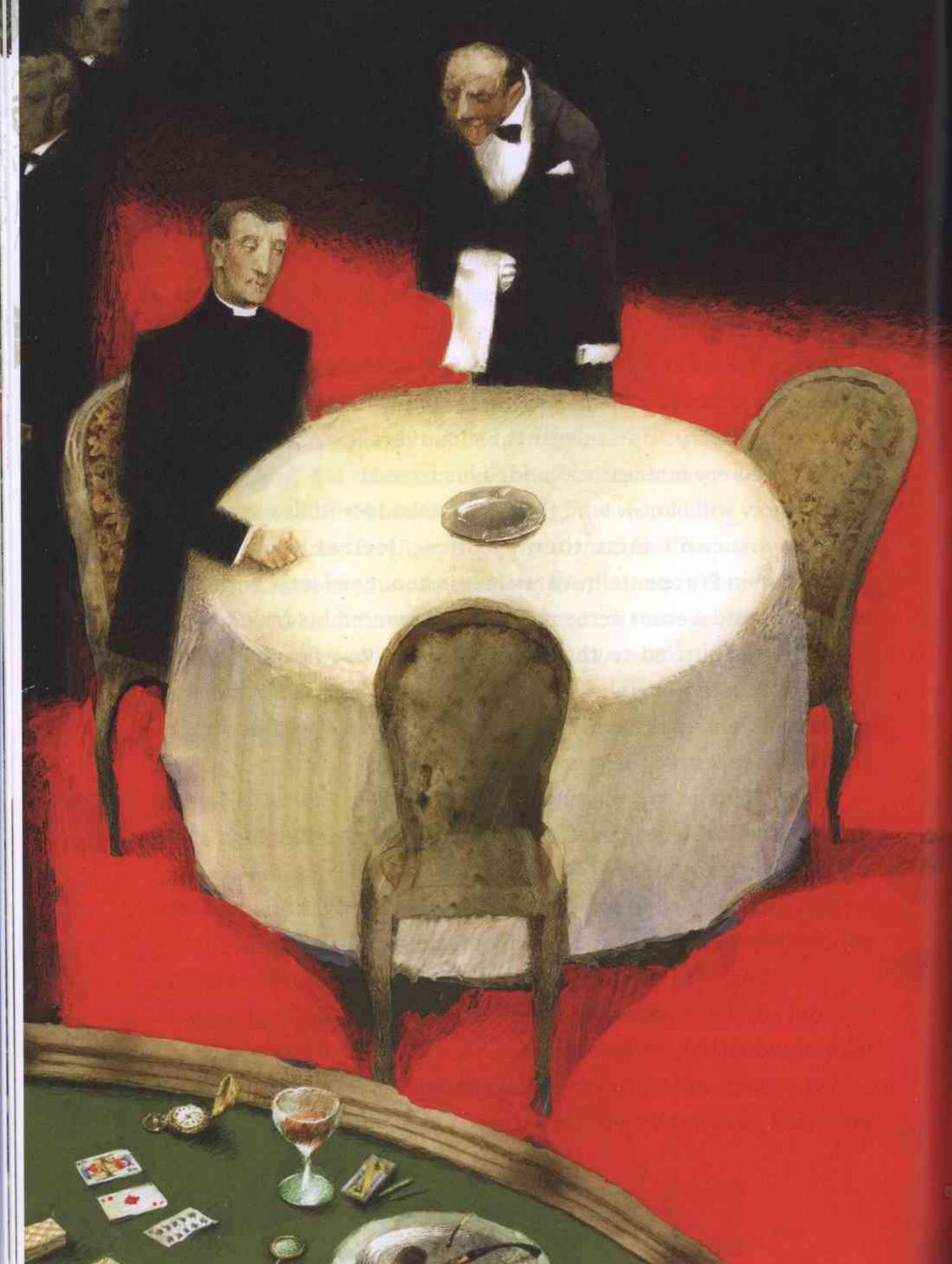
'Did you hear that someone stole the Rajah's Diamond from my brother Thomas?' asked John Vandeleur.

'Yes, I heard all about it. I think that diamond should be at the bottom of the sea,' replied Prince Florizel. 'It's dangerous. It makes people behave in strange ways.'

'As a diamond hunter, and a Vandeleur, I can't agree with you,' said John Vandeleur. He seemed to be a bit angry.

1. **scar**:





The Rajah's Diamond

'You may not agree with me, but a diamond worth so much money can have great power. It can make people do very strange things,' said Prince Florizel.

'That's right. I'll do anything to find the Rajah's Diamond. I'm sure I will one day because I'm the best diamond hunter in the world!' cried John Vandeleur fiercely.

When he heard these words, Mr Rolles suddenly felt very frightened.

'Oh, what if he finds out I have the Rajah's Diamond?' thought Mr Rolles. Then he looked at his watch.

'I must leave now or I'll miss my train!' he thought.

A short time later, Mr Rolles got on his train. He felt happy when the conductor said, 'You're lucky! Tonight there is only one other gentleman sharing your carriage.'

But Mr Rolles was not happy for very long. He took a seat in his compartment. A man smoking a cigar was standing in the corridor. As the man turned around, Mr Rolles's heart jumped! He had a scar across his face. Mr Rolles was filled with fear: the other gentleman was John Vandeleur!

Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension check

For each question, mark the correct letter (A, B, C, or D).

- Mr Rolles became interested in John Vandeleur when
 - he found out he was also studying to become a priest.
 - he realised he was Sir Thomas's brother.
 - he heard his conversation with the prince.
 - he found out John Vandeleur hunted diamonds.
- Prince Florizel told John Vandeleur
 - the Rajah's Diamond was his.
 - Sir Thomas stole the Rajah's Diamond from him.
 - the Rajah's Diamond should be kept far away from people.
 - he wanted the diamond for himself.
- Prince Florizel said the Rajah's Diamond had the power to
 - make people happy.
 - make people do very strange things.
 - make people do anything to find more diamonds.
 - make people look for diamonds in places they didn't think of.
- Mr Rolles was afraid that
 - he might not be able to catch his train.
 - John Vandeleur might find out he had the Rajah's Diamond.
 - there might be too many people in his train carriage.
 - he might lose the Rajah's Diamond.
- Mr Rolles felt happy when
 - the train conductor showed him how nice his carriage was.
 - he realised his train was still there.
 - he was told that he was one of two people in his carriage.
 - the man in his carriage offered him a cigar.

6 Mr Rolles was terrified when

- A he saw who the other man in his carriage was.
- B he thought he lost the Rajah's Diamond.
- C John Vandeleur sat next to him.
- D the train left without him.

2 Vocabulary

Connect the letters to form the word corresponding to the definition.

1 A short journey somewhere to get or do something.

A	N	E
R	R	D
O	E	Z

ERRAND

2 An Indian prince or king.

D	H	T
A	A	L
J	P	R

3 Somebody who does not want to work is...

I	M	L
H	Z	A
F	O	Y

4 Jewellery that you wear on your ears.

R	I	N
B	R	G
A	E	S

5 A piece of paper where it is written what you must pay.

M	L	W
O	I	L
V	A	B

6 A little bag attached to clothing. You use it for holding small objects like keys and coins.

A	E	T
I	K	U
P	O	C

7 Clothing that you wear on the bottom half of your body.

S	R	T
O	R	I
U	S	E

PET 3 Writing

Mr Rolles writes to his friend, Samuel H. Hartright, a jeweller. Obviously, he does not explain the real situation. But he does ask him his opinion about a 'hypothetical' situation. Pretend that you are Mr Hartright and respond to Mr Rolles's letter in about 100 words.

Dear Samuel,

I am coming to Edinburgh soon. I would like to meet you. Perhaps we can have lunch together at your club.

I read an interesting story the other day. It was about a man who found a very large diamond. The man was very honest and not a thief. He put the diamond in his pocket and did not tell the police. Then he went to friend who was a jeweller - like you, my dear Samuel - and the jeweller cut the big diamond into many small diamonds. The jeweller then sold the small diamonds, and the two men became rich. Of course, they gave part of their money to the poor.

What do you think about this story? Do you think the two men did something dishonest?

Tell me if you want to meet me, and also your opinion of this interesting story.

Your good friend,
Rolles

Now write a letter answering Mr Rolles's questions. Write your letter in about 100 words.

T: GRADE 5

4 Speaking: Entertainment

As you read in Chapter Three, Mr Rolles belongs to a gentlemen's club. He often goes there in his free time. He can have a nice meal there or chat with friends. Bring a picture of something you enjoy doing for entertainment. Talk to the class about it. Use the questions below to help you.

- 1 What do you like about this form of entertainment?
- 2 Is it something that anyone can do? Why or why not?
- 3 Where can you enjoy this form of entertainment?
- 4 Why do you think this particular form of entertainment is better than others?

Gentlemen's Clubs

Mr Rolles is a quiet man of the late 1800s. He studies religious books, but he needs information about diamonds. Where can he go? Well, Mr Rolles is also a gentleman. He studied theology at Oxford University and knows a lot of people there. So, he goes to a gentlemen's club. There he hopes to meet another gentleman who can help him. This is not surprising because the late 1800s was the golden age of gentlemen's clubs in London. There were around 400 of them. They were places where Victorian gentlemen could have all the luxuries of a fabulous home without any of the problems and worries. Only men could be members of most clubs. In fact, in 1853, one foreign writer noted that most British women hated clubs. Their husbands, he wrote, tried to start arguments as an excuse to go to their clubs. In addition, their simple home cooking was no competition for the refined cooking of a gentlemen's club. He also says that some other women thought that club members made the best husbands: clubs have severe rules which prepared them for their wives' severe rules.

Another important attraction of clubs was the price: they offered great luxuries at a relatively low price. For example, the youngest sons of important families had little money. But they did have enough money to be a member of an exclusive club. There they had the attention of servants and fine cooks. Also, the best clubs had magnificent rooms for reading, smoking, playing cards or billiards and, most important, for eating fine meals. Some clubs also had good libraries. Finally, clubs had the best and most modern indoor bathrooms of the period.

The origin of clubs goes back to 1652 when coffee first came to England. People soon discovered that drinking coffee socially was very pleasant. Coffee also helped conversation too. Soon there were



An Early London Coffee House (c. 1706) signed A.S.

hundreds of coffee-houses in London. People came to converse freely and publicly: this was something new in England. People from all different social classes came to talk about everything from politics and religion to art and literature.

However, after a while, some upper-class men wanted something more exclusive. They did not want to drink their coffee and converse with men from different social groups, religions, professions, or political areas. These men began the first gentlemen's clubs.

So, in the 1800s there were clubs for lots of different groups of people. The United Service Club was for officers who fought against Napoleon; the Athenaeum was for literary and scientific men; the Travellers' Club was for gentlemen who travelled more than 500 miles from England; the Playgoers' Club was for, of course, people who often went to the theatre; the Reform Club was for Liberals; and the Carlton was for Conservatives.

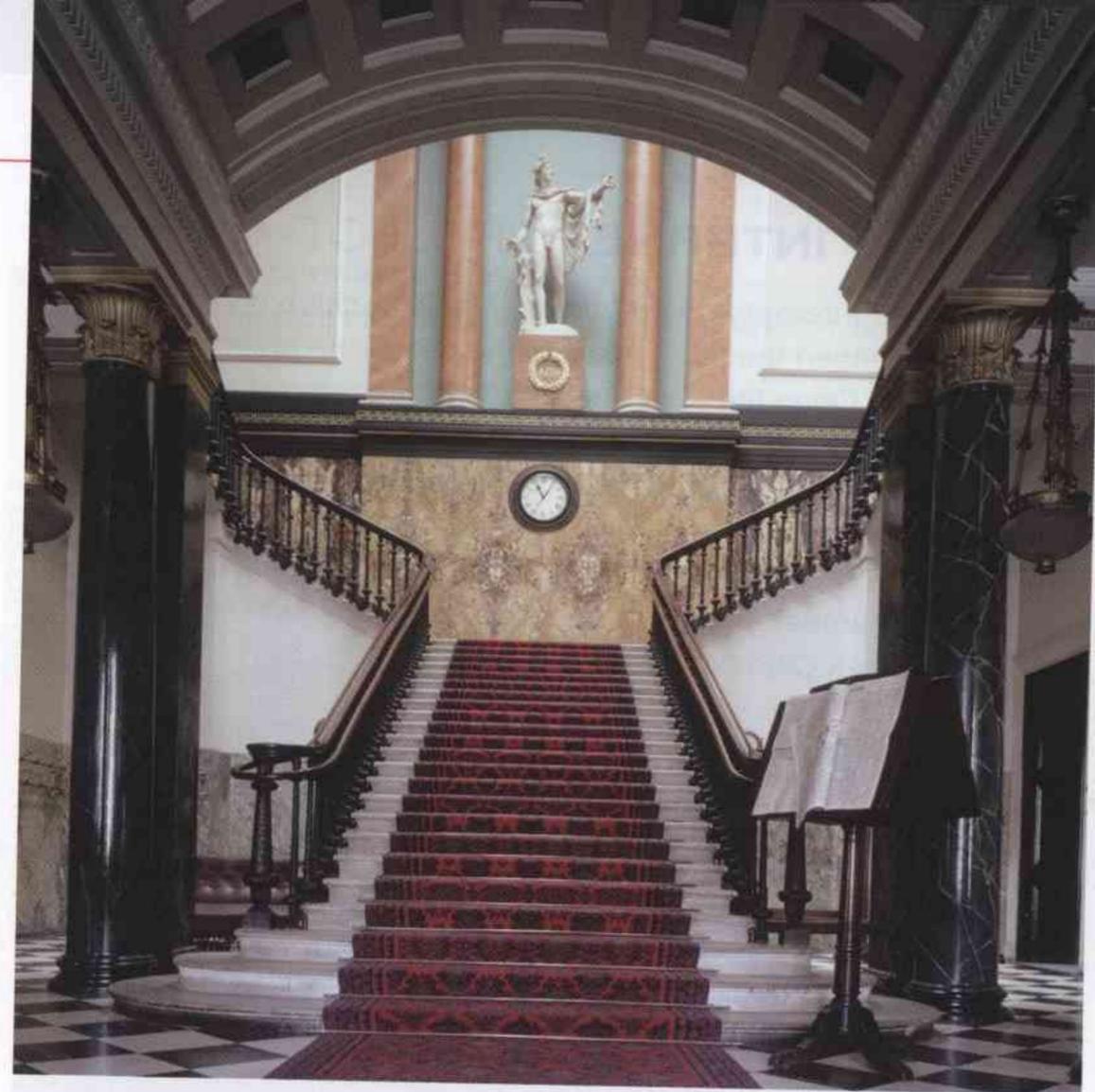


Interior hall of London club The Athenaeum in 1885.

One writer of the 1850s, George Augustus Sala, made fun of this great variety of clubs. He said that in London there were even specific clubs for unattractive people: the Ugly Club; for people with bad tempers: the Surly Club; for unlucky people: the Unfortunate Club.

In any case, gentlemen's clubs were very quiet and respectable places. In fact, some European visitors found them quite boring compared to the cafés and coffee-houses of their own countries.

In the 1900s gentlemen's clubs became less popular and many disappeared. Some of them, though, have survived and have even maintained their conservative and elite ways. For example, the prestigious Athenaeum Club only admitted women as members in 2002; and the conservative Carlton Club still excludes women, with one exception: the former prime minister Margaret Thatcher.



Entrance hall of The Athenaeum Club today.

1 Comprehension check

Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), and then correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Gentlemen's clubs did not offer very good meals. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Gentlemen's clubs were also popular because they were relatively inexpensive. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Gentlemen's clubs developed from the coffee-houses of the 1600s and 1700s. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Gentlemen's clubs became popular because all different kinds of people could become members. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 European visitors often found English clubs a little too exciting. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Some of the clubs of the 1800s still exist. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

INTERNET PROJECT

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *The Rajah's Diamond*. Click on the internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

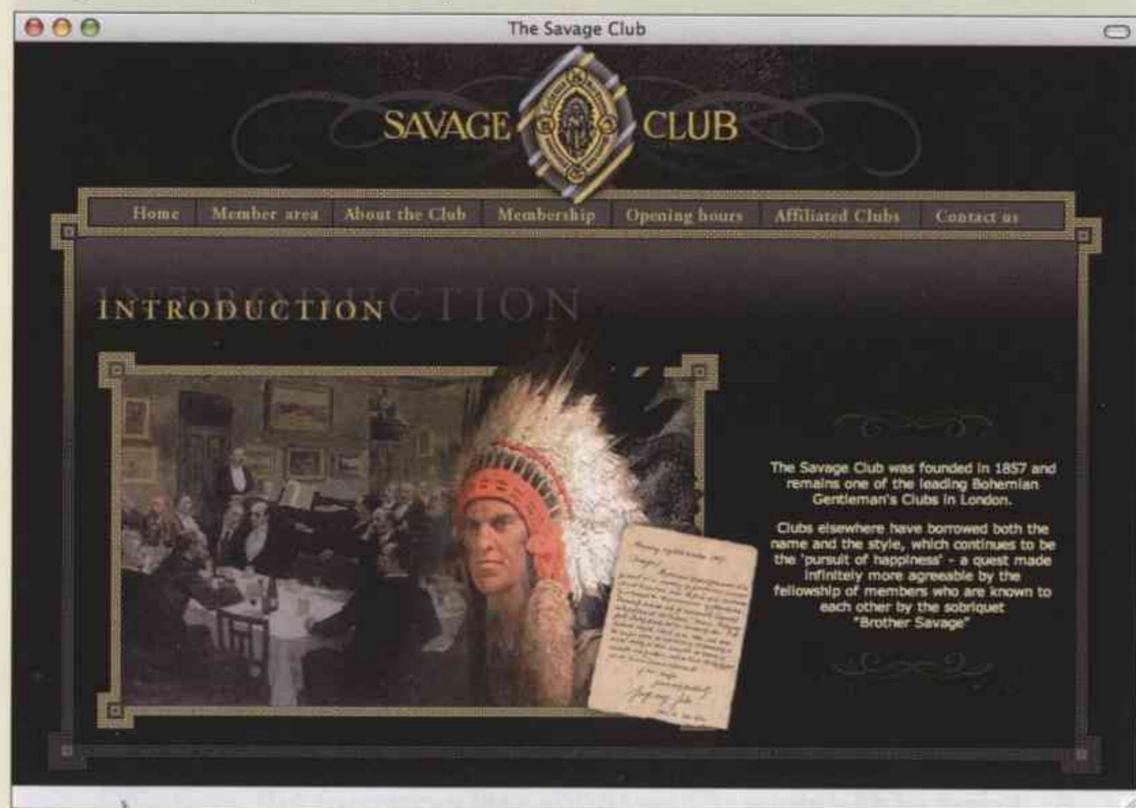
Clubs and clubs and more clubs!

As you have just read, in the 1800s London was full of clubs. Here are the names of some more clubs:

- ▶ The Beefsteak Club
- ▶ The Oriental Club
- ▶ The Savage Club

Find out the following for each of them:

- ▶ what the main interests of their members were
- ▶ the entrance fee (the amount of money that you had to pay to become a member)
- ▶ the subscription (the amount of money that you had to pay each year to stay a member)



Before you read

1 What happens next?

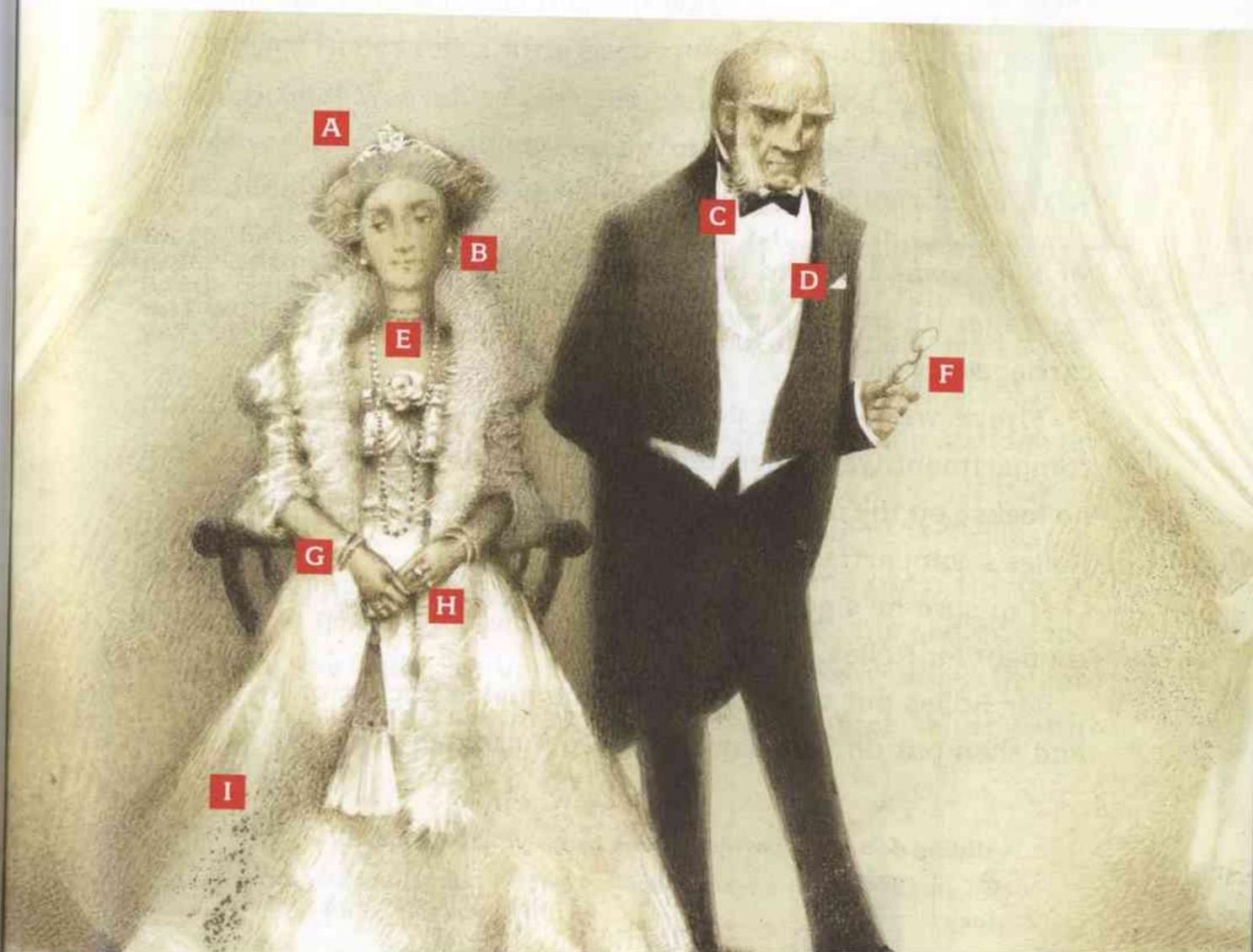
Look at the title of Chapter Four. With another student, discuss:

- Who you think the 'partners' will be.
- What sort of 'crime' they'll commit.

2 Vocabulary

Look at the picture of Lady Vandeleur and Sir Thomas at a ball. Match the words below with the objects in the picture.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> glasses | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> necklace | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> earrings |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> tiara | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> bracelet | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> ring |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> dress | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> bow tie | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> handkerchief |



Partners in Crime

M

Mr Rolles was terrified because John Vandeleur was in the same carriage. He became even more afraid after he saw how the carriage was divided.

There were three compartments in the carriage. Each compartment was separated by only a sliding door.¹ There were no locks² on the doors, so John Vandeleur could easily get into Mr Rolles's compartment.

'I'm sure he's going to find out I have the Rajah's Diamond,' thought Mr Rolles.

Mr Rolles put the diamond in the inside pocket of his jacket, and then put on his coat. He was determined not to go to sleep

1. **sliding door** : door which opens by moving to the side.

2. **lock** :



and sat listening for any noise coming from John Vandeleur's compartment.

A few hours passed. The train was almost halfway to Edinburgh when Mr Rolles started to feel sleepy. He tried to fight sleep, but it was very difficult. His last thought before finally closing his eyes was of his terrifying neighbour.

After some time, Mr Rolles opened his eyes. Everything was dark, except for a small light. The train was travelling very fast. Now fully awake, Mr Rolles suddenly sat up. He was very afraid because he had a bad dream. He felt under his clothes to make sure the diamond was still there. It was.

Now Mr Rolles felt a little better. But he could not fall asleep again. His hat was pulled over his eyes. He stared¹ at the sliding door. Everything was quiet, except for the noise of the train.

Suddenly, he noticed the door moving a little, then a little more. Finally, it moved enough for him to see John Vandeleur's head. He felt that John Vandeleur was looking at him. He kept very still. After some time, John Vandeleur moved his head back. Then he closed the door.

Mr Rolles did not know why, but he thought John Vandeleur was afraid of him.

'Maybe he just came to see if I'm asleep,' thought Mr Rolles.

This made him feel brave enough to go and open the door himself. He got up and slowly made his way to the sliding door separating his and John Vandeleur's compartment. When he got there, he opened the door just enough to see what John

1. **stared** : looked at something for a long time without looking in another direction.

The Rajah's Diamond

Vandeleur was doing. He was shocked by what he saw! John Vandeleur had a knife in his hand!

'He's using it to cut the sleeve¹ of his coat! But why?' thought Mr Rolles.

He soon saw the reason. There were diamonds in the sleeve of his coat, and John Vandeleur was taking them out and letting them drop into a hatbox on the floor. After the diamonds, John Vandeleur took from the sleeve a magnificent tiara — Lady Vandeleur's tiara. It was exactly as the police inspector described it.

'So, John Vandeleur is a diamond thief too!' thought Mr Rolles. This made him feel brave.

Without thinking, he opened the door completely, and said, 'I take a great interest in diamonds. I see you do as well. I have something here that might interest you.'

John Vandeleur was very surprised and angry.

Mr Rolles quietly took the diamond box out. He opened it and showed Mr Vandeleur the Rajah's Diamond. John Vandeleur could do nothing but stare at it in shock.

'I see we have diamonds from the same collection,' said Mr Rolles.

'I don't understand. Aren't you a priest?' asked John Vandeleur.

'I'm a student of theology, but don't judge me so quickly. I'll tell you how I found the diamond. You'll understand why I did what I did,' answered Mr Rolles.

1. sleeve :



The Rajah's Diamond

Then he told John Vandeleur about his visit to his landlord's garden and how he met Harry Hartley. Mr Rolles ended his story with these words, 'When I saw Lady Vandeleur's tiara, I knew that we see the world in the same way. I showed you the diamond because I hope you'll help me. Of course, you may have half of what I make.'

John Vandeleur didn't think twice about his answer. He said: 'You're certainly a very brave man, Mr Rolles. You're also better at crime than you think. I can see this is the right job for you. Of course I'll help you sell the Rajah's Diamond! We must go to Paris together. But first, I just have to do something in Edinburgh for my brother. Then we can go to Paris. Before the end of the month we'll be rich, Mr Rolles!'

That was how the two men agreed to work together to sell the diamond. But to find out what happened to the Rajah's Diamond, you must first read the story of a young man named Francis Scrymgeour.

Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension check

Read the sentences below about Chapter Four. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A, if it is not correct, mark B.

- | | A | B |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 It was important for Mr Rolles to understand how his train carriage was divided. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Mr Rolles tried very hard to fall asleep. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 When Mr Rolles woke up, he was more afraid because he had bad dreams. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 John Vandeleur cut his hand with a knife. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 John Vandeleur kept diamonds in the sleeve of his coat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 The diamonds Mr Rolles saw included several tiaras. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 When he saw the tiara, Mr Rolles was more afraid. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 John Vandeleur refused to help Mr Rolles sell the Rajah's Diamond. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 John Vandeleur told Mr Rolles that his brother, Sir Thomas, lived in Paris. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Mr Rolles refused to work with John Vandeleur. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Comprehension check

In this chapter we discover that John Vandeleur has got some of the diamonds and Lady Vandeleur's tiara. How do you think he got them? Look back at Chapter Two. Who is the man in dark clothes?

3 Speaking: Pros and Cons

Discuss with your partner Mr Rolles's decision to show the diamond to John Vandeleur. What are the pros and cons (*advantages and disadvantages*) of the decision? Report your ideas to the class.

Do more people in the class think that overall it was a good or a bad decision?

4 Prepositions

Fill in the blanks with one of the prepositions from the box. You may use some more than once.

before on in after under behind across

- There were no locks the doors of the carriage.
- Mr Rolles was very frightened he awoke from his bad dreams.
- John Vandeleur stood the sliding door when he made sure Mr Rolles was sleeping.
- John Vandeleur put diamonds his coat sleeve.
- Mr Rolles put the Rajah's Diamond all his clothes.
- the train arrived Edinburgh, Mr Rolles and John Vandeleur became partners.
- John Vandeleur had a scar his face.
- Mr Rolles saw Lady Vandeleur's tiara, he felt brave.

**5 Listening**

You will hear John Vandeleur telling the story of how he got the scar across his face. For each question, fill in the missing information at the end of each line or tick the right answer.

- How long ago did John Vandeleur get his scar?
- What country did he get his scar in?
- Where was he when he got the scar?
- Who was with him when he got the scar?
- Was the man at the other table small and blond? yes no
- What did the man offer John?
- Who won the fight?
- Was John Vandeleur angry about the scar? yes no

Before you read**1 Listening**

Listen to the first part of Chapter Five and answer the questions below. For each question put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- Where did Francis Scrymgeour work?
 - in a bank
 - in a post office
 - at a theatre
- What did Francis receive from the lawyer?
 - some money
 - a letter
 - an old book
- Where did Francis have to go before receiving the money?
 - the theatre in Paris
 - a French café
 - someone's wedding
- Who is Francis's benefactor?
 - a lawyer
 - his future wife
 - his real father

2 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on page 55 and answer the following questions.

- Who do you think the people in the picture are?
- Where do you think they are?
- What do you think they are doing?



A Mysterious Benefactor¹

F

Francis Scrymgeour worked in a bank in the centre of Edinburgh. He was twenty-five and lived with his father. His mother died when Francis was a young child. Francis did not come from a rich family, but he was lucky to have a very sensible² father. Francis's father made sure his son received an excellent education.

Francis had a very normal life. He liked his job and he was very affectionate to his father. Nothing extraordinary ever happened to him, but he was happy. So Francis was very surprised when he received a letter from a lawyer in Edinburgh.

1. **benefactor** : a person who helps another by giving money.
2. **sensible** : rational.



Francis was curious to find out why the lawyer was writing to him. So he went to the lawyer's office immediately. There he discovered that he had a mysterious benefactor. His benefactor wanted to give him a lot of money: five hundred pounds a year.

To receive the money, Francis had to do just two things. The first thing he had to do was go to a play at the theatre in Paris the following Sunday. The other was that he marry someone his benefactor chose for him. Francis was very confused!

'But I don't understand. It's all so strange,' said Francis. He was quiet for a moment; then he added, 'Why does he want to choose my wife? What importance is it to him?'

'Believe me, your future wife will be very important to him,' answered the lawyer.

He felt sorry for Francis because he saw how confused the young man was. This news was obviously shocking. Both men were silent for a few seconds. Finally Francis said, 'I'll accept my benefactor's offer. But only if you tell me who he is.'

'I can't tell you his name. But I can tell you what he has to do with you,' answered the lawyer. 'Your benefactor is your real father,' said the lawyer quietly.

Francis did not know what to say. It was all so confusing. 'Father isn't my real father,' he thought over and over again. The lawyer gave Francis his first cheque¹ from his real father and he left the office. Francis left for Paris the next day. He stayed in a small hotel and, to start a new life, he bought fine new clothes and began taking French lessons. On Saturday afternoon he went to the theatre to pick up the ticket for Sunday's play.

1. **cheque** :



The Rajah's Diamond

A person at the ticket office gave Francis his ticket. Then he said, 'That's strange. A man just gave me this ticket a minute ago.'

'What did he look like?' asked Francis.

'He was about 70 years old, I think, with long white hair. He has a scar across his face,' replied the clerk.

Francis went away immediately and ran into the middle of the street. He looked around in all directions and then he saw the person he was looking for. He saw two men sitting on a bench.¹ They were talking very seriously. The younger one seemed to be a priest, but the other was an old man with long white hair.

Francis walked towards them. He saw the old man had a scar across his face. His heart started to beat fast. He sat on a bench behind the two men as he did not want them to see him.

He tried to listen to what the two men were saying.

'Your suspicions are starting to make me angry,' said the older man.

'But I'm sure you want to keep the diamond for yourself.'

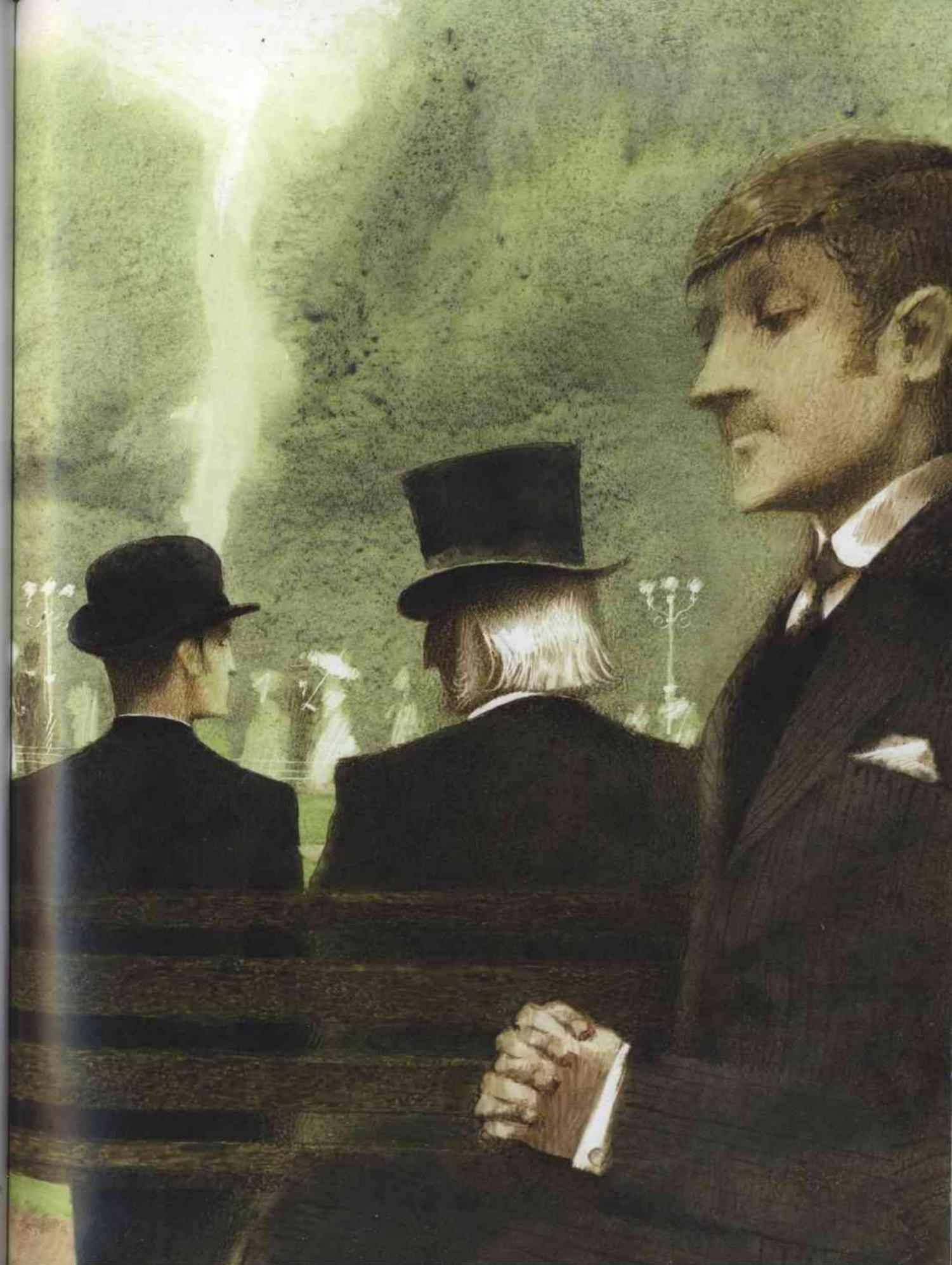
'That's enough! We will meet on Tuesday at seven o'clock, Mr Rolles, not an hour sooner,' cried the old man angrily.

The old man got up and hurried down the street. Francis followed him quietly, but quickly.

'So this is probably my benefactor and real father!' thought Francis, 'But why is he so angry with that young man? And what was that business about a diamond?' Francis felt very confused.

The old man's house was in Rue Lepic and had a beautiful

1. bench:



The Rajah's Diamond

view of Paris. He went into this large house, which had green shutters,¹ and Francis was left outside alone.

'What am I going to do now? I need to find a room near here,' thought Francis. Luckily, he saw a sign outside a tall house next to the one with the green shutters. The sign said, 'Rooms Available'. Francis went inside and asked for a room. He was lucky to get one that had a view of the old man's garden.

'That man may be my real father. But I'm going to find out what he and that young theology student are doing. I think there's something dishonest going on with that diamond,' thought Francis.

He got up and looked out of the window into the old man's garden which had a tall chestnut² tree. It was evening now and the sky was getting dark. Nothing moved. Francis looked through the leaves of the chestnut tree and saw that the old man was sitting in the garden. A young woman's voice broke the silence. It came from inside the house.

'In a moment,' the old man answered.

A few minutes later, he disappeared into the house for the night.

1. shutters :



2. chestnut :



Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension check

For each question about Chapter Five, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- What was one of the things Francis did when he arrived in Paris?
 - He took out lots of money from the bank.
 - He took a taxi-tour of the city.
 - He wrote a telegram home.
 - He went to pick up a theatre ticket.
- What did Francis see when he ran into the street?
 - Two men sitting on a bench.
 - A group of theology students.
 - The person from the ticket office.
 - The Rajah's Diamond.
- Who did Francis think the old man was?
 - a lawyer
 - his real father
 - a theology student
 - a bank clerk
- What did the old man's house have?
 - large windows
 - red windows
 - green shutters
 - small yellow shutters
- What might Francis think about the old man?
 - 'If he's my real father, he's not very honest.'
 - 'Maybe I can help my father get the diamond.'
 - 'I hope he's my real father because he seems very kind.'
 - 'He seems like a very patient man to me!'

2 Comprehension check

Write the questions for the answers listed below.

- (What)
That a mysterious benefactor wanted to give him five hundred pounds a year.
- (Where)
To Paris.
- (What)
He picked up his theatre ticket.
- (Where)
On a bench.
- (How)
He saw a sign that said 'Rooms Available'.
- (What)
He looked out the window into his benefactor's garden.

PET 3 Sentence transformation

Here are some sentences from Chapter Five. For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using no more than three words.

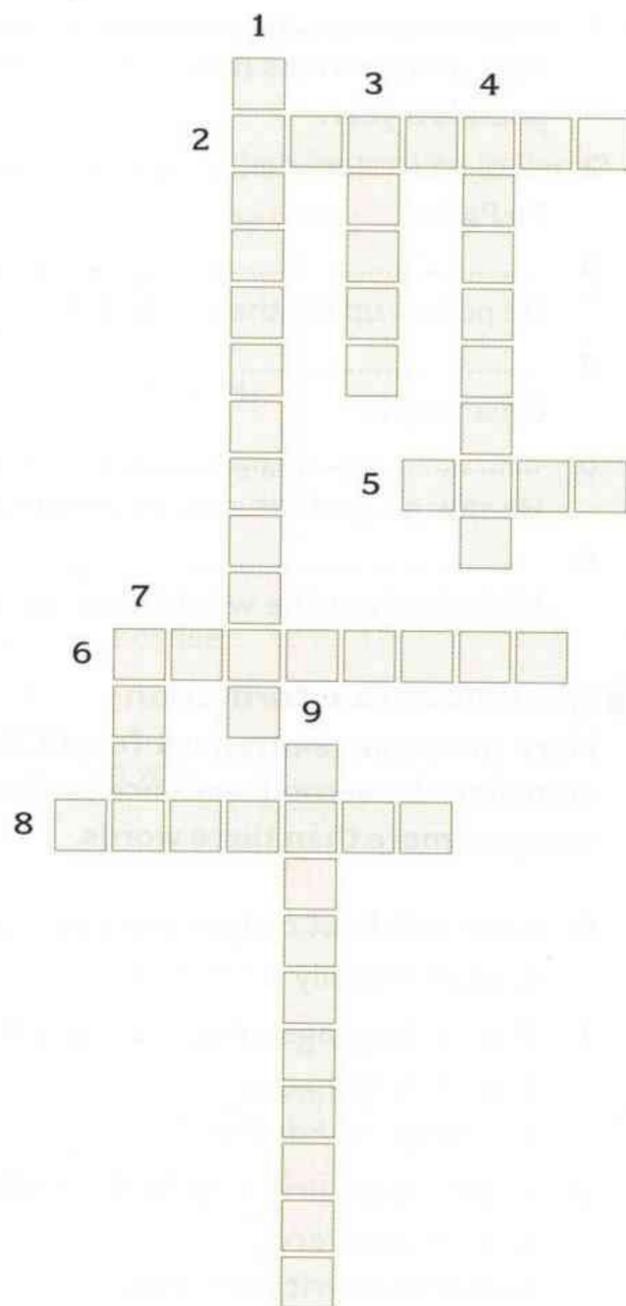
- Francis did not come from a rich family.
Francis's family *did not have* a lot of money.
- Francis Scrymgeour worked in a bank in the centre of Edinburgh.
Francis Scrymgeour had in a bank in the centre of Edinburgh.
- Francis was curious to find out why the lawyer was writing to him.
Francis was very finding out why the lawyer was writing to him.
- The news was obviously shocking.
The news obviously him.
- He was quiet for a moment.
He didn't for a moment.
- What importance is it to him?
Why to him?

4 Puzzle

Complete this crossword.

ACROSS

- 2 He works in a bank in Edinburgh.
- 5 What you pay to use an apartment without buying it.
- 6 You have a lot of this if you don't often get angry.
- 8 Something about which not much, or nothing, is known.



DOWN

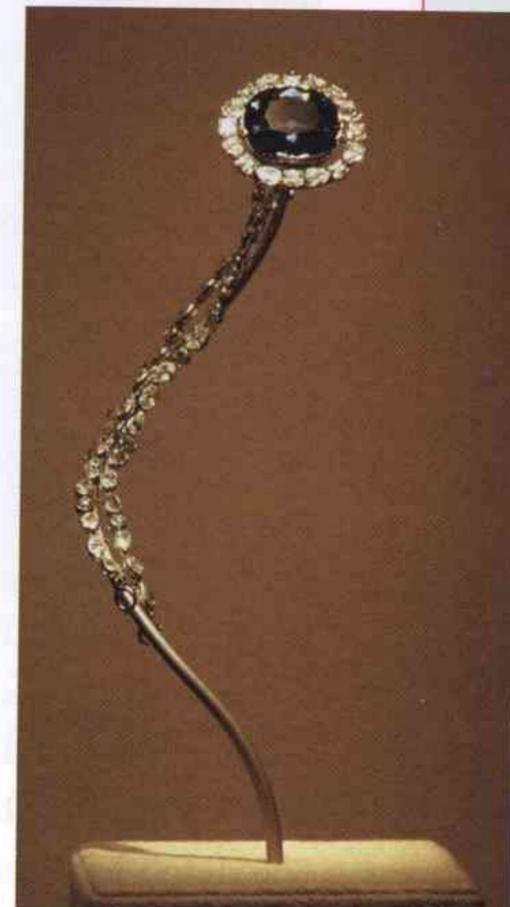
- 1 If you show you care about someone you are... .
- 3 To irritate someone.
- 4 To be puzzled about something.
- 7 You can see one of these at the theatre.
- 9 A person who does something for another person's good.

The Hope Diamond: *a mysterious diamond*

In this story the Rajah's Diamond is believed to bring bad luck. The Rajah's Diamond does not really exist, but there are diamonds which many people think are cursed.¹ Probably the most famous example is the Hope Diamond, a large, deep blue diamond, which, they say, brings bad luck to its owners.

The Hope Diamond is believed to come from India, where it was bought by a French merchant named Jean Baptiste Tavernier. He bought the diamond between 1660 and 1661, during one of several trips he made to that country. The diamond was an unusual, deep blue colour and it was also very large, weighing 112 3/16 carats!²

In 1668, Tavernier sold the diamond to King Louis XIV of France. The king's court jeweller recut the diamond and it then became known as the 'French Blue'. In 1792, during the French Revolution, the French Blue was stolen, along with other crown jewels. By 1824 Henry Philip Hope owned the diamond. From then on it became known as the Hope Diamond. After his death the same year,



Hope Diamond,
Smithsonian Museum,
Washington, DC.

1. **cursed** : controlled by magic to bring bad luck.
2. **carats** : unit of measurement for the weight of jewels. 1 carat is equal to 0.2 grams.

the diamond passed on through the family until it was eventually sold at the start of the twentieth century. In 1909, the famous French jeweller Pierre Cartier bought the diamond in Paris. His sale of the diamond to an American woman, Evalyn McClean, helped make the Hope Diamond into a legend.

Cartier first showed the diamond to Evalyn McClean while she was visiting Paris. To excite her curiosity, he told her there was a curse on the diamond. He said that the diamond was once the eye on a statue of a Hindu god. He said that Tavernier stole it during one of his trips to India. Cartier also told Evalyn that, because of the curse, Tavernier was eaten by wild dogs.

His story was clearly untrue, but Evalyn probably believed it. She thought that objects that often brought bad luck to others actually brought good luck to her. Evalyn McClean bought the Hope Diamond for \$180,000.

Of all the people who have owned the diamond, Evalyn was the one who contributed the most to its fame. Evalyn's extravagant personality made her the perfect owner for such a spectacular jewel. She didn't just wear the diamond during the fancy parties she and her husband hosted. She wore it often – even to do the gardening. She sometimes even used the diamond in a collar¹ for her dog! In her hands the Hope Diamond became increasingly famous and Evalyn enjoyed many happy years as its proud owner.

But Evalyn McClean's bad luck began in 1919, when her nine-year-old son was run over by a car and killed. A few years later, she separated from her husband. He died just a few years after that of excessive alcohol consumption. The final blow came in 1946, when



1. collar:



Evalyn McClean wearing the Hope Diamond (1969).

Evalyn's daughter died of a drug overdose at just twenty-five. Evalyn was devastated and the following year she also died at the age of sixty.

After Evalyn's death, the Hope Diamond's last owner became Harry Winston, a New York jeweller. He sent the diamond on a worldwide tour for a number of years and donated the money to charity. In 1958, he gave the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian Institution, a world-famous museum in Washington, DC.

You can now admire the Hope Diamond's great size and brilliance by paying a visit to the Harry Winston Room in the Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History.

1 Comprehension check

Answer the questions below about the Hope Diamond.

- 1 What was the Hope Diamond's original weight and where was it found?
- 2 Was the diamond always known as the Hope Diamond? Why or why not?
- 3 What countries was the diamond taken to throughout its long history?
- 4 How many different people owned the Hope Diamond?
- 5 Why did Pierre Cartier tell Evalyn McClean that the Hope Diamond carried a curse?
- 6 How did Evalyn McClean make the Hope Diamond become even more famous?

2 People

Match some of the Hope Diamond's owners listed below to the correct description.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| A Harry Winston | B King Louis XIV |
| C Jean Baptiste Tavernier | D Pierre Cartier |
| E Henry Philip Hope | F Evalyn McClean |

- 1 He reinvented the story of the diamond to please a buyer.
- 2 When the diamond was recut for this owner, it became known as the 'French Blue'.
- 3 This was not the only member of his family to own the diamond.
- 4 This owner had worse luck with the diamond than the others did.
- 5 This owner travelled very far to buy the diamond.
- 6 This owner was the only one who gave the diamond to a museum.

Before you read

1 The theatre

Look at the following vocabulary about the theatre. Look up any words you do not know in a dictionary. Some of the words are illustrated in the picture below. Match them to the relevant parts.

stage audience box actors orchestra gallery play seat





A Shocking Night

E

Early the next morning, Francis looked out the window of his room. A young lady was walking through the garden. Francis thought she was very beautiful. He also thought that she looked very kind.

'She may be my sister. But if she's not, maybe she'll be my wife one day,' thought Francis.

On his way out of his room, Francis saw a porter.¹ He stopped him and asked, 'Who lives in that big house with green shutters next door?'

'A rich English gentleman called John Vandeleur,' replied the porter.

'Is the lovely young lady his daughter?' asked Francis.

'Yes. That's Miss Vandeleur. Her father's very rich, but she

1. **porter** : person in charge of the entrance of a building.



does all the work because there are no servants,' answered the porter.

For the rest of the day, Francis did not see John Vandeleur or his daughter. He was very excited because it was finally Sunday.

'I have to go to the theatre tonight. Who knows what will happen?' thought Francis.

That night at the theatre Francis went to the seat that his ticket showed. He looked over at the box to his right. John Vandeleur and his daughter were there. Francis felt his cheeks¹ turn red.

'What are they saying to each other?' he wondered.

He stared at the stage for a while, he did not want the Vandeleurs to see him looking at them. But when he went to the box to his right at the end, the Vandeleurs were no longer there.

After the play Francis walked back to his room. He felt even more confused than before.

Nothing else happened the next day, or the next, which was Tuesday. Suddenly, Francis thought of something.

'Now I remember! The young man that Vandeleur was talking to is coming to his house at seven o'clock,' thought Francis.

A few minutes before seven, Francis looked out of his window. A table was set for dinner in the garden. At exactly seven o'clock, the young man who seemed a priest arrived. John Vandeleur showed him into the garden.

Mr Rolles spoke very little and looked very serious. John Vandeleur, instead, often laughed loudly. After the two men finished their dinner, Miss Vandeleur brought the coffee tray.²

1. **cheeks** :



2. **tray** :





The Rajah's Diamond

John Vandeleur stood up quickly and said, 'And now, let me serve you the coffee.'

He went to the small table near the dinner table. He poured the coffee into two cups. Then he poured another liquid into the smaller cup. He did this so quickly that Francis was not sure he really saw him do it. But then Francis saw John Vandeleur give Mr Rolles the smaller cup.

'Maybe that didn't happen and I really didn't see what I think I saw,' thought Francis.

Suddenly, Francis heard a loud 'thump!' Mr Rolles was lying on the grass.

'Oh Father, what did you do? Is he dead?' cried Miss Vandeleur.

'Silence! Mr Rolles is not dead. He only fainted.¹ Help me take him inside,' said John Vandeleur.

The two took Mr Rolles by the arms and legs and went into the house.

'I think they're in trouble. I must do something quickly,' thought Francis.

Without thinking he climbed out of his window and down the big tree into John Vandeleur's garden. He did not knock on the door, but ran straight into the house. He saw Mr Vandeleur standing over Mr Rolles's body. Mr Vandeleur then took something out of Mr Rolles's pocket. He quickly gave it to his daughter.

Suddenly Francis cried, 'Father, let me help you. I won't ask any questions.'

'Father? What is this? Who are you?' cried John Vandeleur surprised by Francis's appearance.

1. **fainted** : lost consciousness and fell.

A Shocking Night

CHAPTER SIX

Then Mr Vandeleur realised who he was, and laughed, 'Oh, I see you're Scrymgeour! I'm not your father: you're my brother's illegitimate son. You've entered my private residence by force. And what's more, this is a bad moment because my guest has fainted!'

John Vandeleur was angry with Francis. 'My brother wanted you to marry my daughter. He made you come here to Paris and go to the theatre on Sunday night. This was so my daughter could see you for the first time. Well, she saw you and she didn't like what she saw. Now go, and don't ever come back here again!' he ordered.

Francis quietly followed Miss Vandeleur to the door. He felt sad. Miss Vandeleur opened the door and said, 'What my father said to you isn't true. I told him I wanted to meet you again before deciding. I'm very sorry he was so horrible to you.'

'I'd like to see you again,' said Francis. 'Please give me something so that I can remember you.'

She smiled and took something from her pocket. Then she whispered, 'Please take this keepsake.¹ Promise not to look at it until you're safe. Now, go quickly!'

Francis started running down the road when he heard a terrible cry from the Vandeleur house — it was Mr Rolles. Francis ran for his life and finally sat down at the Café Américain. Then he remembered what was in his pocket and took it out. It was a leather jewellery box.

'I saw this before at the house. It's what Mr Vandeleur took out of Mr Rolles's pocket!' Francis thought suddenly.

He opened the box and got the shock of his life. In the box on the green velvet there was the largest and most beautiful diamond Francis ever saw.

1. **keepsake** : small present to remember someone by.

Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension check

Look at the sentences below about Chapter Six. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B.

- | | A | B |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 When Francis left his room in the morning, he saw a porter. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Francis became excited when he remembered he was invited to dinner at John Vandeleur's house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 At the theatre, Francis saw John Vandeleur with his brother, Sir Thomas. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 On Tuesday Francis saw Mr Rolles arrive for dinner at the Vandeleurs'. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 John Vandeleur's daughter always served the coffee. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Mr Rolles fainted because he had too much to eat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Francis found out Sir Thomas was his real father. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Before Francis left, John Vandeleur's daughter gave him a keepsake. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Comprehension check

Look back at the chapter and find out who these pronouns refer to.

- Francis asked **him** who lived in the house.
.....
- At the theatre, Francis saw **them** sitting in the box to his right.
.....
- He** said that he would serve the coffee.
.....
- John Vandeleur poured something in **this**.
.....
- After he drank the coffee, **he** fainted.
.....
- He said his brother wanted Francis to marry **her**.
.....
- She gave Francis **this** before he left.
.....

T: GRADE 4

3 Speaking: Food

In this chapter, John Vandeleur hosts an outdoor dinner at his house. What kinds of food do you enjoy? Bring a picture of your favorite food. Talk to the class about your favorite food. Use the questions below to help you.

- What do you like about this food?
- What does it taste like?
- When and where do you especially enjoy eating this food?
- Is it a food many people like to eat?
- Is this food good for you? Why or why not?

PET 4 Notices

Look at the text in each question. What does it say? Mark the correct letter next to the correct explanation (A, B or C).

1

**ATTENTION
ALL PASSENGERS!
PORTERS ON STRIKE
12 A.M. SAT-12 A.M. SUN**

- A The porters will go back to work after midnight Saturday.
- B The porters will work on Saturday but not Sunday.
- C The porters won't work from midnight Saturday to midnight Sunday.

2

**Blake Jewellers'
ALL DIAMONDS ON SALE!
JAN 20TH - FEB 1ST
Additional 30% - 50% off
already discounted prices!**

- A All of Blake Jewellers' diamonds are 30% - 50% off original prices.
- B All diamonds are 30% - 50% off but not between 20 January and 1 February.
- C During the sale, all diamonds will be 30% - 50% off prices that were previously discounted.

3

To: Mr Rolles
From: John Vandeleur

Could you come for dinner at 8 pm instead of 7 pm?

- A John Vandeleur wants Mr Rolles to come for dinner at 7 pm rather than 8 pm
- B Mr Rolles wants John Vandeleur to come for dinner at 8 pm rather than 7 pm
- C John Vandeleur wants Mr Rolles to come for dinner at 8 pm rather than 7 pm

4

Rooms for Rent

Weekly or monthly rentals available;
No daily rates

- A You can get a room by the week or the month, but not the day.
- B Yearly rentals are also available on request.
- C Weekly, monthly and daily rates available.

5

Madame Tavernier's Pastry Shop

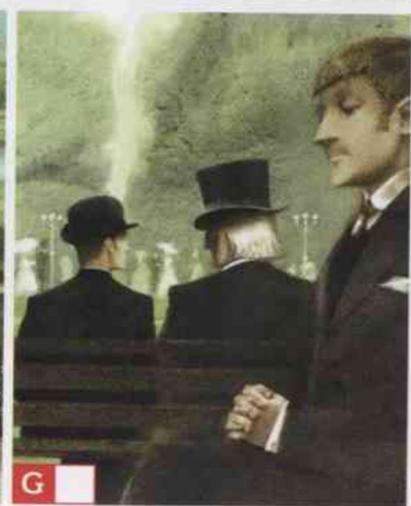
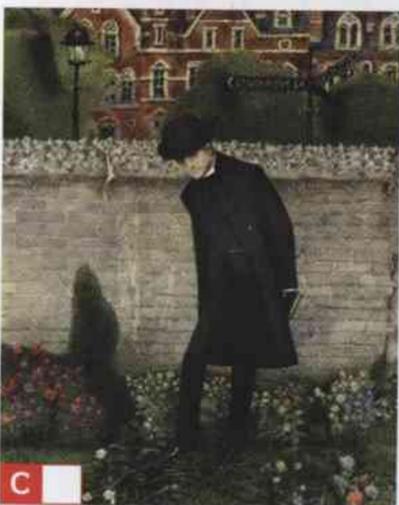
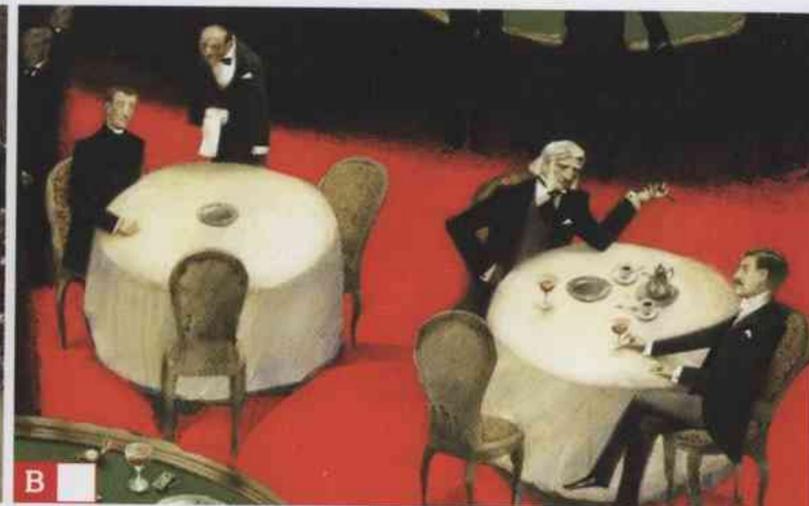
Sundays 7 am – 8 am
Buy 2 croissants and get 3rd free!

- A On Sunday mornings you can get two free croissants for the price of one.
- B If you buy a croissant on Sunday mornings between seven and eight o'clock, you get two for free!
- C Get three croissants for the price of two on Sundays between 7 and 8 in the morning.

Before you read

1 The story so far

Put the pictures below into the correct order and then use them to write a short summary of the story so far.





A Prince to the Rescue

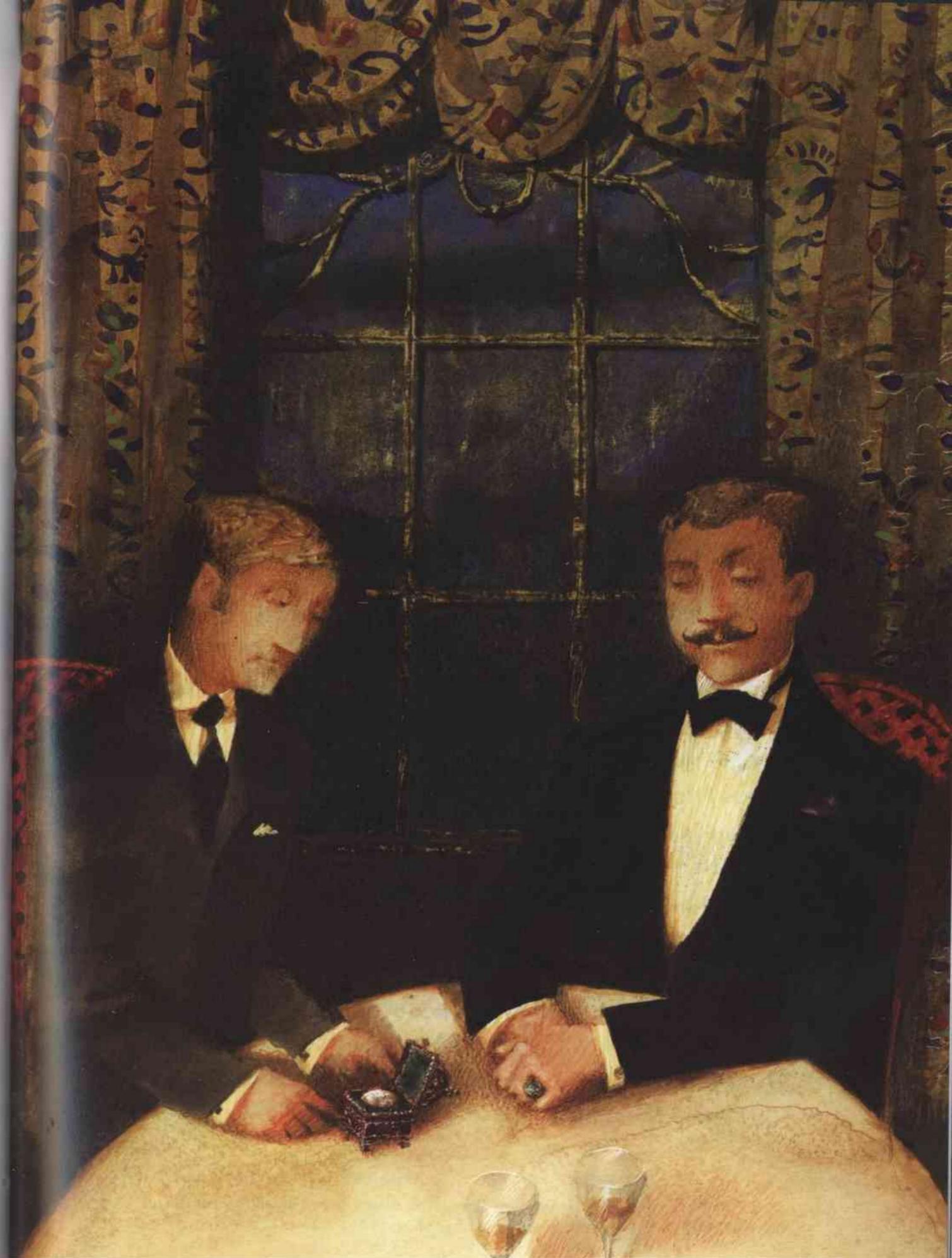
F

Francis continued staring at the diamond. He was still in shock a few minutes later when he felt a hand on his shoulder. He looked up and saw an elegantly dressed man standing next to his table.

The stranger sat down next to him and whispered in his ear, 'Close the box and put it back into your pocket. Try to stop looking so surprised and make everyone think that you know me. I fear you must be an amateur.'¹

Francis looked at the man and saw that he was smiling. He had a friendly face. 'Please, tell me who you are and what this means,' said Francis.

1. **amateur** : not a professional.



The Rajah's Diamond

'Very well, but first you must tell me who you are and what you are doing with the Rajah's Diamond,' answered the man.

'The Rajah's Diamond?' repeated Francis.

'Yes, that's what you were holding. I know because I saw it at Sir Thomas Vandeleur's house many times,' said the man.

Francis was silent for a moment. He could not believe the famous Rajah's Diamond was in his pocket. He also could not believe that this amazing diamond belonged to his real father. Finally something about the man's friendly face made Francis believe he was an honest man. He decided to tell the man the whole story of how he got the diamond. After he finished, the man said, 'Now I know all about you, but you don't even know who I am yet!' He called a waiter to their table.

'Will you be so kind as to tell this young man my name, please?' the man asked.

'Certainly, sir,' said the waiter. Turning to Francis he said, 'You have the honour of sharing the same table with His Highness Prince Florizel of Bohemia.'

'And now that you know who I am, I think you can trust me with the diamond,' said the prince smiling.

Without saying a word, Francis took the diamond out of his pocket again and gave it to the prince.

'You did the right thing, Francis. I see that you are a good person. You'll see that I can help you get out of this difficult situation. Now come with me,' said the prince.

The two men left the café and the prince showed Francis to his carriage.¹ Then the prince said, 'My driver will take you to my

1. carriage:



A Prince to the Rescue

CHAPTER SEVEN



mansion¹ just outside Paris. There you can wait for my return. Don't worry, I'll take care of everything. You'll marry Miss Vandeleur, at last!

As his carriage drove away, the prince made his way to John Vandeleur's house. As he knocked on the door, the Prince thought, 'I'm going to teach John Vandeleur a lesson he'll never forget!'

John Vandeleur himself opened the door. He looked very angry, but tried not to show it.

'What a pleasure it is to see Your Highness! Please come in,' said John Vandeleur.

He showed the prince into the living room. Miss Vandeleur was sitting on a sofa. She looked very sad. Mr Rolles was sitting on another sofa and seemed to be very confused.

The prince turned to John Vandeleur and said, 'I'm here on business. You will do as I say or things will be worse for you. At the earliest date your daughter will marry Francis Vandeleur, your brother's son and my friend. And you will give him a dowry² of ten thousand pounds.'

'Believe me, I didn't know the young man was your friend. I'm sorry if I offended him,' answered John Vandeleur.

The prince knew John Vandeleur was not sorry at all. All he was interested in was his brother's diamond.

'Now you know he's my friend and you will do as I say. I'm going to go now. Mr Rolles, you're coming with me,' said the Prince.

A moment later, John Vandeleur left the house too. He looked very angry as he almost ran down the street towards the police station.

1. **mansion** : very large house.

2. **dowry** [daʊəri] : (in some cultures) money given by a family to a future son-in-law when a daughter gets married.

Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension check

Look at the sentences below about Chapter Seven. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B.

- | | A | B |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Francis gave the Rajah's Diamond to Prince Florizel right away. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The prince thought Francis knew a lot about diamonds. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The prince told Francis he would help him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The prince invited Francis to stay at his house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Francis did not want the prince to go to John Vandeleur's house. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Miss Vandeleur looked very happy when the prince saw her. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 The Prince was glad John Vandeleur did not kill Mr Rolles. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 John Vandeleur was sorry that he was unkind to Francis. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 After the prince left, John Vandeleur went to the police station. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Vocabulary

Match the words on the left with their opposites on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> quietly | A noisily |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> pleasure | B compliment |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> offend | C nothing |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> whole | D part |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> show | E frown |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> early | F hide |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> forget | G remember |
| 8 <input type="checkbox"/> difficult | H easy |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> everything | I pain |
| 10 <input type="checkbox"/> smile | J late |

3 Now complete the sentences below with one of the words from the previous exercise.

- It is a great for Prince Florizel to help good people.
- Francis will never how Prince Florizel helped him.
- When he first sees Francis, Prince Florizel does not know the story of the diamond.
- Prince Florizel is a gentleman so he is always very polite and does his best never to anyone.
- John Vandeleur is a thief and always tries to the truth from the police.

PET 4 Miss Vandeleur's diary

Read part of Miss Vandeleur's diary and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word – A, B, C or D.

Today was a very strange day. Mr Rolles came for dinner and we ate (0) the garden. It was a very nice evening until (1) happened to Mr Rolles. After coffee he fainted! I was frightened but my father said he was alright. My father (2) something from his pocket and gave it to me. Then Mr Scrymgeour ran in without knocking. Poor man, my father was very unkind and told him that I didn't like him. I do like (3), but I'm just not sure I want to marry him...

As Mr Scrymgeour was leaving he asked me for a keepsake. I gave him something (4) and told him to run!

Later, as my father was shouting at me, Prince Florizel of Bohemia (5) I think Mr Scrymgeour gave him my keepsake. The prince gave us these orders: I must (6) Francis and my father must give me a dowry of ten thousand pounds.

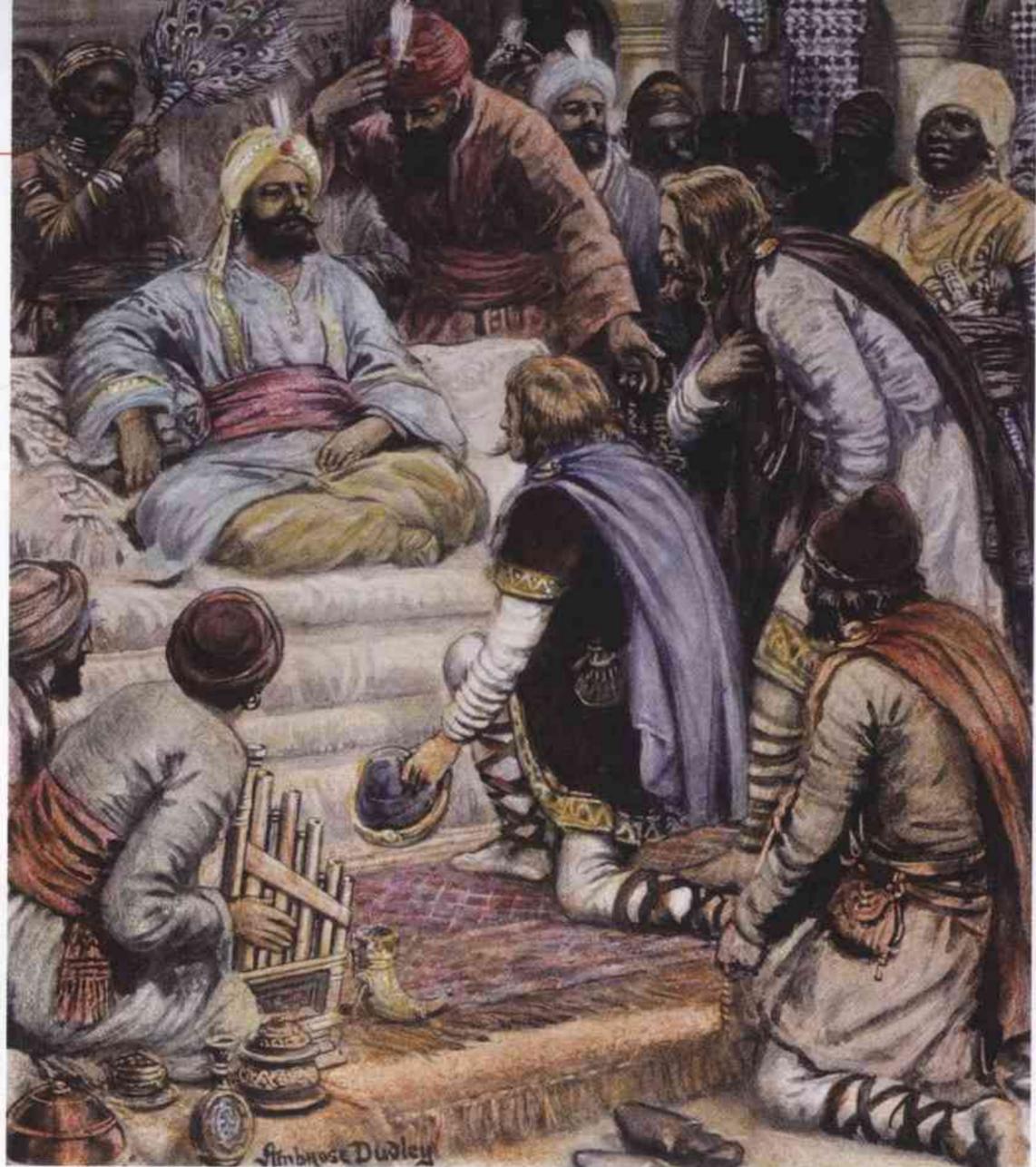
- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| 0 A at | <input checked="" type="radio"/> B in | C out | D of |
| 1 A something | B someone | C anything | D anyone |
| 2 A takes | B have taken | C took | D taken |
| 3 A him | B her | C you | D them |
| 4 A plastic | B big | C new | D special |
| 5 A left | B arrived | C ran | D escaped |
| 6 A kill | B kiss | C hug | D marry |

The Thousand and One Nights

When Robert Louis Stevenson was a small boy, he adored a collection of oriental stories called *The Thousand and One Nights*. When he started writing, he used them as a model for one of his first books, *The New Arabian Nights*. 'The Rajah's Diamond' was part of this collection. In fact, Stevenson's Prince Florizel is very similar to a character from the *The Thousand and One Nights*, Rashid, who enjoyed putting on disguises and visiting the common people of his city, just like Prince Florizel.

This figure of Rashid was based on the great Harun al-Rashid, who ruled in Baghdad from 786 to 809. Baghdad was an important metropolitan city at the time. Merchants from Persia, China, India and Africa came there. Rashid loved and supported literature and the arts. During this period, one of Rashid's scholars translated into Arabic a collection of Persian stories called *A Thousand Legends*. The professional storytellers of the city then added stories of their own to the collection when they performed for the poor people of the streets. The most popular ones were about their own leader Harun al-Rashid. This collection was the beginning of *The Thousand and One Nights*. Later in 13th-century Cairo many more stories were added. This is the collection we know today.

The Thousand and One Nights was first introduced to Europe by a Frenchman named Antoine Galland (1646-1715). Galland translated these stories from Arabic into French from 1704 to 1714. In the end there were 12 volumes of them. The first English translation came out between 1706 and 1708.



Caliph Harun al-Rashid receiving an embassy from Emperor Charlemagne in Baghdad (19th century), illustration by Ambrose Dudley.

1 Comprehension check

- 1 What was one of Robert Louis Stevenson's favourite books when he was a young boy?
- 2 How was 'The Rajah's Diamond' influenced by *The Thousand and One Nights*?
- 3 Who was Harun al-Rashid?
- 4 Who first introduced *The Thousand and One Nights* to Europe and when?
- 5 When was *The Thousand and One Nights* first available in English?

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Read the definitions below of some words that appear in Chapter Eight. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 To break someone's trust. betray
- 2 To go under the surface of the water, often using special breathing equipment. d
- 3 A lot of money belonging to someone. f
- 4 A large building with bars on the windows where criminals are locked up. p
- 5 When someone wants everything. g
- 6 To charge (someone) with doing wrong or breaking the law. a
- 7 The highest in authority. c
- 8 A beautiful, very large building where nobles live. m

2 Prediction

Look at the title of Chapter Eight. Work with a partner and ask each other what you think is going to happen. Use the questions below to help you.

- Which river do you think the title refers to?
- What do you think will happen to the characters in the story?



3 Listening

You will hear a short conversation between the Prince and Mr Rolles, and then you will hear some of the Prince's thoughts on the diamond. For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

The Prince and Mr Rolles

Prince Florizel tells Mr Rolles that he should (1) England.

Mr Rolles is very worried that the diamond will (2) somebody else's life.

The Prince contemplates the diamond

The Prince thinks that Sir Thomas did not deserve to (3)

The person who owns the diamond will always (4)



A River Saves the Day!

P

Prince Florizel and Mr Rolles were almost at Mr Rolles's hotel.

'I'm ruined,' cried Mr Rolles, 'please help me. I'm no good as a priest, and even worse as a thief!'

'Try to forget what happened. Go to Australia and buy a farm,' said the prince.

'Oh, but how do I know that diamond isn't ruining someone else?' cried Mr Rolles.

'To show you that I believe you really are sorry, I'm going to tell you a secret. I have the Rajah's Diamond. I'm going to make sure it doesn't get anyone into trouble ever again!' said Prince Florizel.

'Oh, thank you for believing me!' said Mr Rolles.

'Well, here we are at your hotel. Go inside and forget all your

The Rajah's Diamond

troubles. Goodbye, and good luck in Australia,' said the prince.

Prince Florizel turned around and started walking home. He was not sure about what he wanted to do with the diamond. Give it back to its owner, Sir Thomas Vandeleur? But Sir Thomas did not deserve it. Perhaps the only way was to get rid of¹ the Rajah's Diamond forever?

'That diamond will always get its owner into trouble,' thought the prince.

He took the case out of his pocket and opened it. There was the brilliant, perfect diamond.

'If I look at it any longer, I'll want to keep it,' thought the prince. But he still was not sure about what to do. He approached his home; he always felt happier when he got nearer. He lived in an elegant mansion along the River Seine, with tall chimneys² and a beautiful garden. His was the only home in Paris that had a stork³ on its roof, and this attracted many people.

Suddenly, as he was entering his home, a man came up to him.

'Do I have the honour of speaking to Prince Florizel of Bohemia?' asked the man.

'Yes, but what do you want at this late hour?' asked the prince.

'I'm a detective, Your Highness. I'm here to ask you to come with me to the police station.'

'But what for?' asked the prince, surprised, 'I haven't done anything wrong.'

'John Vandeleur has accused you of stealing the Rajah's Diamond, Your Highness,' answered the detective.

'I see. I can tell you that I haven't stolen the diamond. Let me

1. get rid of: throw away.

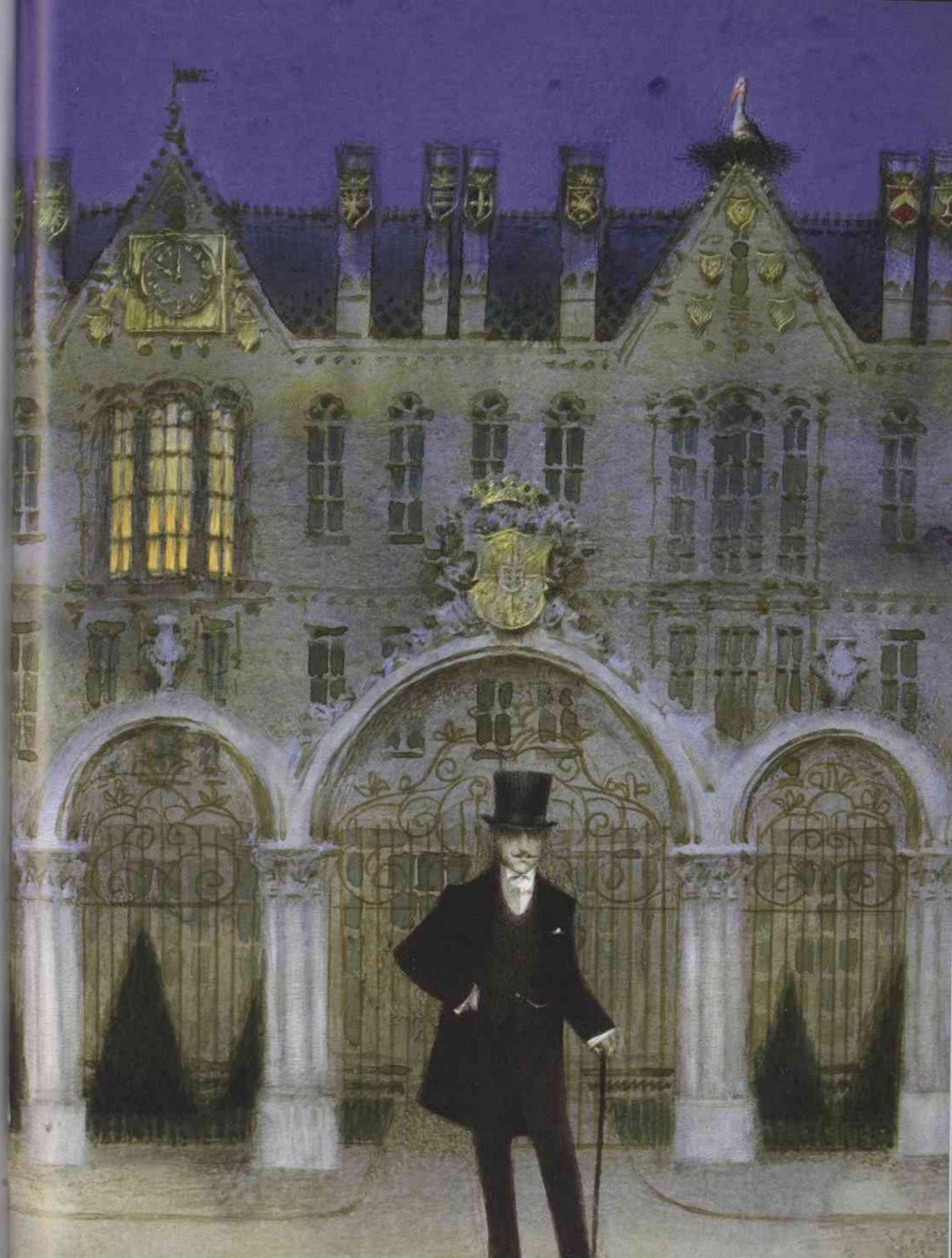
2. chimneys:



3. stork:



END



explain. Let's walk to the police station together,' said the prince, 'I'm going to tell you the story of how Sir Thomas Vandeleur came to own the famous Rajah's Diamond.'

'I'm very curious to hear it,' answered the detective.

'Many years ago,' began Prince Florizel, 'Sir Thomas Vandeleur was a soldier in India. He was not a very good soldier and he wasn't very popular. But Sir Thomas was very lucky. One day he met the Rajah of Kashgar who invited him to his palace. At the palace Sir Thomas saw the largest, most beautiful diamond he ever saw. He decided that he must have it. So he decided to stay in India and serve the Rajah, who was not an honest man. For three years, Sir Thomas did many bad things for the Rajah. He even betrayed his own soldiers in danger. Because of him, thousands of men were killed. In the end, Sir Thomas made the Rajah a very large fortune. To thank him, the Rajah finally gave him the diamond he wanted so badly...'

Prince Florizel continued his story. After a long walk, the detective found out all about how Sir Thomas Vandeleur, Mr Rolles, and Francis Scrymgeour each came to own the Rajah's Diamond.

'So you see, detective, you must agree with me. The Rajah's Diamond has got everyone who has touched it into great trouble. That diamond may be extremely beautiful, but it has an evil power over people. It makes them greedy,' said the prince.

The detective knew the prince was right.

'The only people the diamond didn't make greedy are Francis and I,' added the prince, 'I have the Rajah's Diamond here in my pocket now. God forgive me if I am doing something wrong. But that diamond's evil power must end tonight.'

With these words, the prince took the diamond out of his

pocket. He looked at it one more time as it shone¹ in the moonlight. Then suddenly without saying anything, he threw it into the Seine. It sparkled² in the sky before falling into the river. Both men stared at the water in silence. The diamond was now gone.

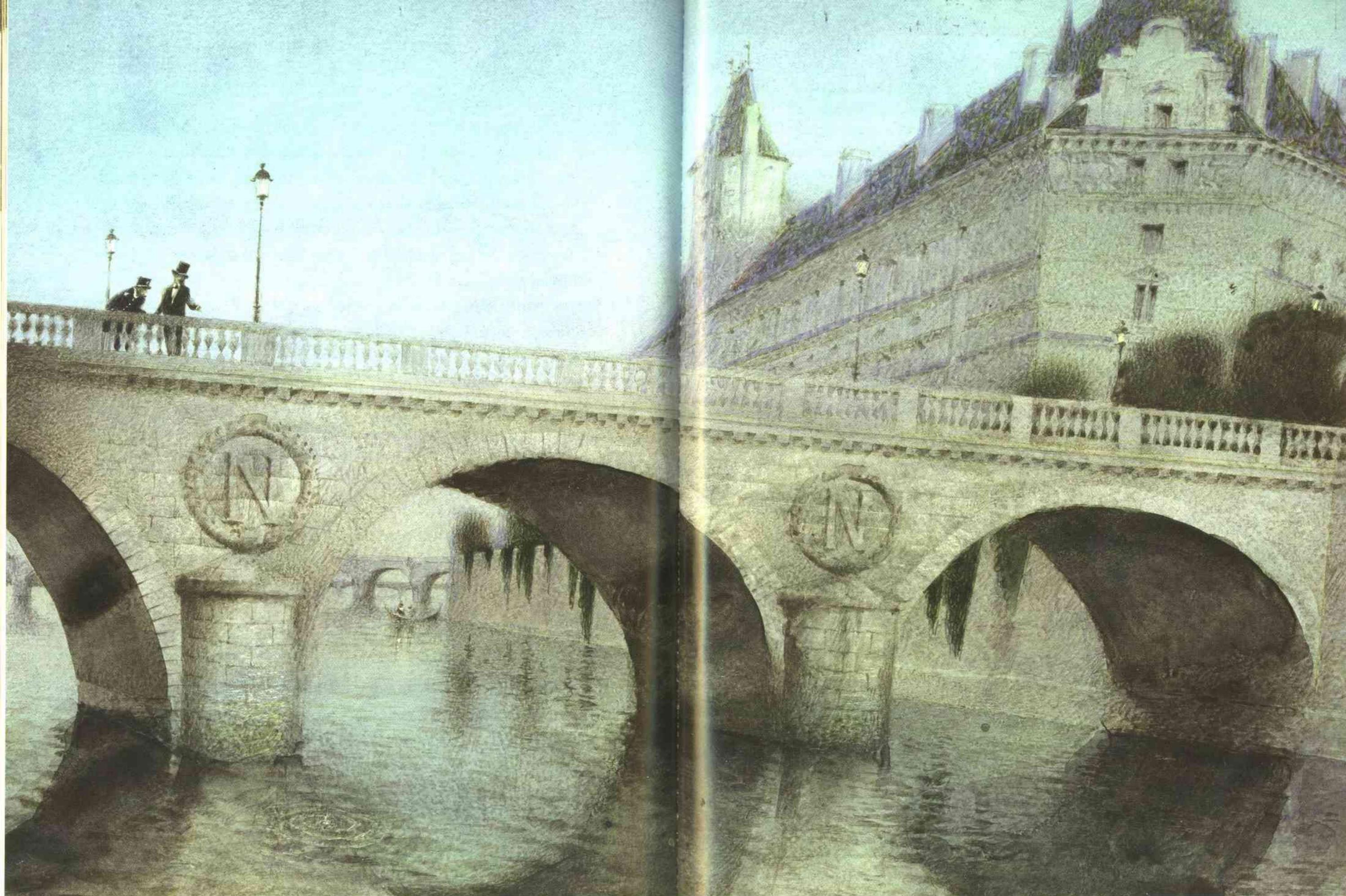
'And now, let's go to the station at once. I'm sure you won't be put in prison once the chief of police hears this story,' said the detective.

Not long after this eventful³ night, Francis and Miss Vandeleur were married. The prince was happy to be Francis's best man.⁴ The young couple started their life together and nobody ever talked about the Rajah's Diamond again.

But there were two people who continued to look for the diamond. John and Thomas Vandeleur got news of what happened that night when the detective came to arrest Prince Florizel. They often took a boat out on the Seine to look for the diamond. But, because they had wrong information about the bridge where Prince Florizel was standing when he threw it in the Seine, they spent all their time looking in the wrong part of the river. People taking a walk along the river often stopped to watch men diving from their boat. They didn't know why the Vandeleurs organized this diving operation, but it was entertaining to watch.

The Rajah's Diamond stayed at the bottom of the river, where Prince Florizel threw it and where nobody could see it shining... and where it could do no harm to anybody any more.

1. **shone** : (to shine) gave out a bright light.
2. **sparkled** : gave out small points of light.
3. **eventful** : busy.
4. **best man** : a best man at a wedding helps the groom (the man getting married).



Go back to the text

1 Comprehension check

What happened in Chapter Eight? Answer the following questions.

- 1 What did Prince Florizel suggest Mr Rolles should do?
- 2 What was the prince unsure about?
- 3 What did the prince think of the diamond when he took it out of its box?
- 4 Why did the detective want the prince to go to the police station?
- 5 What did Sir Thomas do to get the Rajah's Diamond?
- 6 Who were the people who did not become greedy when they touched the Rajah's Diamond?
- 7 What did the prince do to get rid of the Rajah's Diamond?
- 8 What did the detective think the police chief would do when he heard the prince's story?
- 9 Who were the two people who kept searching for the Rajah's Diamond?
- 10 Why did they not find the diamond?

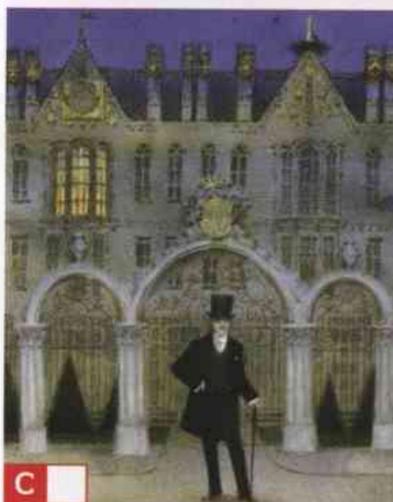
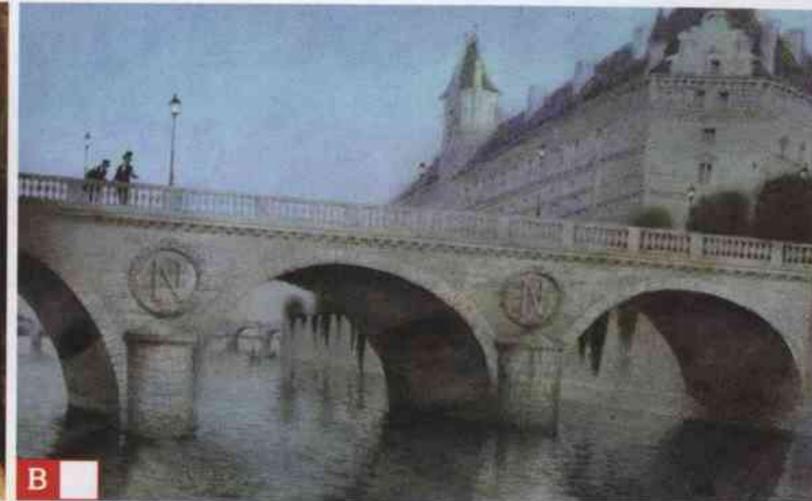
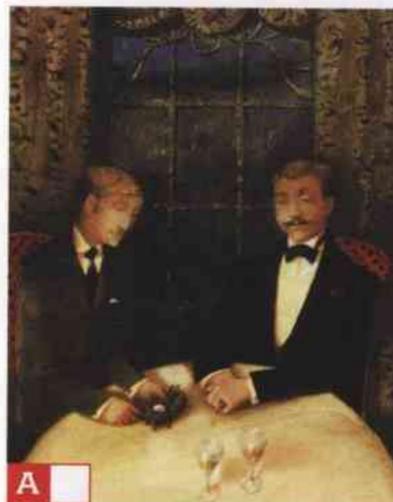
2 Vocabulary

Look at the lists of words below from Chapter Eight and circle the odd one out. For each question, say why you circled the word.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1 accuse | forget | stork | betray |
| 2 Seine | India | Australia | Bohemia |
| 3 station | mansion | hotel | shadows |
| 4 perfect | brilliant | greedy | suddenly |
| 5 surest | worst | largest | greatest |
| 6 detective | priest | officer | farm |

3 Picture summary

Put the pictures below in the correct order and use them to complete your summary of the story that you started on page 75.



Here are some words to help you.

theatre garden box keepsake
river mansion marry diamond

1 Summary

Put the following events into the order in which they happened in the story.

- A Francis Scrymgeour saw John Vandeleur and Mr Rolles sitting on a bench.
- B Harry Hartley climbed over a garden wall and diamonds spilled out of the hatbox Lady Vandeleur gave him.
- C Harry Hartley got a job as private secretary to Sir Thomas Vandeleur.
- D Prince Florizel threw the Rajah's Diamond into the River Seine.
- E Mr Rolles had dinner at his club and saw John Vandeleur and Prince Florizel there.
- F Miss Vandeleur gave Francis a keepsake.
- G Francis Scrymgeour went to Paris to see a play his benefactor requested he see.
- H Mr Rolles thought a friend of his in Edinburgh could help him sell the Rajah's Diamond.
- I Mr Rolles was terrified to find out that John Vandeleur was riding in the same carriage as he was.
- J Mr Rolles took the Rajah's Diamond when he found it in his landlord's garden.
- K Prince Florizel went to John Vandeleur's house to teach him a lesson.
- L Francis Scrymgeour saw John Vandeleur put something in Mr Rolles's coffee.

1 2 3 4 5 6
 7 8 9 10 11 12

2 Characters

Who said or thought what? Match the correct phrase with the characters.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Francis Scrymgeour | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Sir Thomas Vandeleur |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Raeburn | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Mr Rolles |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Harry Hartley | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Prince Florizel |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> John Vandeleur | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> the lawyer |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Vandeleur | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> the French detective |

- A 'I'm just taking a little walk in the park.'
- B 'I'm sure you won't be put in prison.'
- C 'Why does he want to choose my wife?'
- D 'Why did you come into my garden in this way?'
- E 'I'm very sorry that he was so horrible to you.'
- F 'Your benefactor is your real father.'
- G 'With that thing? You're lying and you know it!'
- H 'I'm sure he's going to find out I have the Rajah's Diamond.'
- I 'That diamond will always get its owner into trouble.'
- J 'I'm the best diamond hunter in the world!'

PET 3 Writing

This is part of a letter you receive from an English penfriend. Write a letter to this penfriend and tell him/her about 'The Rajah's Diamond'.

*My favourite hobby is reading. Do you like reading, too?
 Have you read any books in English recently?
 What were they about?*

Write 35-45 words.

2 1C 2G 3D 4H 5A 6I 7J 8F 9E 10B.
 1 1C 2B 3J 4H 5E 6I 7G 8A 9L 10F 11K 12D.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Any one reader may not always include all of the structures listed, but it will certainly not include any structures from higher steps. Naturally, structures from lower steps will be included. For a complete list of all the structures used over all the six steps, consult the *Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also available online at our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

Apart from the structural control, we also take great care to grade the vocabulary appropriately for each step.

Step Two B1.1

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: indefinite past with *yet, already, still*; recent past with *just*; past action leading to present situation

Past Perfect Simple: in reported speech

Verb forms and patterns

Regular verbs and most irregular verbs

Passive forms with *going to* and *will*

So / neither / nor + auxiliaries in short answers

Question tags (in verb tenses used so far)

Verb + object + full infinitive (e.g. *I want you to help*)

Reported statements with *say* and *tell*

Modal verbs

Can't: logical necessity

Could: possibility

May: permission

Might (present and future reference):

possibility; permission

Must: logical necessity

Don't have to / haven't got to:

lack of obligation

Don't need to / needn't: lack of necessity

Types of clause

Time clauses introduced by *when, while, until, before, after, as soon as*

Clauses of purpose: *so that, (in order) to*

(infinitive of purpose)

Available at Step Two:

- **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**
Lewis Carroll
- **Animal Tales**
- **Around the World in Eighty Days**
Jules Verne
- **The Fisherman and his Soul**
Oscar Wilde
- **Hamlet**
William Shakespeare
- **The Jumping Frog**
Mark Twain
- **Kidnapped**
Robert Louis Stevenson
- **The Lost World**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Magical Tales from the South Seas**
Robert Louis Stevenson
- **The Mutiny on the Bounty**
- **The Rajah's Diamond**
Robert Louis Stevenson
- **The Ransom of Red Chief and Other Stories**
O. Henry
- **The Secret Garden**
Frances Hodgson Burnett