

READING & TRAINING

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Diamond as Big as The Ritz



AUDIO CD





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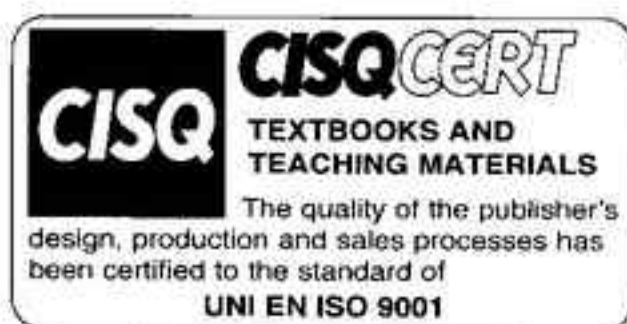
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Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

T: GRADES 5/6 Trinity-style exercises (Grade 5/6)

This story is recorded in full.



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



About *the Author*

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born in St Paul, Minnesota, on 24 September 1896. In 1913 he went to Princeton University, where he became involved in writing and producing musical shows. In 1917, with World War I continuing, Fitzgerald left university to join the US army.

After the war Fitzgerald started writing short stories for various popular magazines, including *The Saturday Evening Post*. In 1920, his first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, was published. It was also during this year that he married Zelda Sayre, a rich girl from an important family from the South. In the early years of their marriage the Fitzgeralds lived an extravagant, expensive lifestyle. They often traveled to Europe and got to know some very rich people at numerous parties. Their marriage became difficult, firstly because they spent more money than they earned, and secondly because they

both had serious drinking problems.

Fitzgerald's greatest novel, *The Great Gatsby*, was published in April 1925. It was a brilliant description of the people and the values in the United States during the 1920s.

In 1930, Zelda began suffering from psychological problems, which continued until her death in 1948. She was constantly in and out of hospitals. Fitzgerald became more dependent on alcohol and needed money. In the summer of 1937, he went to Hollywood to work as a scriptwriter, but he lost his job because of his drinking. In his final years Fitzgerald continued writing. His last novel, *The Last Tycoon*, although unfinished, was published after his death. He died of a heart attack on 21 December 1940. He was 44 years old.

"The Diamond as Big as The Ritz" first appeared in *The Smart Set* magazine in 1922. Its original title was "The Diamond in the Sky". When it became part of Fitzgerald's short story collection, *Tales of the Jazz Age*, he said in the introduction that he had written it for his own amusement because he loved luxury.

Today Fitzgerald is considered one of America's greatest writers and social historians, who gave the name the "Jazz Age" to the 1920s.

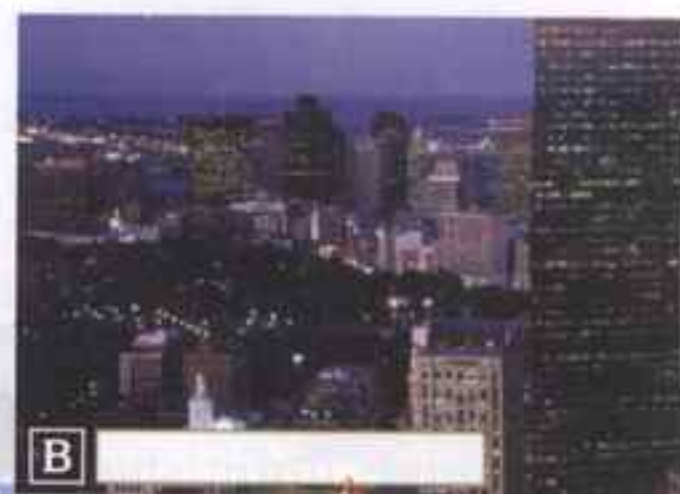
1 Put these events in F. Scott Fitzgerald's life in the order they happened.

- 1 ☐ *The Great Gatsby* was published.
- 2 ☐ Zelda died after spending a long time in different hospitals.
- 3 ☐ He joined the US army.
- 4 ☐ He became a scriptwriter in Hollywood for a time.
- 5 ☐ "The Diamond as Big as The Ritz" appeared in *The Smart Set* magazine.
- 6 ☐ He got married to a girl from a rich southern family.

1 Test your geography!

Match each description below to one of the places (A-C). Write the name of the place in the spaces on the map.

Boston the Mississippi River the Rocky Mountains



- 1 It is 3,780 kilometers long and flows from Lake Itasca in Minnesota in the North to the Gulf of Mexico in the South. It has played an important part in America's history, with men like President Abraham Lincoln and the writer Mark Twain among the people coming from the surrounding area.

- 2 ☐ With an area of over 4,800 kilometers, they cover a good part of north-west USA and Canada. Winter sports are popular and there are some important national parks. Natural resources and tourism are both important to the area's economy.
- 3 ☐ The capital of Massachusetts, in the north-east of the United States, is close to the Atlantic Ocean. It is a historic town and has a good reputation for its schools and universities.

INTERNET PROJECT

In three groups use a search engine or the websites your teacher gives you to do a class project on one of these areas.

Group A: New England and Boston;

Group B: the American South (Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee);

Group C: Montana and the Rocky Mountains.

For your project you should find:

- ▶ a map of the area – details about the geography of the area (main towns, highest mountains, population, places to visit, etc.)
- ▶ details about the history (important historical events or facts related to the area)
- ▶ details about life in these areas (main industries, local celebrations, etc.)

When you finish, display the results of your group's project.



2 Writing

Imagine you are in one of these places. Write a postcard, using the information you have read. Remember to write: where you are; who you are with; some information about the places you go to.

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Look at the pictures. Name the object(s) in each picture. You have the first letter and you can use a dictionary to help you.



1 T _ _ _ _



2 J _ _ _ _



3 W _ _ _ _



4 C _ _ _ _

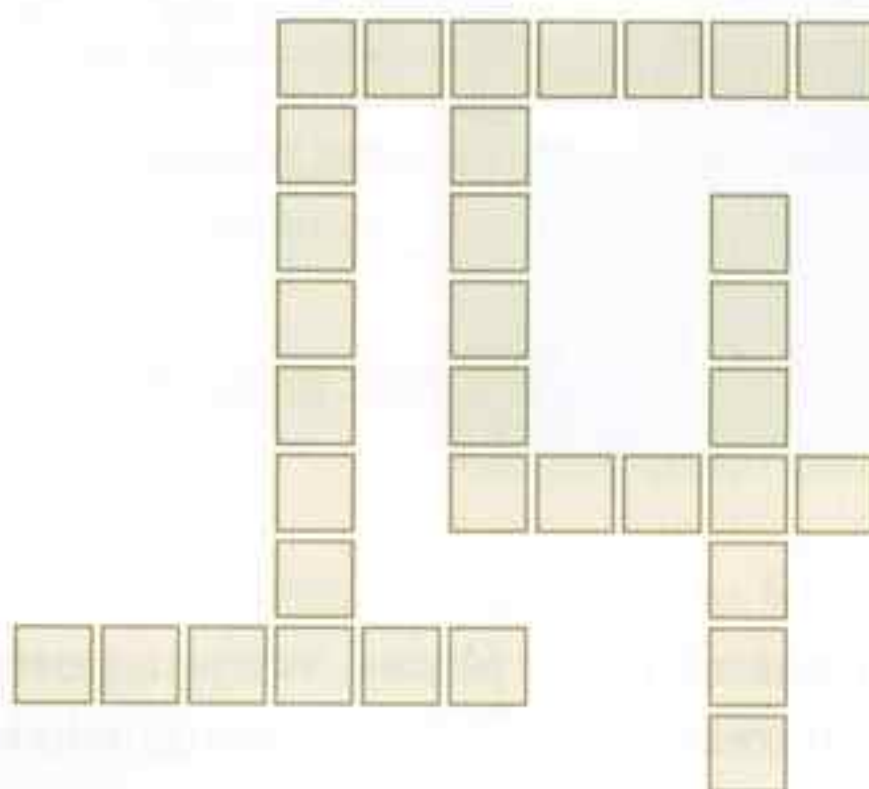


5 C _ _ _ _



6 M _ _ _ _

2 Now complete the crossword with the words above. The words are not in the same order as the pictures.



CHAPTER ONE

John Meets Percy



ohn T. Unger came from a well known family in Hades, a small town on the Mississippi River. He was sixteen and his parents wanted him to have a good New England education. They decided to send him to St Midas' School near Boston. Hades was too small for their clever son.

Mrs Unger packed her son's trunks and Mr Unger gave him a lot of money.

"Remember, you're always welcome back here," he said.

"I know," said John.

"Don't forget who you are and where you come from," said his father proudly.¹ "You are an Unger from Hades."

John was crying as he walked away. As he was leaving the city he looked back at Hades for the last time.

St Midas' School is half an hour from Boston and it was the most expensive and most exclusive boys' preparatory school in the world.

1. **proudly** : in a satisfied way.



The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

John's first two years went well. The fathers of all the boys were very rich and John spent his summers visiting his classmates in their fashionable holiday homes.

In the middle of his second year at school, a quiet, handsome boy named Percy Washington joined John's class. The new student was pleasant and very well dressed: it was obvious that he came from a very rich family. Percy and John immediately became friends. In fact, John was Percy's only friend as Percy did not want to make friends with the other boys. But even with John, Percy was reserved and he did not talk about his home or family. So when John was invited to spend the summer at Percy's home "in the West", John was surprised but he accepted happily.

Percy started talking about his family when they were on the train.

"My father," said Percy, "is the richest man in the world."

"Oh," said John politely. He could think of no other answer.

"The richest," repeated Percy.

"I read that there was a man in America who earned five million dollars a year. And four other men who earned more than three million dollars a year."

"Oh, they're nothing," said Percy. "My father could buy everything they have."

"Goodness," said John, "he must be very rich. I'm glad. I like very rich people. I visited the Schnlitzer-Murphys last Easter. Vivian Schnlitzer-Murphy had jewels as big as chickens' eggs."

"I love jewels," said Percy enthusiastically. "Of course, I don't want anyone at school to know about it, but I have quite a big collection. I collect them instead of stamps."

"And diamonds," continued John. "The Schnlitzer-Murphys

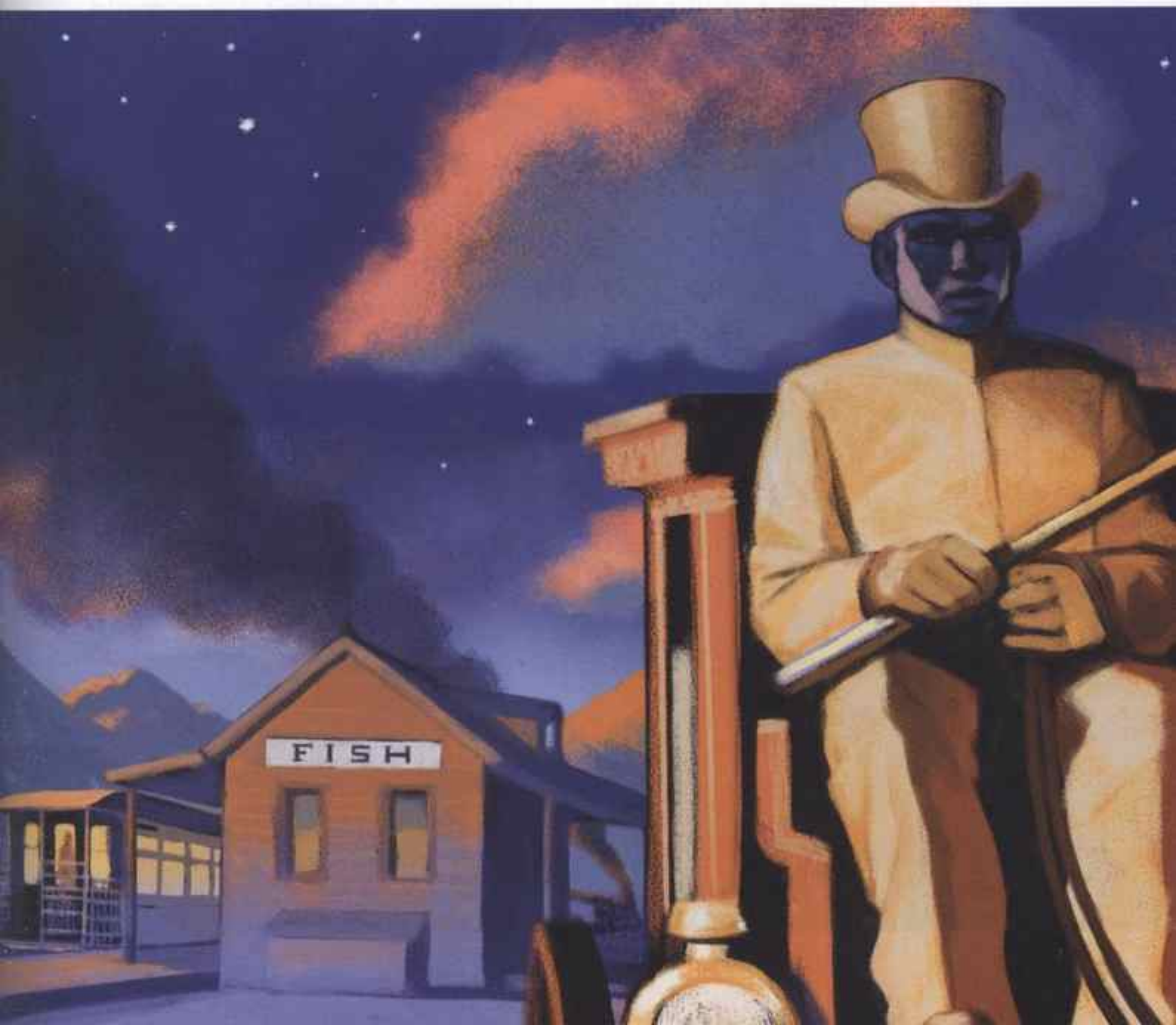


had diamonds as big as walnuts."

"Oh, that's nothing," Percy moved closer to John and whispered, "That's nothing at all. My father has a diamond bigger than The Ritz-Carlton Hotel."

The sunset in Montana was beautiful as the train stopped in a small village called Fish. A horse-drawn carriage came and drove them away. After half an hour the sky became dark and a magnificent huge¹ car appeared on the road. John had never

1. **huge** [hu:g] : very big.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

seen such a car.

"Get in," said Percy to his friend. "I'm sorry we had to bring you here in a carriage, but we can't let the people on the train and from the village see this car."

"What a car!" said John, who was amazed.

"This thing?" laughed Percy. "It's just an old car."

They drove in the darkness towards the opening between two mountains. Percy looked at the clock in the car and said, "We'll be there in an hour and a half. You've never seen anything like it before." John was prepared to be surprised.

"We're driving uphill now," said Percy. "An ordinary car could not drive up this road."





There was a pale moon in the distance. The car stopped suddenly and some men appeared out of the dark. They started working and four huge metal cables ¹ came down from above. They were tied to the wheels and the car was slowly lifted from the ground. It went higher and higher, and then suddenly they were on the ground again.

"The worst is over," said Percy looking out of the window. "Now it's only five miles ² from here and it's *our* road. It belongs to us. This is where the United States ends."

1. cables :



2. miles : 1 mile = 1.6 kilometers.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

"Are we in Canada?"

"No, we're not. We're in Montana, in the middle of the Rocky Mountains. You are on the only five square miles of land in America that aren't on any map."

"Why? Did they forget?" asked John.

"No," said Percy, "they tried to put it on the map three times. The first time my grandfather corrupted an entire government department and the second time he changed the maps of the United States. The last time was more difficult. My father created a very strong magnetic field and the map-makers' compasses did not work. They thought our place was ten miles further up the valley. There's only one thing my father is afraid of," Percy said. "It's the only thing that could find us."

"What's that?" asked John.

"Airplanes," Percy whispered. "We have half a dozen anti-aircraft guns, so no one has found us yet. Some pilots have died and some have become prisoners. Father and I don't mind that, but my mother and sisters worry about it."

The stars in Montana were very bright that night as they drove on. Suddenly John saw a magnificent castle of shining marble near a big lake.

John was amazed by the towers and the thousand yellow windows with their golden light. It looked like a fairyland. Then he heard the sound of violins playing beautiful music — he had never heard anything like it before.

The car stopped in front of high marble steps. At the top of the steps two huge doors opened silently and a beautiful lady with black hair was there to meet them.

"Mother," said Percy, "this is my friend, John Unger from Hades."



Go back to the text

- 1** Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is not correct, mark B.

	A	B
1 John T. Unger's family comes from Boston.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 John spends his summer holidays in Hades.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Percy's father has more money than the Schnlitzer-Murphys.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Percy has a big collection of rare stamps.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Percy's house is in Canada.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 It is impossible to find the house on a map.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Percy's father is not worried about the prisoners.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The house is not as amazing as John had imagined.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

My father is the richest man in the world

Look at the three diamonds.



Diamond A is bigger than both B and C. It is **the biggest**.
We call this a **superlative** adjective.

To make an adjective into a superlative:

- 1 syllable, e.g. *rich* → **the richest**
- 2 syllables (ending in -y), e.g. *happy* → **the happiest**
- 2 syllables or more, e.g. *beautiful* → **the most beautiful**

- 2 Complete the questions in the quiz with one of the adjectives in the box in the superlative form and ask another student the questions. When you finish, check your answers with the key on page 19 and write the correct answer in full.

expensive big near tall long rich

- 1 Which is the river in the world?

A ☐ The Nile B ☐ The Amazon C ☐ The Yangtze

The is the river in the world.

- 2 Which is the state in the USA in square miles?

A ☐ Texas B ☐ California C ☐ Alaska

.....

- 3 Which is the planet to Earth?

A ☐ Mercury B ☐ Mars C ☐ Venus

.....

- 4 Which is the city in the world?

A ☐ London B ☐ Tokyo C ☐ New York

.....

- 5 At the beginning of the 21st century, where was the building in the world?

A ☐ Malaysia B ☐ USA C ☐ Japan

.....

- 6 Which of these people is the at the moment?

A ☐ J. K. Rowling B ☐ Bill Gates C ☐ Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal

.....

3 The Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Complete the spaces in the text about The Ritz-Carlton hotel with a word from the box. Use a dictionary to find the words you don't know.

symbol exclusive rate rich period empty privacy words

"Never say 'no' when a client asks for something, even if it's the moon. You can try." These were the (1) of César Ritz, the owner of one of the most famous hotel groups in the world. His first hotel was The Ritz Hotel in Paris and from that moment, The Ritz was not only the name of a hotel, it became a (2) for the type of luxury and (3) lifestyle that only the rich could buy. After César Ritz's death in 1918, a (4) American, Albert Keller, bought the legal rights to the name Ritz in America. The Ritz-Carlton hotel opened in Boston in May 1927. The room (5) at that time was \$15.00. The Ritz-Carlton was known both for its fashionable New England and European style, and the special (6) reserved for the celebrities of that time.

During the bad economic (7) of the late 1920s and early 1930s known as "The Great Depression", Keller kept all the lights on, even in the (8) rooms. This way everyone could see The Ritz as a shining example of success, even in the darkest times.





4 Listening

You will hear someone speaking to a receptionist at The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Boston. For each question fill in the missing information in each numbered space.



HOTEL BOOKING
THE RITZ- CARLTON HOTEL

Confirmation of reservation for: (0) *Mr. John Haley*
on: (00) *December 15th*

Reservation made for: *January* (1)

Room rate:

Cost of double room in the (2) *suite*:
(3) \$ including tax

Includes: (4) and *free overnight*
(5)

Upgrade option to be paid on arrival:

Executive package facilities include: (6) in the
room, club lounge and business services

Deposit paid with: (7)

5 Find out!

Can you guess the real price of a weekend package in a double room in The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Boston? Use a search engine or the website address your teacher gives you to check your answer.

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Here are some words you will find in Chapter Two. Look up the words in a dictionary. Now match each one to its meaning in Chapter Two.

1 ☐ earth



A someone who works for another person and usually lives in their house

2 ☐ fur



B soft piece of material you put on the floor

3 ☐ moving picture machine



C small animal with a big tail that eats nuts

4 ☐ rug

D material the ground is made of

5 ☐ servant

E a machine used in the past to show a film

6 ☐ squirrel



F the skin of an animal; it is also used to make clothes

2 Writing

Write a paragraph using all of these words. It can be as strange as you like.

Under the earth there was a squirrel. The squirrel was sitting on a rug...

CHAPTER TWO

An Amazing Discovery



fterwards John remembered that first night as a beautiful dream — a dream of music, of beautiful things, of lights and faces. There was a man with white hair who drank from a gold cup. There was a girl with a face like a flower with precious blue jewels in her hair. There

were rooms with walls of gold and there were diamonds of all shapes and sizes everywhere. In the corners of the splendid rooms there were crystal lamps, and on the floors there were fur rugs of different types and colors.

Then they went to dinner. The plates were made of diamonds and there was music everywhere. John was overcome by ¹ the beauty and wealth ² that surrounded him and he fell asleep.

He woke up several hours later. He was in a large room and Percy was standing over him.

1. **overcome by** : very emotional about.

2. **wealth** : richness.



The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

"You fell asleep at dinner," Percy said. "I almost did too. It was so good to be comfortable again after a year at school. Some servants undressed you and washed you while you were sleeping."

"Is this a bed or a cloud? It's so comfortable," said John. "Percy, before you go I want to apologize," he added.

"Why?"

"Well, I didn't really believe you when you said you had a diamond as big as The Ritz-Carlton Hotel."

Percy smiled. "I thought you didn't believe me. It's that mountain, you know."

"What mountain?"

"The mountain the castle is on. It's not a very big mountain because, except for some earth on top, it's solid diamond. One big diamond. Aren't you listening?"

But John T. Unger was asleep.

The next morning he woke up and discovered that the room was filled with sunlight. A servant in a white uniform stood beside his bed.

"Good evening," said John, trying to remember where he was.

"Good morning, sir. Are you ready for your bath, sir? Don't get up — I'll put you in — there. Thank you, sir."

John's pajamas were taken off. He expected to be lifted like a child, but this did not happen. Instead he felt the bed move slowly on its side. Then he began to roll down gently into bath water which was the same temperature as his body.

He was surrounded by a blue aquarium and he could see fish swimming. Sunlight came from above through sea-green glass.

"Would you like hot perfumed water this morning, sir, and perhaps cold water to finish?"



"Yes," agreed John, "as you please."

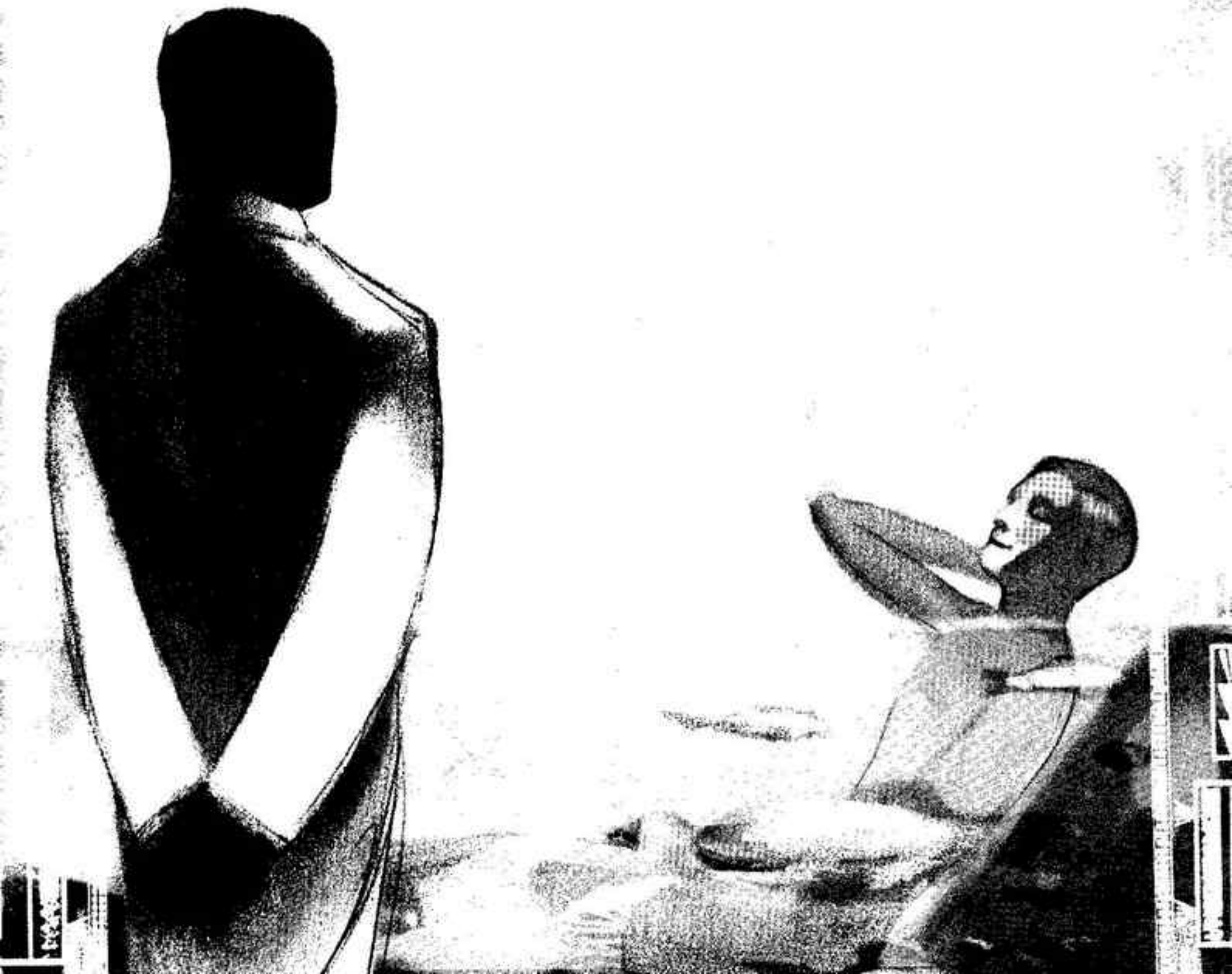
"Shall I turn on the moving-picture machine, sir?" asked the servant.

"No, thanks," answered John politely. He was enjoying the bath so much that he didn't want any distraction. After a moment he heard music coming from outside.

When the bath was over he was rubbed¹ with oil, alcohol and perfume. Then a servant shaved his face.

"Mr Percy is waiting in your sitting room," said the servant. "My name is Gygsum, Mr Unger, sir. I will serve you every morning."

1. rubbed : (here) covered and massaged.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

John walked out into the sunshine of his sitting room, where he found breakfast waiting for him. Percy was also there, beautifully dressed, sitting in an armchair.

Percy told John the following story of the Washington family at breakfast.

At the end of the American Civil War, the father of the present Mr Washington, Fitz-Norman Washington, was a twenty-five year old colonel ¹ with about a thousand dollars in gold. Fitz-Norman was a direct descendant of George Washington. One day he decided to go west, as many people were doing at that time, and took twenty-four of his best servants with him. After less than a month in Montana, things were not going well. And this is when he made a great discovery.

One day he got lost in the hills, and after a day without food he was very hungry. He saw a squirrel, but because he did not have a gun he had to run after it. He noticed that the squirrel had something shiny in its mouth. Just before it disappeared into a hole, the squirrel dropped a large, perfect diamond.

At last he managed to find his camp, and the next morning he took his servants with him to dig for more diamonds. Since none of his servants knew what a diamond was or how valuable it was, he did not inform them. He was amazed to discover that the mountain was *a single huge diamond*.

He filled four bags full of diamonds and went back to town. There he sold six small stones. When he tried to sell a bigger stone the storekeeper fainted ² and Fitz-Norman was arrested ³

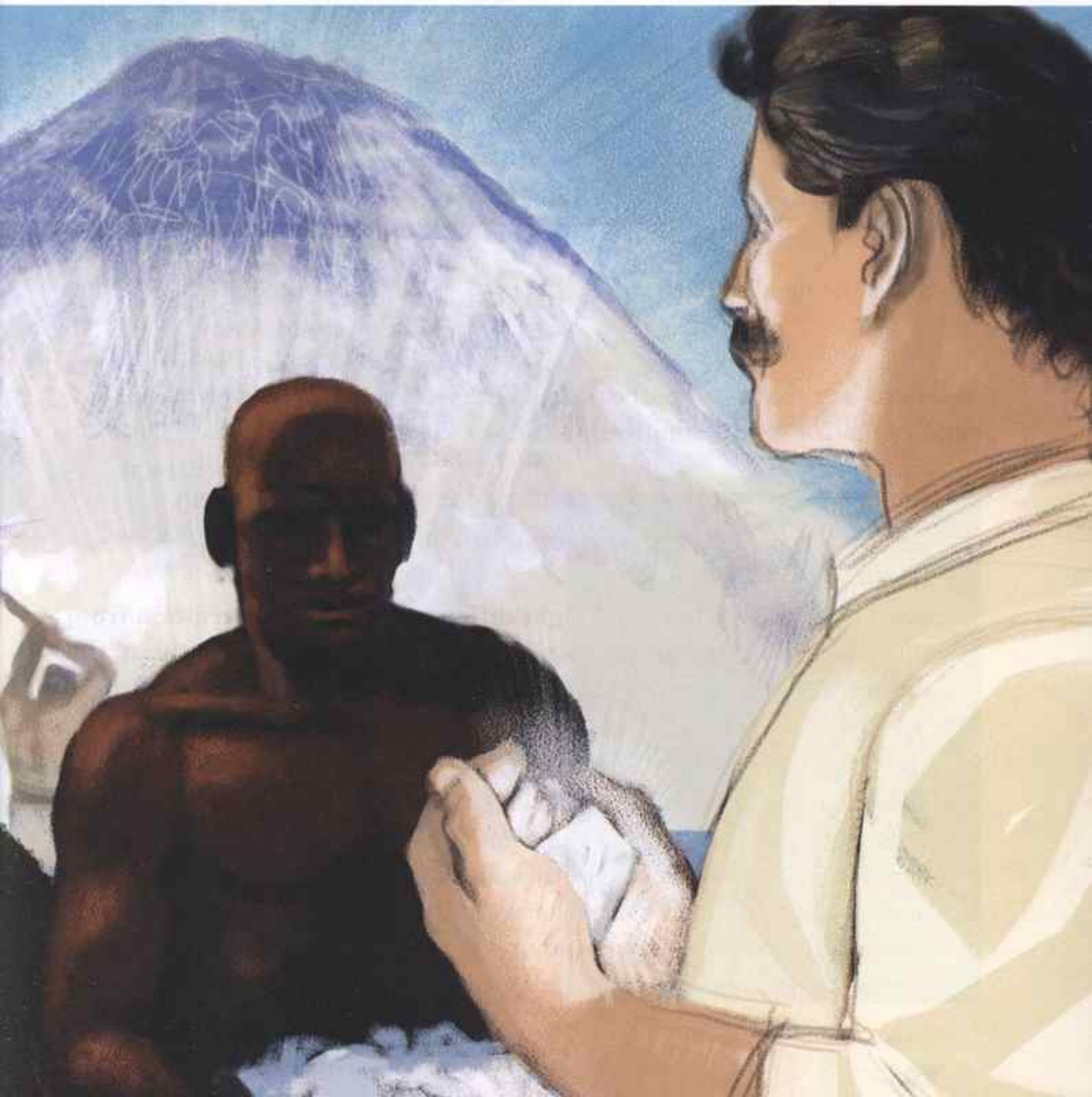
1. **colonel** : an important person in the army.

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

3. **arrested** : taken away and questioned by the police.

AN AMAZING DISCOVERY

for disturbing the peace. He escaped from prison and caught the train for New York, where he sold a few medium-sized diamonds. He got about two hundred thousand dollars in gold, but he did not want to sell anymore. In fact, he left New York just in time because people were talking about the discovery of a diamond mine, and everyone wanted to find diamonds. Young Fitz-Norman returned to Montana.



Go back to the text

1 For each question put a tick (✓) next to the correct answer (A, B or C).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 At the dinner table
John remembers seeing | A <input type="checkbox"/> a man and a girl.
B <input type="checkbox"/> two beautiful girls.
C <input type="checkbox"/> Percy's parents. |
| 2 The plates were made of | A <input type="checkbox"/> gold.
B <input type="checkbox"/> diamond.
C <input type="checkbox"/> crystal. |
| 3 At dinner John | A <input type="checkbox"/> fell asleep.
B <input type="checkbox"/> spoke about school.
C <input type="checkbox"/> couldn't speak for amazement. |
| 4 The diamond as big
as The Ritz is | A <input type="checkbox"/> in the house.
B <input type="checkbox"/> in the castle.
C <input type="checkbox"/> a mountain. |
| 5 John takes his bath | A <input type="checkbox"/> in the aquarium.
B <input type="checkbox"/> in hot and cold water.
C <input type="checkbox"/> in ice-cold water. |
| 6 John finds Percy | A <input type="checkbox"/> in Percy's sitting room.
B <input type="checkbox"/> in the breakfast room.
C <input type="checkbox"/> in his own sitting room. |

2 Setting

Read this description. Find eight differences in this description from the one of the house on page 21. Tell another student about the differences you have found.

The man did not have dark hair, he had white hair.

There was a young man with dark hair, who drank from a silver cup. There was a girl with a face like a flower with precious gold jewels in her hair. There were rooms with walls of gold and there were crystals of all shapes and sizes everywhere. On the walls of the splendid rooms there were diamond lamps, and on the floors there were Persian rugs of different types and sizes. At dinner all the plates were made of gold.

3 Summary

Make a summary of Fitz-Norman's discovery of the diamond mountain in your own words, using the pictures to help you.

**4 Find out!**

Use an encyclopedia or a search engine to find out about the American Civil War. Find the answers to these questions. Discuss them in class or with another student.

- 1 When did the American Civil War start and when did it finish?
- 2 What did the southern states, or Confederate States, not want to change?
- 3 Who was the president at the time?
- 4 Who won the war? What important change was brought by the American Civil War?



5 Vocabulary

There are nine words in the word puzzle. You can find some of these in Chapter Two. They are all words for different types of precious materials. These are materials that are rare and/or expensive and luxurious, for example: diamonds, gold, fur. Look carefully, the words can go in any direction.

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

Decide the best group for each word from the word puzzle and add some words of your own to each group.

STONES	METALS	OTHER MATERIALS
diamond	fur
.....
.....		
.....		

6 Choose one of the words from the word puzzle to use as an adjective for the nouns in the box. You can use more than one for each noun.

a diamond necklace, a ruby ring...

necklace floor coat glass ring plate coin

Diamonds

that Made History

The word diamond comes from the Greek word *adamas*, which means invincible. Diamonds were first mentioned in Roman literature in the first century AD. The Greeks and the Romans believed that diamonds were tears of the gods or small pieces from falling stars.

Through the centuries diamonds have become symbols of power and courage. But some diamonds are said to be connected with evil magic.

The Koh-i-noor


The Koh-i-noor has a long and fascinating history.

In 1304 it belonged to a Rajah¹ in India, where it remained until 1739, when Nadir, the Shah of Persia, successfully invaded² Delhi. During the victory celebrations Nadir suggested that he and the Rajah exchange turbans.³ He said it was a sign of a sincere and eternal friendship. A local legend said that the diamond was hidden in the Rajah's turban. The Rajah knew that he could not refuse and later, when Nadir took off the turban, he discovered that the legend was true. The diamond got its name because when he saw



1. **Rajah** : a male Indian ruler.
2. **invaded** : entered a place by force to take control of it.

3. **turbans** : long pieces of material which men from some religions wear around their heads.



it in the turban he exclaimed, “Kho-i-noor!” which meant “mountain of light”.

Nadir took the jewel back to Persia, where it remained until 1849. When the British took control of the Punjab, the diamond officially belonged to Great Britain and it was given to Queen Victoria. Today this famous diamond is part of the British Royal Family’s spectacular crown, which can be seen in the Tower of London, with the other Crown Jewels.

The Hope Diamond

Some diamonds are said to bring bad luck. People who believe this usually refer to the Hope Diamond, a strikingly beautiful, dark blue jewel. One of its first owners was Marie Antoinette, who was executed on the guillotine in 1793 during the French Revolution.

In 1830 the jeweler who cut the diamond died of grief¹ after learning that his son had stolen it. As a result of his father’s death, the son committed suicide, and the man who discovered the diamond among the young man’s possessions died the next day!

By 1839 the jewel was owned by the wealthy London banker, Henry Philip Hope, who gave the diamond its name. Some people believe that the “evil magic” of the diamond continued when the Hope family went bankrupt.²

Mrs Evalyn Walsh McLean was a very wealthy American woman who always said that anything that brought bad luck to others



1. **grief** : sadness when someone dies.

2. **bankrupt** : lost all their money.

brought only good luck to her. So in 1911 she bought the valuable diamond and wore it. However, after a while she suffered a series of personal tragedies, including the deaths of both her son and daughter, the mental illness of her husband and the bankruptcy of the family business.

In 1958, nine years after Mrs McLean's death, the American jeweler Harry Winston gave the 44.5-carat ¹ diamond to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Now everyone can admire its beauty without the danger of owning it.

The Taylor-Burton Diamond

This 69-carat, pear-shaped diamond was discovered in South Africa in 1966, and was sold at auction ² in 1969.

The famous jeweler Cartier bought it for over one million dollars.



The very next day the actor Richard Burton bought it from Cartier for his wife, Elizabeth Taylor. The diamond was then named the "Taylor-Burton Diamond". Elizabeth Taylor first wore the diamond for the 40th birthday party of Princess Grace of Monaco. She loved it and was often seen wearing it.

In 1978, after divorcing Burton, Taylor decided to sell the diamond for three million dollars. This money was used to build a hospital in Botswana, Africa.

1. **carat** : unit of measurement used for the weight of diamonds or gold.
2. **auction** : a sale in which things are sold to the person who offers the most money.



1 Comprehension

Answer these questions.

- 1 Where does the word *adamas* come from?
- 2 Where did the Shah of Persia find the Koh-i-noor?
- 3 Who does the Koh-i-noor now belong to?
- 4 Why do some people think the Hope Diamond brings bad luck?
- 5 What did Henry Winston do? Why did he do this?
- 6 When did Elizabeth Taylor first wear her famous diamond?
- 7 What did Elizabeth Taylor do with the money from the Taylor-Burton diamond?

2 Vocabulary

Look at these words in the text. Match them to their definition.

invincible tears evil spectacular strikingly suicide

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 very bad and possibly dangerous | 4 the act of killing yourself |
| 2 impossible to defeat | 5 drops of water from the eye |
| 3 in an unusually attractive way | 6 surprising and amazing |

3 Writing

Read the stories of the diamonds again carefully and look at the information given in each one. Then choose one of the questions below to answer. You should write your answer in about 200 words.

- 1 Write about another diamond you know of or have read about. You can use the Internet to help you, using the key words "diamonds" + "history".
- 2 Use your imagination to write your own story about a diamond that brings bad luck. Remember to include: who found the diamond, what happened to the people who had the diamond and where the diamond is now.

Before you read

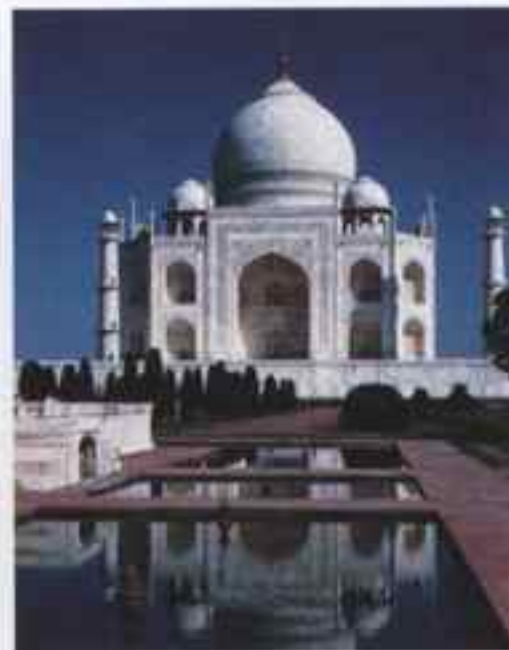
- 1 Which countries are these places in? Which country/countries do you think Fitz-Norman Washington traveled to?



A



B



C



D



E



2 Listening

The following sentences are wrong. Listen to the first part of Chapter Three and correct them.

- 1 Fitz-Norman decided to tell everyone about the discovery of the diamond.
- 2 On his journeys he talked to small shopkeepers and businessmen.
- 3 He left his brother all his money.
- 4 His son continued to make money from the diamond mine.

CHAPTER THREE

Kismine



n two weeks Fitz-Norman calculated that the diamond mountain was about equal in quantity to all the diamonds in the world. It was impossible to know its exact value. No one in the world had enough gold to buy it. And what could anyone do with such a huge diamond?

It was an amazing situation. In one sense, he was the richest man that ever lived; and yet, what was he worth? The discovery of such a diamond would create a disaster on the world market. The only thing he could do was to sell his discovery secretly.

Fitz-Norman started traveling to different parts of the world. With one hundred thousand dollars and two trunks filled with diamonds of all sizes he sailed to St Petersburg in Russia, where he stayed in a small hotel. He met with the court jeweler and announced that he had a diamond for the Czar.¹ He remained in St Petersburg for two weeks, moving from one hotel to another

1. **Czar** [zɑ:] : (also spelt Tsar) the male ruler of Russia before the Russian Revolution in 1917.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

because his life was in danger.

Fitz-Norman then moved on to leave for India. Before he left Russia he promised the Czar to return the next year with bigger and better diamonds. He then visited the capitals of twenty-two countries and talked with five emperors, eleven kings, three princes and a sultan.¹ At that time he calculated his wealth to be one billion dollars.

From 1870 until his death in 1900, the history of Fitz-Norman Washington was a long story of immense wealth. He married a lady from Virginia, had a son, and murdered his brother because he often got drunk and nearly told people their secret. There were a few other murders during these happy years of progress.

Before his death, he converted his money into gold and deposited it in banks all over the world. His son, Braddock, transformed the gold into a very rare element, radium, so that a billion dollars in gold could fit in a little box.

Three years after Fitz-Norman's death, his son decided that the business had gone far enough. His wealth was beyond calculation and could support all the Washingtons for generations, so he closed the diamond mine. But he knew that he had to protect his secret.

This was the family John T. Unger was staying with. This was the story he heard in his silver-walled sitting room that morning.

After breakfast John walked out of the great marble entrance and looked at the beautiful valley with its lakes, gardens and trees. He went down the marble steps and walked along some blue and white stones that seemed to go nowhere. He turned a

1. **sultan** : a ruler in some Muslim countries.



corner and saw a girl coming towards him. She was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen.

She was wearing a little white dress that came to just below her knees. Her pink feet were bare.¹ She was younger than John — not more than sixteen.

“Hello,” she said softly. “I’m Kismine.”

John could not believe his eyes.

“You didn’t meet me last night because I wasn’t feeling well. You met my sister, Jasmine.”

“Nice to meet you,” John said. “I hope you’re feeling better.”

She suggested that they sit down together.

John was critical about women. A single defect — a big ankle,² a loud voice, a cold look — was enough to make him lose interest. For the first time in his life he was sitting next to a girl who seemed to be perfect.

“Are you from the East?” asked Kismine with interest.


“No,” answered John, “I’m from Hades.”

“I’m going to school in the East this fall,”³ she said. “Do you think I’ll like it? I’m going to New York to Miss Bulge’s. It’s very strict,⁴ but father said I must not worry.”

“Your father wants you to be proud,” observed John.

“We are proud,” she answered, her eyes shining with pride. “None of us has ever been punished.⁵ Father said we never should be.”

1. **bare** : without shoes.

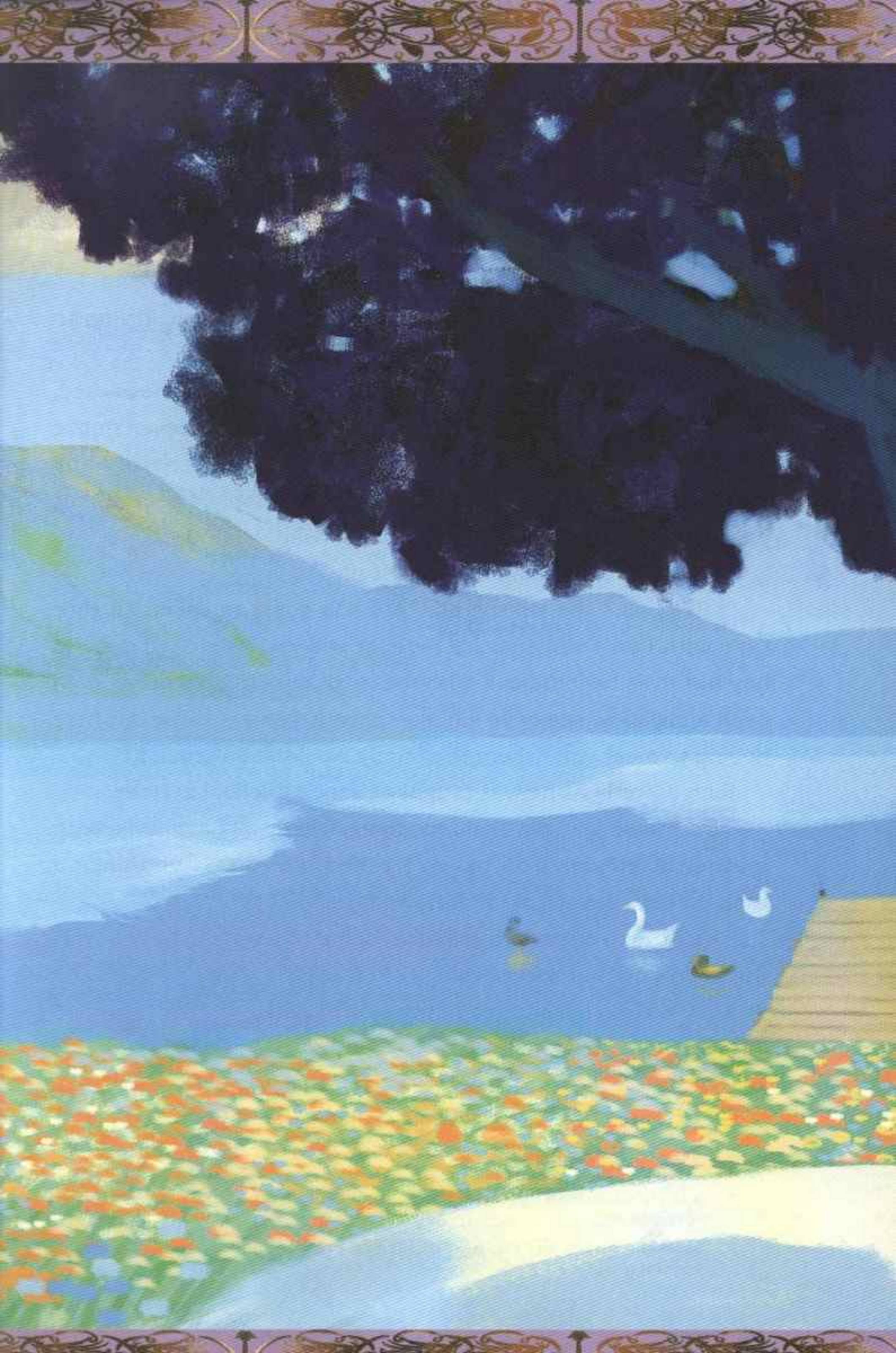
2. **ankle** : — 

3. **fall** : autumn (in American English).

4. **strict** : there are a lot of rules. Students are not allowed to do certain things.

5. **punished** : made to suffer in some way after doing something wrong.







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“Mother was — well, a little surprised,”¹ continued Kismine,” when she heard that you were from — where you are from, you know. But then, she’s Spanish and old-fashioned.”

“Do you spend much time out here?” asked John, trying to hide the fact that he was a bit hurt by this comment.

“Percy and Jasmine and I are here every summer.” She paused, and then said, “You know, I’m a very innocent girl. I never smoke or drink or read anything except poetry. I know hardly any mathematics or chemistry, and I dress very simply. I believe that girls should enjoy their youth in a good, healthy way.”

“I do, too,” said John enthusiastically.

“I like you,” she whispered. “Are you going to spend all your time with Percy while you’re here, or will you be nice to me? No boy has ever been in love with me in all my life. I’ve never even been allowed to see boys alone — except Percy. I came out here hoping to meet you, where the family wouldn’t be around.”

John bowed² as he was taught at dancing school in Hades.

“We should go now,” said Kismine sweetly. “I have to be with mother at eleven. You haven’t asked me to kiss you once. I thought boys always did that nowadays.”

“Well,” John answered proudly, “some of them do, but not me. Girls don’t do that sort of thing — in Hades.”

They walked back to the house side by side.

1. **a little surprised** : you will find out about Kismine’s mother’s surprise on page 43.
2. **bowed** : moved the top part of his body down and up again as a formal greeting.

Go back to the text

PET 1 Read the information in the text about Kismine's meeting with John. For each question put a tick (✓) next to the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1 John thinks Kismine
 - A ☐ looks older than her age.
 - B ☐ has ugly ankles.
 - C ☐ has a pretty dress.
 - D ☐ is beautiful.
- 2 Who said their teachers should never punish them?
 - A ☐ Kismine's father
 - B ☐ Kismine's mother
 - C ☐ Percy
 - D ☐ Jasmine
- 3 Kismine's mother is
 - A ☐ from Montana.
 - B ☐ from Hades.
 - C ☐ Mexican.
 - D ☐ Spanish.
- 4 What does Kismine like to read?
 - A ☐ chemistry books
 - B ☐ about maths
 - C ☐ poetry
 - D ☐ love letters
- 5 What did John do when Kismine said she liked him?
 - A ☐ He danced.
 - B ☐ He bowed.
 - C ☐ He kissed her on the cheek.
 - D ☐ He kissed her on the lips.

2 Summary

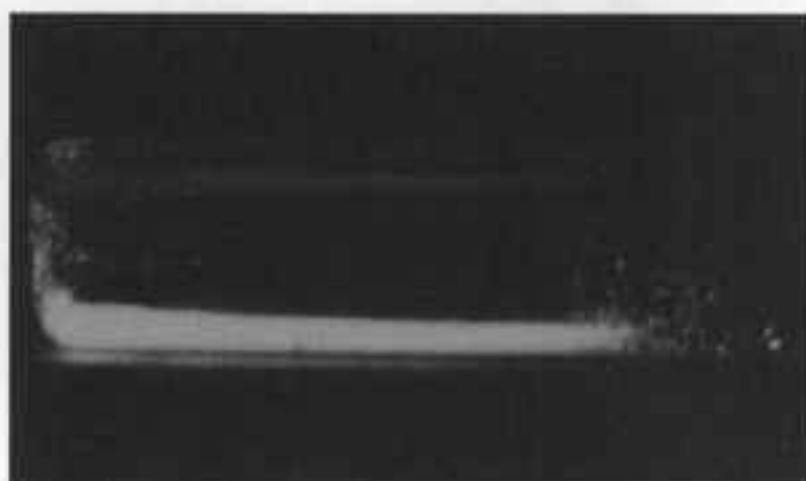
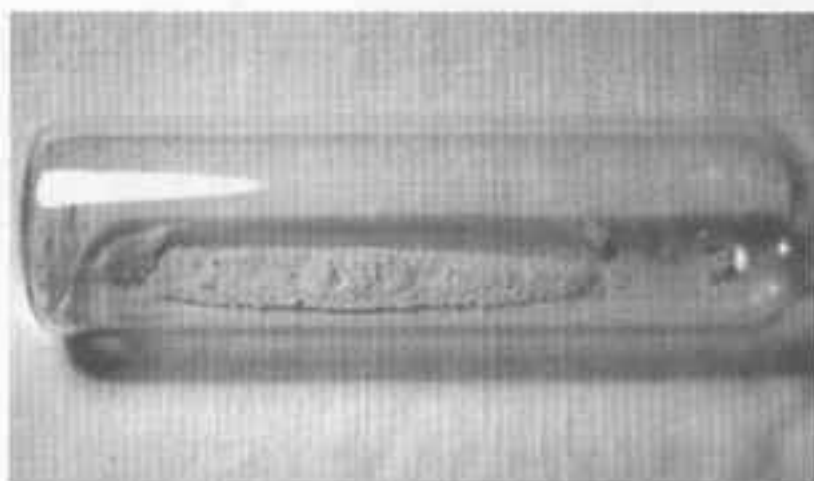
Complete each of these sentences with the information you know about the rest of Fitz-Norman's story.

- 1 The diamond mountain was equal to
- 2 He was the richest man in the world, but he
- 3 The only thing he could do was
- 4 He moved from one hotel to another because
- 5 From 1870 until his death in 1900 he was
- 6 He murdered his brother because
- 7 Before his death he deposited his gold
- 8 His son converted the gold

3 Find out!

Use an encyclopedia or the Internet to find out about radium. Find the answers to these questions. Discuss them in class or with another student.

- 1 Who discovered radium?
- 2 What can you use radium for?
- 3 Is radium dangerous?
- 4 Is radium more precious than gold? Why?



PET 4 Hades

In the story Hades is John's home town. This town does not exist in the USA, but Hades has an important place in history and mythology. Read the text about Hades. Choose the correct word for each space. Mark the letter next to the correct word (A, B, C, or D).

Hades

The Greek word Hades is (1) confused with the Christian idea of hell, and it is sometimes thought to be the same place. In the Greek Old Testament, the Hebrew word for "the place of the dead", *Sheol*, is translated as Hades.

In Greek mythology Hades, like *Sheol*, is (2) heaven nor hell, but the place the dead go until their future is decided. It is also referred to as the Underworld.

The name (3) from the god of the Underworld, who was also called Hades. Hades and his brothers Zeus and Poseidon (4) the world into three parts. Cold-hearted Hades received the Underworld. His kingdom and his palace is a dark place, like a bad dream you never (5) from. In the Greek Underworld the good go to live in green fields and truly bad people go to the worst parts of Hades.

Hades is also the god of wealth, (6) many precious materials come from underground.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 A never | B often | C too | D ever |
| 2 A neither | B or | C either | D also |
| 3 A come | B takes | C comes | D are |
| 4 A separating | B divided | C shared | D cut |
| 5 A leave | B arrive | C come | D wake up |
| 6 A because | B when | C why | D so |

- 5 "Mother was ... a little surprised when she heard that you were from — where you are from..."

Why do you think Kismine's mother is surprised?

T: GRADE 6

6 Speaking

Topic — money

Look at these verbs. They can all be used with the word “money”. Check you know their meaning. Use a dictionary to find any words you don’t know. Then ask and answer the questions.

earn take out lend spend borrow

- 1 Do you have a job or a part-time job? How much do you earn?
- 2 Have you ever lent money to anyone? Did they pay you the money back? Have you ever borrowed money?
- 3 Have you got a bank account? How often do you take out money from the bank?
- 4 How much do you spend on these things in a week?
clothes / music / food / going out with friends / mobile phone calls

Before you read

- 1** Before you read Chapter Four look at these sentences and answer the questions.

“He ... murdered his brother because he got drunk and nearly told people their secret. There were a few other murders during these happy years of progress.”

- 1 Who does this sentence refer to? Fitz-Norman Washington or Braddock Washington?
- 2 What else do the family do to keep their secret? Can you remember what happened to airplane pilots in Chapter One? Where do you think the airplane pilots are now?

- 2** Look at the picture on page 47. Find these things.

iron bars walking stick hole button

CHAPTER FOUR

The Hole



ohn stood looking at Mr Braddock Washington in the full sunlight. Braddock was about forty. He had a proud face, intelligent eyes and a strong body. He carried a walking stick with a single precious stone. He and Percy were showing John their property.

“The slaves ¹ live here,” he said, pointing at some marble houses. “They are the descendants of the ones my father brought with him from Virginia. Now there are two hundred and fifty of them. They have lived away from the world for so long that they have developed another language.”

“This is the golf course,” he continued, as they walked over the beautiful green grass. He smiled pleasantly at John.

“Are there many men in the cage, father?” asked Percy suddenly.

“One less than there should be,” Braddock Washington replied

1. **slaves** : people who are the property of another and must work for no money.



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angrily. "We've had some difficulties."

"Mother told me," said Percy, "that Italian teacher..."

"A terrible mistake," said Braddock Washington. "But of course there's a good chance that we got him. Perhaps he fell over a cliff. But even if he is free now, who will believe his story? However, I have two dozen men looking for him in different towns around here."

"Any luck?" asked Percy.

"Some. Fourteen of them reported that they each killed a man who looked like him, but they were probably after the reward."¹

He stopped talking. They came to a large hole in the ground covered by strong iron bars. Braddock Washington pointed to the hole with his walking stick. John stopped at the edge and looked down. He immediately heard shouting from below.

"Come on down to Hell!"

"Hello, boy! How's the air up there?"

"Hey! Throw us a rope!"

"Do you have an old sandwich for us?"

It was too dark to see clearly into the hole below, but John could tell from their voices and comments that they were middle-class Americans. Then Mr Washington touched a button in the grass with his walking stick and suddenly there was light.

"These are some men who had the misfortune of discovering the mountain," Braddock Washington said.

Below them there appeared a large hole in the earth that looked like the inside of a bowl. The sides were steep and made of glass. At the bottom there were about twenty men in

1. **reward** : an amount of money offered by the Washingtons to anyone who could help them.





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uniforms of airplane pilots. They all seemed to be healthy.

Braddock Washington went to the edge of the hole and asked in a friendly voice.

“Well, how are you, boys?”

Angry voices came from the huge hole.

A tall man held up his hand and said, “Let me ask you a few questions. You think you’re a fair man.”

“How could a man of my position be fair towards you?” Braddock Washington asked.

“All right!” the tall man cried. “We’ve talked about this before. You’re not fair but you’re human. Put yourself in our place for once. Why don’t you trust us to keep your secret?”

“Are you serious? I trusted one man to teach my daughter Italian, and last week he escaped.”

The prisoners suddenly cheered with happiness.

Braddock Washington was silent.

“You see,” he continued, “I have nothing against you. I like to see you enjoying yourselves. That’s why I didn’t tell you the whole story at once. The man — what was his name? — was shot by some of my men in fourteen different places.”

The pilots were suddenly silent.

Mr Washington took his walking stick and pushed the button in the grass. The light below went out and the hole was dark again.

Mr Washington, followed by the two boys, walked away on his green golf course.

July on the diamond mountain was a month of cool nights and warm, sunny days. John and Kismine were in love. Late one afternoon, when the music room was not in use, they spent an hour there together. He held her hand and she gave him such a



look that he whispered her name aloud. She moved towards him.


"Did you say 'Kismine'"? she asked softly, "or..."

She wanted to be sure. Neither one of them had ever kissed anyone before, but during the next hour it seemed to make little difference.

They decided to get married as soon as possible.



Go back to the text

 **1** Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is not correct, mark B.

	A	B
1 Percy only showed John the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 The slaves lived in marble houses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 There were a few pilots in the cage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The hole was in the golf course.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 The pilots were very hungry and looked unwell.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Braddock Washington asked a pilot to teach his daughter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Braddock Washington killed the Italian.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 John and Kismine’s relationship gradually became serious.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Understanding the story
Look at these lines from Chapter Four and answer the questions.

- 1
“The man ... was shot by some of my men in fourteen different places.”
What did Braddock Washington really mean by “fourteen different places?” What do you think the pilots understood?
- 2
“Did you say ‘Kismine’?”
What does Kismine think John wants to say?

3 Characters
Who did these things? Why?

- 1 He pointed to a hole in the ground with his walking stick.
- 2 They asked John for a rope.
- 3 He ran away after agreeing to teach Braddock Washington’s daughter.
- 4 They killed a person with the same description.

4 Find out!

Use an encyclopedia or the Internet to find out about the first aviators and airplanes. Answer these questions. Discuss them in class or with another student.

- 1 What is another name for the first airplanes?
- 2 In which war were the first warplanes used?
- 3 What were the Wright brothers famous for?



T: GRADE 6

5 Speaking

Topic — travel

Make a list of all the different methods of transport you can think of. Then ask another student these questions.

- 1 How do you prefer to travel?
- 2 Have you ever flown in an airplane? Where have you flown to?

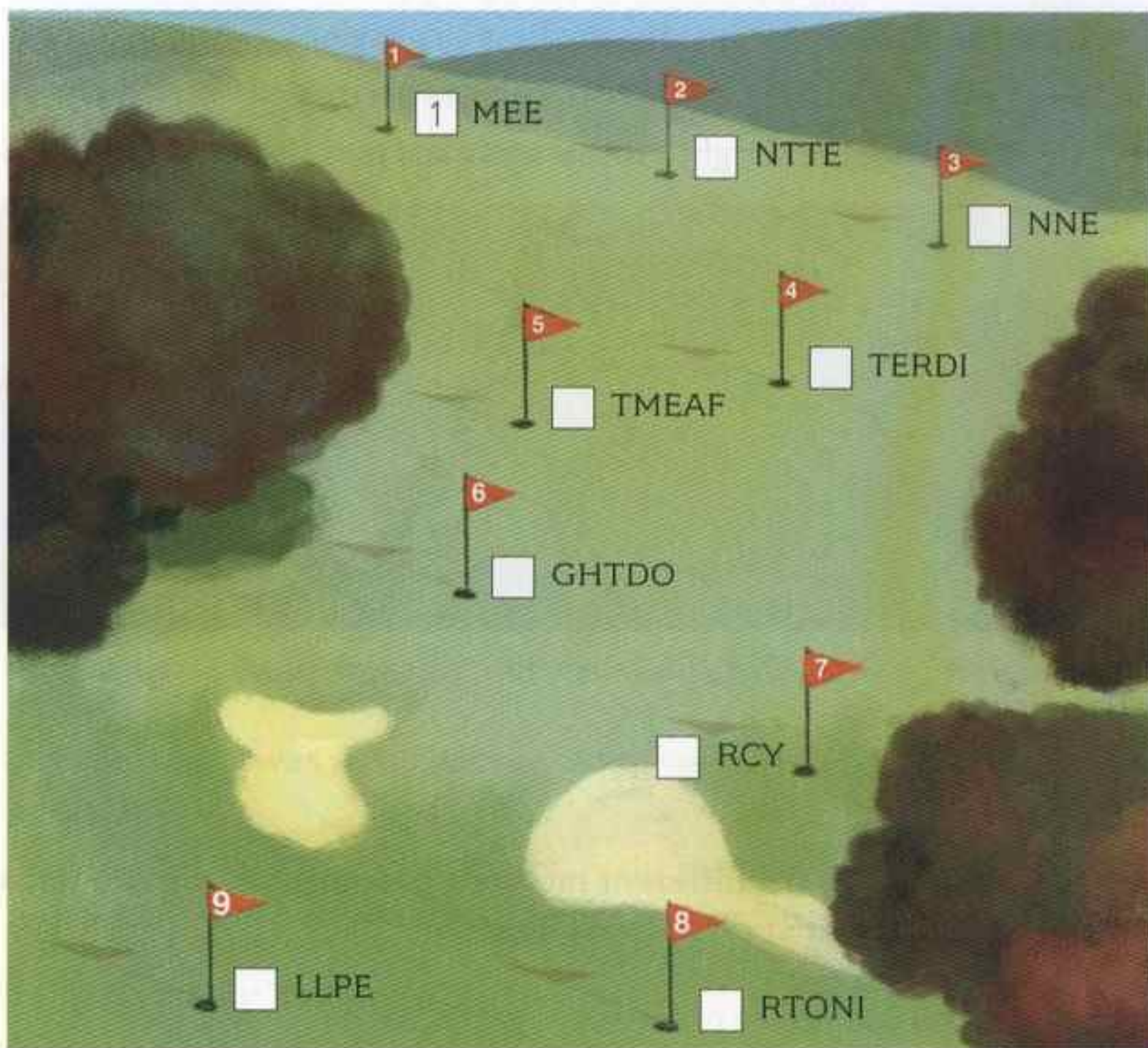
PET 6 Writing

Imagine you are one of the pilots in the hole. The Italian teacher passes you a note to say he is going to escape tonight after the lesson. Return his note and give him a message for your family (35-40 words). In your note you should:

- tell them how you are
- say where you are
- ask them to find help

7 Secret message

Kismine leaves John a secret message around the golf course. The words in the message have been divided and are not in the correct order. Follow the words on the golf course and re-write the message.



MEE _ _ _ _ _ ,
_ _ _ _ _ .

8 Speaking

John and Kismine decide to get married. They are both very young and John is Kismine's first boyfriend. Discuss these questions.

- 1 Do you think they should get married?
- 2 At what age can people get married in your country?
- 3 What reasons, other than love, are there to get married?

Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Five. Choose the correct picture for each question and put a tick (✓) in the box.

- 1 Which of these things didn't Mr Washington and the two boys do?



- 2 In which month do John and Kismine decide to get married?



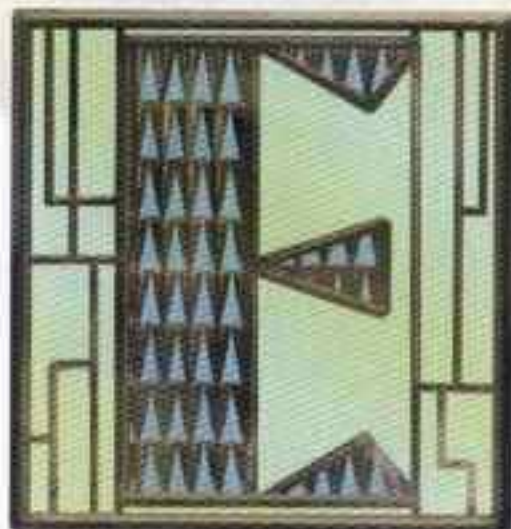
- 3 Who does Kismine say rich people inform when they get married?



- 2 Kismine says, "Let's talk about something more pleasant." Why do you think she says this?

CHAPTER FIVE

What Happened to the Guests?



very day Mr Washington and the two boys went hunting¹ or fishing, played golf or swam in the cool mountain lake. John found that Mr Washington was completely uninterested in any ideas or opinions except his own. Mrs Washington was always reserved and shy. She

was quite indifferent to her two daughters and was only interested in Percy, with whom she had long conversations in Spanish at dinner.

Jasmine, the older daughter, looked like Kismine but was not so pretty. Her favorite books were about girls from poor families. Percy and Kismine seemed to have the arrogant attitude of their father — they were both selfish.

John was fascinated by the castle, and one day he asked Percy, “Who built this wonderful castle?”

1. **hunting** : finding and killing animals.

"Oh," he answered, "I'm embarrassed to tell you, but it was a man who worked in the film industry. He was the only person we found who could work with an unlimited amount of money — although he couldn't read or write."

Towards the end of August John was sorry that he had to return to school. He and Kismine decided to run away and get married the following June.

"It would be nicer to get married here," Kismine said, "but I could never get father's permission to marry you. The best thing is to run away. It's terrible for rich people to get married in America because they have to inform the newspapers."

"I know," said John.



One afternoon late in August one of Kismine's comments changed the entire situation and terrified John.

They were in their favorite place and between kisses John said sadly, "Sometimes I think we'll never marry. You're too wealthy, too magnificent. You're not like other girls because you're too rich. I should marry the daughter of a rich businessman and be happy with her half-million dollars."

"I knew the daughter of a rich businessman once," said Kismine. "She was a friend of my sister who visited us."

"Oh, then you've had other guests?" John asked.

"Oh, yes," she said quickly, "we've had a few."

"But wasn't your father afraid they would tell others about this place?"

"Well, yes," she answered. "Let's talk about something more pleasant."

But now John was curious.

"Something more pleasant!" he said. "What's unpleasant



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about this? Weren't they nice girls?"

John was very surprised when Kismine started to cry.

"Yes — that — that's the trouble. I liked some of them very much. And Jasmine did too. But she continued inviting them anyway. I couldn't understand it."

John suddenly went cold.

"Do you mean... What happened to them?" asked John.

"Father took no chances — and Jasmine kept inviting them, and they had such a good time."

John was horrified by what he heard and sat there open-mouthed.

"Now I've told you and I shouldn't have," she said drying her dark blue eyes.

"Do you mean that your father murdered them before they left?"

She nodded. ¹ "In August usually — or early in September. It's only natural for us to get all the pleasure out of them first."

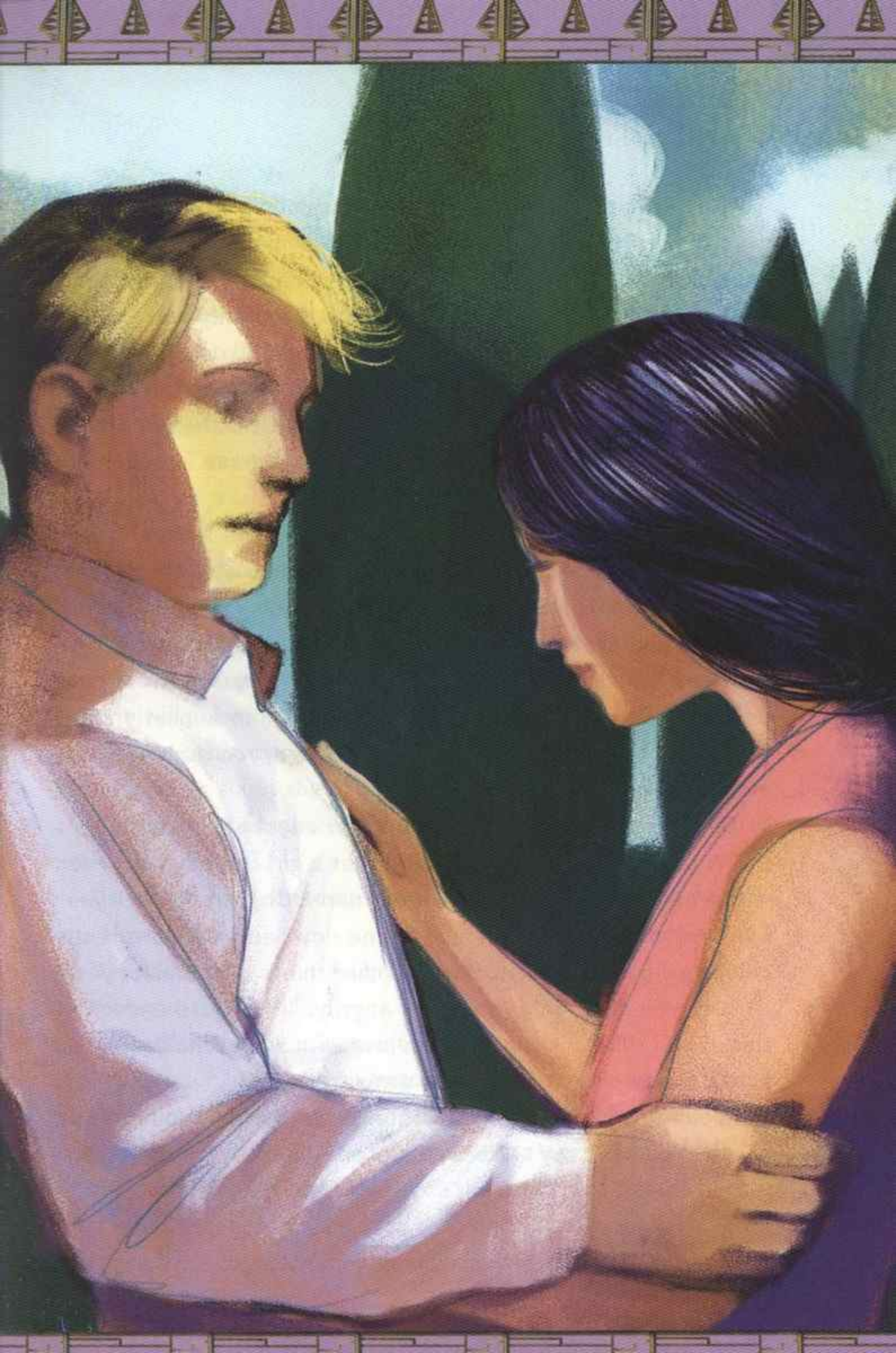
"How absolutely terrible. How? Why? I must be going mad. Did you really say that?"

"I did," Kismine said quietly. "We can't imprison them like the pilots because we would be able to see them everyday. That would make us feel very bad. To make it easier for Jasmine and me, father always did it sooner than we expected. That way we didn't have to say goodbye."

"So you murdered them?" cried John.

"It was done very nicely. They were drugged while they were sleeping — and their families were always told that they had died of a disease."

1. **nodded** : moved her head up and down to indicate yes.





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"But, I can't understand why you continued inviting them."

"I didn't!" cried Kismine. "I have never invited anyone. They were Jasmine's guests. And they always had a very good time. Jasmine gave them the nicest presents, especially towards the end. I will probably have visitors too — then I won't feel so bad about it. We can't let such a thing as death stand in the way¹ of enjoying our life. Think of how lonely it would be here if no one ever came to visit. Why, father and mother have lost some of their best friends, just as we have."

"And so," cried John, "and so you let me love you and pretended to return my love. And you talked about marriage, knowing that I would never leave this place alive."

"No," she protested. "Not anymore. I did at first. You were here and I thought your last days should be pleasant for both of us. But then I fell in love with you, and — I'm honestly sorry you're going to be killed. But if you are killed, you can't ever kiss another girl."

Oh, really! Is that what you think?" cried John fiercely.

"Well, yes... I have always heard that a girl can have more fun with a man she knows she can never marry. Oh, why did I tell you? I've probably ruined your good time now, and we were really enjoying ourselves. I knew it would make things quite sad for you."

"Oh, you did?" said John very angrily. "I've heard enough of this. If you think it's fun to fall in love with a boy who isn't much better than a corpse,² then stay away from me."

"You're not a corpse," she protested in horror. "You're not a corpse. You can't say I kissed a corpse."

1. **stand in the way of** : obstruct, stop.

2. **corpse** [kɔ:ps] : dead body.



"I didn't say that."

"Yes, you did. You said I kissed a corpse."

"I didn't."

Their voices were loud, but when they heard footsteps they became silent. A moment later Braddock Washington was looking at them through the rose bushes.

"Who kissed a corpse?" he asked.

"Nobody," answered Kismine quickly. "We were just joking."

"What are you two doing here?" he asked. "Kismine, you should read or play golf with your sister. Go read. Go play golf. I don't want to find you here when I return."

Then he bowed to John and left.

"See?" said Kismine angrily, when her father left, "See what you've done? We can never meet again. He won't let me meet you. He will poison you if he thinks we're in love."

"We're not in love anymore." cried John fiercely. "He doesn't have to worry about that. And don't think I'm going to stay here any longer. In six hours I'll be over those mountains, no matter what I have to do."

They were both standing and Kismine came close and put her arm through his.

"I'm going too."


"You must be mad!"

"Of course I'm going," she interrupted.

His love for her suddenly returned. She was his — she would go with him and share the dangers. He put his arms around her and kissed her. After all, she saved him, she loved him.

They walked back slowly towards the castle and discussed how they would escape. They decided that since Braddock Washington had seen them together they should leave the next night.

Go back to the text

 **1** For each question put a tick (✓) next to the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1 Why can't Kismine and John get married in the house?
 - A ☐ They wouldn't get her father's permission.
 - B ☐ They would have to tell the newspapers where the house was.
 - C ☐ It's the end of August and it's too late.
 - D ☐ They have to return to school.
- 2 Why does John sometimes think they will never get married?
 - A ☐ He thinks Kismine is too rich.
 - B ☐ He thinks Kismine is too beautiful.
 - C ☐ He thinks Kismine doesn't really love him.
 - D ☐ He thinks she will marry a businessman.
- 3 How did her father murder the guests?
 - A ☐ He imprisoned them and then drugged them.
 - B ☐ He drugged them while they were sleeping.
 - C ☐ He killed them with a knife while they were sleeping.
 - D ☐ He kept them in a hole in the ground.
- 4 How does Kismine talk about the fact that John is going to be murdered?
 - A ☐ She is very cold and doesn't care about him.
 - B ☐ She is very upset and asks him to run away.
 - C ☐ She is worried about what is going to happen to him.
 - D ☐ She is quite selfish and doesn't seem very worried about it.
- 5 Where is Braddock Washington when he sees them?
 - A ☐ He's at some steps near the house.
 - B ☐ He's not far from the golf course.
 - C ☐ He's behind some rose bushes.
 - D ☐ He's playing golf.
- 6 What do Kismine and John decide?
 - A ☐ John should escape the next night.
 - B ☐ They should escape together the next night.
 - C ☐ They should climb a mountain and go to Fish.
 - D ☐ They shouldn't let her father know about their plans to get married.

2 Characters

Unscramble the words to find adjectives to describe the character and physical appearance of John and/or Kismine.

- 1

atefubilu
- 2

slsfieh
- 3

alhwyte
- 4

rynifdel
- 5

yhs
- 6

lrveec
- 7

tolepi
- 8

dlobn
- 9

mhensoda



3 Complete the two columns for some of the other characters in the book. Use the information in the text to help you describe the characters. You can use your own imagination as well as the pictures in the book.

	What is he/ she like?	What does he/ she look like?
Percy		
Braddock Washington		
Mrs Washington		
Jasmine		

4 Guess who

Now tell another student about one of the characters but do not tell them the name of the character you are talking about. Let them guess which character you have chosen.

5 Your opinion

Choose the answer which is closest to your opinion.

1 Is Jasmine selfish?

- A ☐ Yes, she doesn't care about what happened, just about her own happiness.
- B ☐ No, she grew up in this way and it was normal for guests to disappear without asking questions why.
- C ☐ Not really. She is just lonely and doesn't see why she shouldn't have friends.

2 Does Kismine really love John?

- A ☐ No, she just thinks it is fun to have a boyfriend.
- B ☐ Yes, but she hasn't thought about their future until now.
- C ☐ No, Kismine likes John but she is too young to know what love meant.

3 Does Percy behave like a friend to John?

- A ☐ No, he is arrogant and wanted John to come to his house to show him how wealthy he was.
- B ☐ No, he doesn't care about him much after he arrived or about what happens to him.
- C ☐ Yes, John was one of the first friends he had. Like his sisters, he doesn't ask too many questions about what is going to happen.

4 Does Braddock Washington have any choice in what he did to the guests?

- A ☐ No, if anyone spoke about their experience, it was the end for him and all his family.
- B ☐ Yes, he could tell them they are going to be killed to frighten them into not telling his secret, but let them go.
- C ☐ No, but he does have a choice about inviting them or not.

6 Vocabulary

Look at the words in box. Find the ones you don't know in a dictionary. For which sports do you use these words? Look at the pictures. Find as many words as you can in the pictures. Then add some more words of your own.

umpire batsman net mask flippers wetsuit
racket diver glove stumps kneepads
boxing ring clubs cart tee hole



Some verbs naturally go together with certain nouns.

Match a verb in A to a noun in B. Find the words in a dictionary and look at the examples your dictionary gives you.

A go play do score wear watch

B helmet exercise ice-skating film chess goal

T: GRADE 5

7 Speaking

Topic – entertainment

Ask some other students in the class these questions. Then make some more of your own about sport and entertainment.

- 1 What do you like doing in your free time?
- 2 Do you play any sports? Do you prefer to watch sport or to play it?
- 3 Have you ever been to the theatre? What did you see?

Before you read

- 1 Look at the pictures and solve the anagrams. When you finish, four of the words can be used to complete the puzzle below to read a message (in the shaded parts) to John from Jasmine, Kismine's sister.



drigni tobso



foro



ngu



artla



andw



ayrs

1 0 2 3 N 4 R

- 2 Look at the title of Chapter Six. Choose the best definition of the word "bribe" from the choices below. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- 1 ☐ An amount of money given to government officials.
- 2 ☐ Money given as a present in return for something you want.
- 3 ☐ A dishonest way of earning money.

3 Who do you think is offering the bribe in Chapter Six?



4 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Six. For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- 1 Why did John wake up?
 - A ☐ He heard a button near his bed being pressed.
 - B ☐ He heard a loud noise.
 - C ☐ He had a dream that his life was in danger.
- 2 Who came into the hall?
 - A ☐ Braddock Washington
 - B ☐ Percy
 - C ☐ The three slaves
- 3 John thought Braddock Washington and his men wanted to
 - A ☐ kill the pilots.
 - B ☐ run away.
 - C ☐ kill him.
- 4 Braddock Washington was probably going with
 - A ☐ Kismine.
 - B ☐ Percy.
 - C ☐ more slaves.
- 5 What is really happening?
 - A ☐ Airplanes are firing at them.
 - B ☐ The Italian is attacking them.
 - C ☐ The guards were shooting their guns at Kismine's father.
- 6 What do John and Kismine do?
 - A ☐ They look for guns on the roof to help fight back.
 - B ☐ They go to watch from the roof garden.
 - C ☐ They hide from the bombs in the garden.

CHAPTER SIX

The Bribe



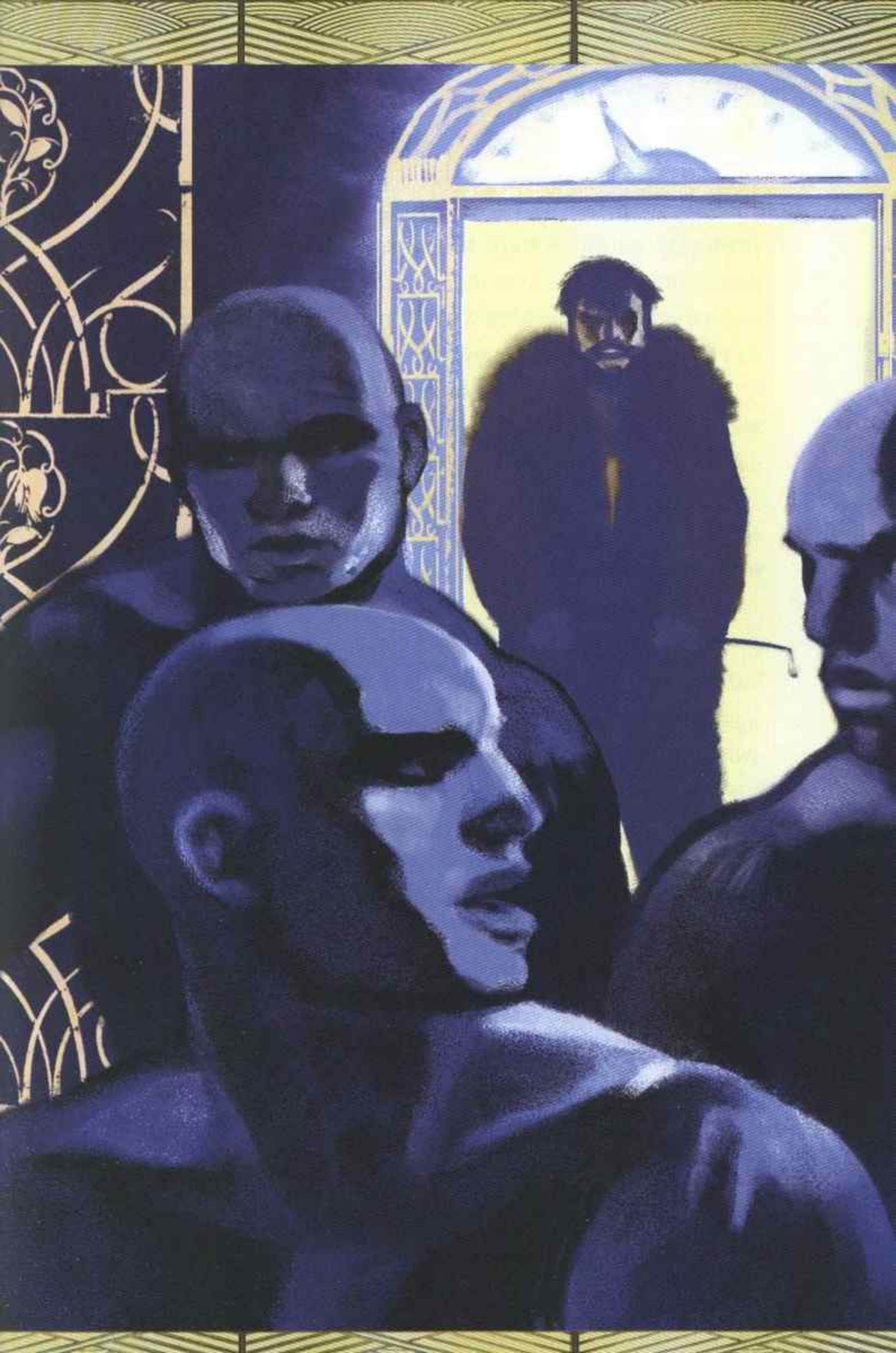
ong after midnight John woke up suddenly because he heard a loud noise outside his room. Then he heard some footsteps and a whisper. He knew his life was in danger and he was afraid.

With a sudden movement he pressed the button near his bed and the next moment he was sitting in the bath in the next room.

He jumped out wet and cold, and ran for the door. He stood near the big staircase and everything was silent and beautiful. Then two things happened at once. The door of his own sitting room opened and three slaves entered the hall.

Then Braddock Washington appeared in the elevator, wearing a fur coat and riding boots. He realized at once that these men wanted to kill him. They looked at Braddock Washington, who shouted, "Get in here! All three of you! Quick!"

The three slaves ran into the elevator. Something very serious was happening, something much more serious than his murder. But what could it be? Were the pilots trying to escape? Or had the people of Fish discovered the valley? John did not know.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

He heard the elevator go up and down again. Percy was probably going to help his father, he thought. This was his opportunity to join Kismine and plan their immediate escape. He waited until the elevator was silent for several minutes and then he returned to his room and dressed quickly.

The door of Kismine's sitting room was open and the lamps were on. Kismine was standing near the window, listening to something. As John entered she turned towards him.

"Oh, it's you," she whispered, walking towards him. "Did you hear them?"

"I heard your father's slaves in my..."

"No," she interrupted. "Did you hear the airplanes?"

"Airplanes? Perhaps that was the sound that woke me."

"There are at least a dozen. I saw one a few moments ago against the moon. One of the guards fired his gun and my father woke up. We're going to start shooting at them immediately."

"Are they here on purpose?"¹

"Yes — it's that Italian who escaped — but let's go up to the roof garden and watch from there."

She took his hand and they went up to the roof garden in the elevator, where John kissed her. From the roof garden they could see a dozen bombers flying in a circle and soon the anti-aircraft guns were attacking them. Kismine clapped her hands happily, but a moment later the bombers began dropping their bombs and the valley was in flames.

The airplanes began attacking the anti-aircraft guns, and soon one of them was destroyed. After a while only two guns were left. They could not protect the castle much longer.

1. **on purpose** : intentionally, not by accident.



“Come on,” John cried, pulling Kismine’s arm. “We have to go now. Don’t you realize that those airplanes will attack you if they see you?”

Kismine left the roof garden unwillingly.¹ “We’ll have to wake Jasmine,” she said as they hurried towards the elevator. Then she added with a sort of childish delight, “We’ll be poor, won’t we? Like people in books. I won’t have any parents and I’ll be completely free. Free and poor. What fun!”

She stopped and gave John a happy kiss.

“It’s impossible to be both free and poor,” said John seriously. “I would choose to be free and not poor. You should bring your jewelry with you.”

Ten minutes later the two girls met John in the dark corridor. They went through the magnificent halls for the last time and stood for a moment out on the terrace and watched the battle.

Kismine led John and Jasmine along a path to a hiding place. From there they could watch the battle in the valley and escape when necessary.

It was three o’clock in the morning when they reached their hiding place. Jasmine sat against a large tree and fell asleep immediately. John and Kismine sat together and watched the battle. Shortly after four o’clock the last gun was destroyed in a cloud of red smoke. The airplanes were flying closer to the ground. Soon they would land and that would be the end of the Washingtons.

As the shooting stopped the valley became quiet. The castle stood dark and silent. It was beautiful without light as it had

1. **unwillingly** : upset because it was something she didn’t want to do.







The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

been beautiful in the sun. John saw that Kismine, like her sister, was sleeping.

Some time later John heard footsteps along the path. He waited in silence for them to pass. Then he continued walking up the mountain. He felt that someone was there, ahead of him. He slowly lifted his head above the edge to see who it was.

Braddock Washington was standing on top of the mountain against the sky, which was gray just before dawn. John watched Braddock Washington, who was lost in his thoughts. He was as still as a statue. Then suddenly he told the two slaves who were at his feet to lift a huge object that was between them. The first rays of the morning sun hit the magnificent huge diamond as the slaves slowly lifted it. Then Braddock Washington lifted his head and began to speak with immense pride.

“You out there!” he cried. “You...there!” He paused for a moment, his hands were raised.

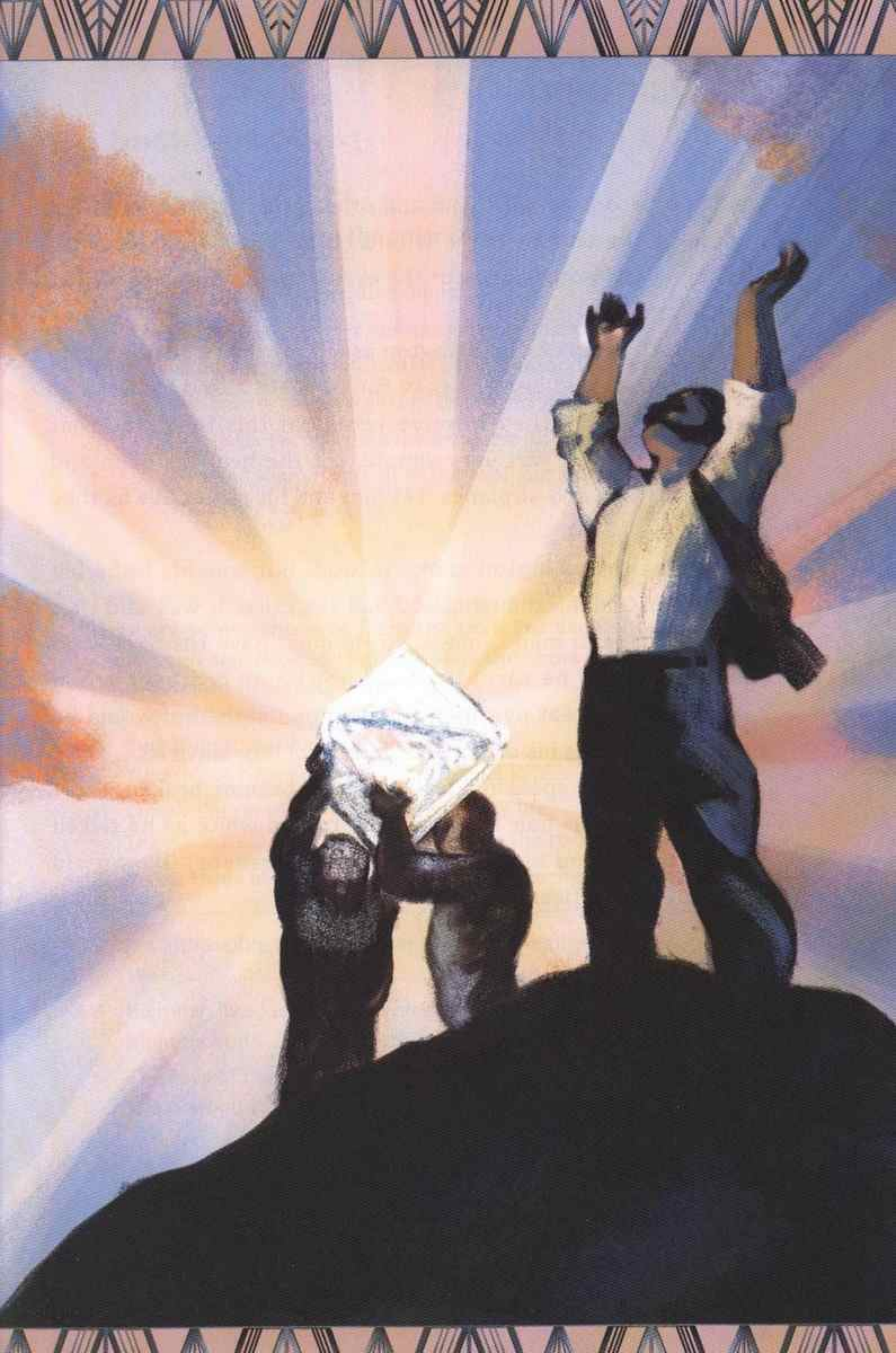
What was he doing? Was he praying? ¹ John thought.

“Oh, you up there!” The voice became strong and confident. He was not praying. “You there...”

John listened breathlessly but he could only hear a few words here and there. Then he suddenly realized that Braddock Washington was offering a bribe to God. The diamond in the hands of his slaves was a sample — a promise of more to follow.

Braddock Washington would give to God the greatest and most perfect diamond in the world. The diamond was so immense it could become an enormous building. It could be made into a great church. Many men would work on it for years and it

1. **praying** : speaking to God to ask him for something.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

would be decorated with gold and other precious metals. In the middle of the church there would be an altar of iridescent ¹ radium, which would burn out the eyes of anyone who looked at it while praying.

In return Braddock Washington asked for only a simple thing, a thing that would be very easy for God. He asked that things return to the way they were yesterday at this time, and that they remain so. It was very simple. Let the heavens open and take these men and airplanes. Let him and his slaves live as they did before.

Braddock Washington spoke to God. But was his bribe big enough for God, he thought. God had His price. It was said that God was made in man's image, so He must have His price. And the price would be rare. It would not be an ordinary stone cathedral or a great pyramid. His diamond cathedral would be superior. That was his offer. God could take it or leave it.

As he finished speaking, his sentences became broken, short and uncertain. His hair had gradually turned white as he talked and now he lifted his head high to the heavens, like an old prophet — magnificently mad.

1. **iridescent** : the colors change when seen in different lights.

Go back to the text

1 Summary

Number the sentences in the order they happen.

- 1 ☐ Two slaves lift the huge diamond.
- 2 ☐ John wakes up after he hears a loud noise.
- 3 ☐ Braddock Washington offers the diamond to God.
- 4 ☐ John meets the two girls in the corridor.
- 5 ☐ Three slaves run into the elevator with Braddock Washington.
- 6 ☐ John and Kismine go up to the roof garden to watch the airplanes.

2 Language

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

- 0 Two things happened at once.
Two things happened at *the same time*
- 1 They went up to the roof garden in the lift.
They lift to the roof garden.
- 2 It was three in the morning when they reached their hiding place.
They at their hiding place at 3 a.m.
- 3 It's impossible to be together at the same time.
We at the same time.
- 4 Kismine, like Jasmine, was sleeping.
Kismine and both sleeping.
- 5 The rays of the sun hit the diamond.
The diamond shone in at dawn.

Braddock Washington was standing at the top of the mountain

We use the Past Continuous:

- to talk about an action we were doing *when* something else happened in the past.

When she arrived, I was talking to her father.

- to describe an action or events, similar to the way we use the Present Continuous for now.

They're reading now because it's raining, but this morning they were playing outside.

3 Complete these sentences with one of the verbs in the Past Continuous.

look for watch drive cry carry

- 1 John was amazed. He was in a beautiful car and they towards Percy's house.
- 2 Fitz-Norman Washington gold when he found the diamond mine.
- 3 John when he left his parents.
- 4 John and Kismine everything from the roof garden.
- 5 The slaves the huge diamond between them.

4 Match a sentence or a question (1-5) to the answer (A-E) to complete these short dialogues.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Your mum said you weren't at home. | A <input type="checkbox"/> Really, what was he doing? |
| 2 Were you wearing that red dress? | B <input type="checkbox"/> No, I was still studying in Holland. |
| 3 I saw Jim in town on Saturday. | C <input type="checkbox"/> Colder. It was raining, too. |
| 4 Was it this cold here yesterday? | D <input type="checkbox"/> No, I wasn't. I was out taking the dog for a walk. |
| 5 You weren't living in England then. | E <input type="checkbox"/> No, I was wearing my pink one. |

5 The slave trade

Read the text and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, choose the correct word (A, B, C or D).

The slave trade has existed since the (0) days. However, the greatest example of the (1) of slavery is no doubt the great numbers (2) men, woman and children who were taken in their thousands from Africa, to (3) slaves in the "New World". Many industries, such as cotton, tobacco, and



sugar, depended on these slaves for their profits. (4) for the slaves was hard. Their slave owner paid money for them, like he did for other "goods". A slave was then considered his property. Although the slaves had to accept (5) conditions, many slaves protested and there were violent events in the history of slavery in America. Slavery came to an (6) in most of the northern states in the early 1800s, but it was not until the 1860s that slaves were made (7) by law in the south.

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 0 A earliest | B latest | C earlier | D all |
| 1 A bad | B cruel | C cruelty | D unkind |
| 2 A in | B from | C of | D to |
| 3 A work | B being | C working | D become |
| 4 A Exist | B Life | C Worked | D Living |
| 5 A there | B that | C these | D this |
| 6 A end | B finish | C ended | D over |
| 7 A free | B legal | C paid | D master |

INTERNET PROJECT

In two groups use a search engine to find a web encyclopedia or the websites your teacher gives you to do a class project. When you finish, display the results of your group's project.

Group A: Find out about the slave trade in the south of the USA.

- ▶ Why did a lot of white people in the South want to keep the system of slavery?
- ▶ What was life like for the slaves in the South?

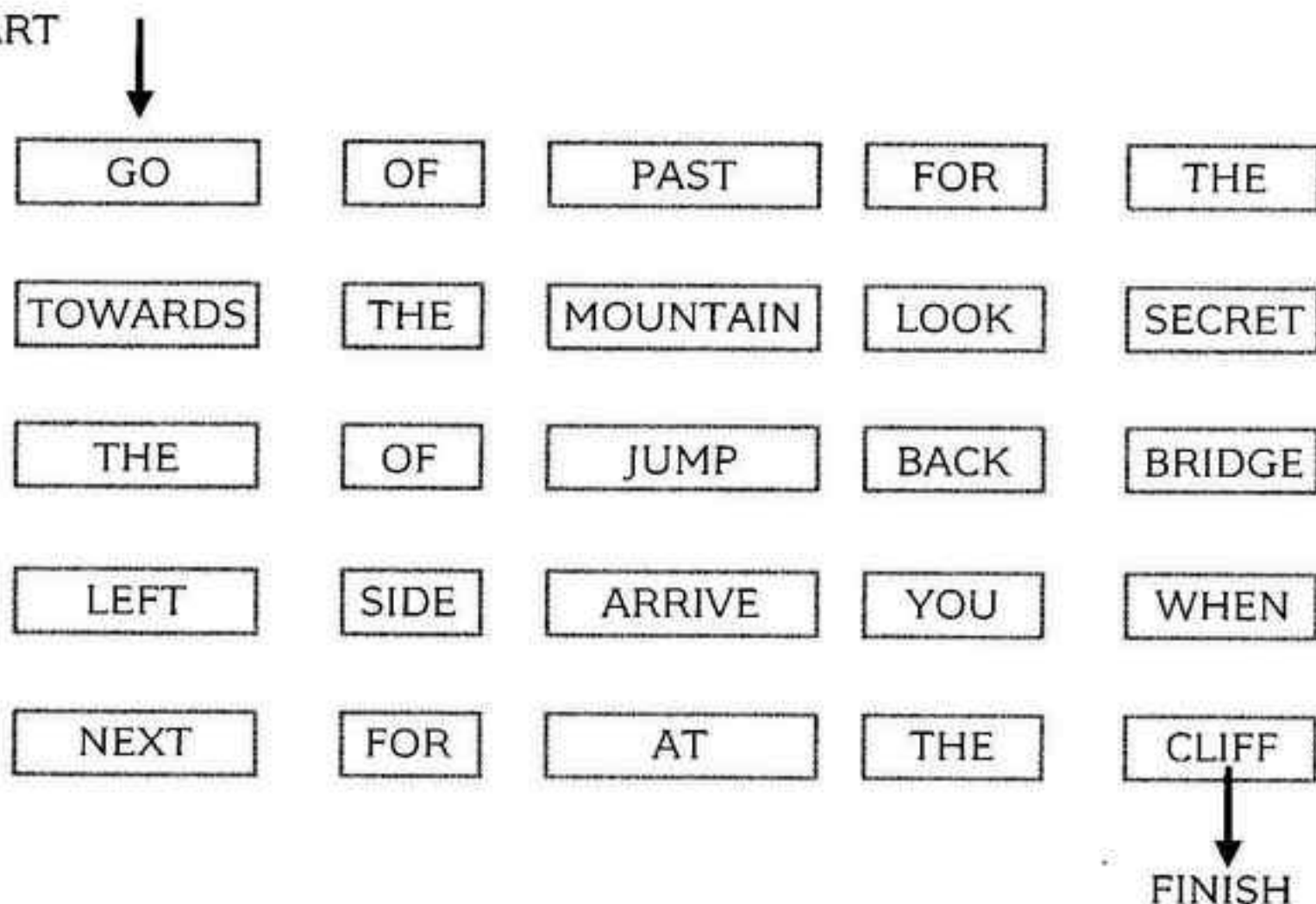
Group B: Find out about the people who wanted to end the slave trade.

- ▶ What were they called?
- ▶ What were the main reasons they gave for wanting to end the slave trade?

6 Maze – Escape from the mountain!

Find your way out of the maze by the following the correct instructions to escape. You can go backwards, forwards, up or down, but not diagonally. You don't have to use all the words.

START



El Dorado and the *American Dream*

The search for incredible wealth, and the consequences of finding it, is often told throughout history as a mixture of dreams and disasters. One such example is the search by sixteenth-century European explorers for El Dorado.

El Dorado, Spanish for “the golden one”, was a mythical place. It was said that there was so much gold that the chief was covered from head to toe in gold dust.¹ In 1528, Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca returned to Europe and spoke of seven golden cities in the area of modern-day New Mexico and near the Mexican border. On hearing the news, another explorer, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado,

immediately left Spain for North America to discover if this was true. Other explorers thought that El Dorado was in South America. The English explorer Sir Walter Raleigh searched for El Dorado in Guyana, even marking its “location” on a map.

None of these explorers ever found El Dorado. El Dorado simply became a symbol of the Spanish obsession with finding wealth in the Americas, an obsession which gave Spain many new places, but not El Dorado.



1. dust : powder that forms on surfaces.

A lot of the early settlers¹ in North America did not realize there was already a lot of material wealth in the land where they lived. Many of them were simple people and their hopes on arriving in America were usually to have enough land to build their houses on and to grow food. At the time of the American Revolution (1775-83), a lot of America, particularly to the west of the Rocky Mountains, had not been discovered by the new settlers. After the Revolution the soldiers were now without work. They started traveling to the West, where they realized that it was possible to find their fortune very quickly and without too much difficulty. Many people looking for wealth followed as a result.

In 1848, gold was discovered in California. This led to an important period in American history, now known as the "gold rush".² This also, in part, formed the basis of the "American Dream", a belief that everyone has equal possibilities to succeed and gain wealth through hard work and determination. However, in nineteenth-century North America, like today, not everyone was lucky and many of the people looking for gold did not find any. Instead they were faced with the hard realities of a new, unfamiliar life.

"The Diamond as Big as The Ritz" was written shortly before



1. **settlers** : people who moved to a new place to live there.
2. **gold rush** : when a lot of people went to find gold at the same time.



Three men, with a dog, panning for gold in a stream.

a time known as the "Great Depression". The Great Depression started in 1929 and lasted for about ten years. A lot of people could not find work and did not have enough money to live. It brought a new reality to many Americans, as there were no longer the same possibilities of becoming rich. Hard work and determination were not enough anymore. During this time many wealthy people lost large amounts of money very quickly. It was a big shock for these people to return to their life as it had been before they or their families were rich.

1 Comprehension

Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is not correct, mark B.

	A	B
1 El Dorado is the name of the chief of a mythical city.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 The Spanish never found El Dorado.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Early settlers went to America to look for gold.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The American Revolution lasted for eight years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 In the early 1800s it was easy to make your fortune in America, especially in the West.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 The American Dream is based on the belief that anyone can find gold.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 The Great Depression stopped people believing in the American Dream.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



CLASS PROJECT



A search for the new "El Dorado"

In groups decide which area of the world you think is the new El Dorado today. Imagine you and your group want to go there to make money. Then write a short report on the following things:

- ▶ What type of "wealth" does this area offer? Give examples.
- ▶ Why do people go there? What are they looking for?
- ▶ What effect will plans for new wealth have on the environment and the people who live there? (Will a new hotel mean destroying a forest? Will people want to work in tourism if they haven't got a job all year round?)
- ▶ When you complete your research, decide how your group will make your money and tell the rest of the class. Your ideas must have advantages for everyone, and not only your group.

Before you read

- 1 Look at the pictures on pages 85 and 89. Find these things:

leaves column steps smoke tablecloth glass food

- 2 Imagine you are going to try and escape from the mountain. You have a choice of three of these objects. Which would you take? Discuss your choices with another student.

blanket diamonds books trumpet
money food gun clothes gold



3 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Seven and complete the spaces with the missing words.

As John stared in (1), something very strange began happening (2) him. The sky seemed to become dark for an instant and the wind started (3) There seemed to be (4) playing far away. For a time there was (5) and the birds' songs stopped. There seemed to be the sound of (6)

That was all. Then the dawn (7) as before and the sun rose. The leaves laughed in the sun and (8) laughter moved the trees. God (9) refused to accept the bribe. For another moment John watched the beauty (10) the day. Then he turned and saw the (11) land near the castle.

John ran down the side of the (12) where the two girls were awake. They were (13) for him. Kismine jumped to her feet. John knew there was no time for (14) They must get off the mountain (15) He took the hand of each girl and they silently moved (16) the trees in the morning light.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Escape



s John stared ¹ in amazement, something very strange began happening around him. The sky seemed to become dark for an instant and the wind started blowing. There seemed to be trumpets playing far away. For a time there was darkness and the birds' songs stopped.

There seemed to be the sound of thunder.

That was all. Then the dawn continued as before and the sun rose. The leaves laughed in the sun and their laughter moved the trees. God had refused to accept the bribe.

For another moment John watched the beauty of the day. Then he turned and saw the airplanes land near the castle.

John ran down the side of the mountain where the two girls were awake. They were waiting for him. Kismine jumped to her feet. John knew there was no time for words. They must get off the mountain immediately. He took the hand of each girl and they silently moved through the trees in the morning light.

1. **stared** : looked for a long time.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

When they had gone about half a mile At a certain point they turned around and saw the mountain they had just left. Against the clear sky they saw a white-haired man slowly coming down the mountain. Two enormous slaves followed him. They were carrying the diamond between them, which shone in the sun.

Then two other figures joined them, Mrs Washington and her son, Percy. The pilots with their guns had gone from their airplanes to the front of the castle.

Braddock Washington and his group stopped by a rock. The slaves pulled up a trapdoor in the side of the mountain. They all disappeared into the trapdoor — the white-haired man first, then his wife and son, and finally the two slaves.

Kismine pulled John's arm.

"Where are they going? What are they going to do?" she cried wildly.

"It must be some way of escape."

A little scream from the two girls interrupted his sentence.

"Don't you see?" cried Kismine. "The mountain is going to explode. They are going to destroy it."

Before she finished speaking, the color of the mountain became a bright yellow. At the same time the castle exploded and there was a great fire, and then nothing but smoke. The pilots and the five people who had gone inside the mountain were certainly dead. Everything was destroyed and there was silence everywhere. John and the two girls were alone in the valley.

At sunset they reached the high cliff which had marked the boundaries of the Washingtons' land. They looked back at the beautiful valley, which was now peaceful again. They sat down to finish the food Jasmine had brought with her in a basket.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

"There," she said, as she put the tablecloth on the grass and then put the sandwiches on it. "I always think food tastes better outdoors."

"Now," John said, "empty your pockets and let's see what jewels you brought with you. With a good selection of jewels we will be able to live well all our lives."

Kismine put her hand in her pocket and took out a lot of shiny jewels.

"Not so bad," cried John enthusiastically. "They aren't very big, but — oh no!" His expression changed when he held one of them up to the sun. "Why, these aren't diamonds. Something is wrong."

"Oh," exclaimed Kismine. "What an idiot I am."

"Why, these are glass," cried John.

"I know!" She started laughing, "I opened the wrong drawer. They belonged to a girl who visited Jasmine. She gave them to me in exchange for diamonds. I had never seen anything but diamonds before."

"And this is what you brought?"

"Yes," she said. "But I think I like these better — I'm a bit tired of diamonds."

"Very well," said John sadly. "We'll have to live in Hades. And you will grow old and tell women that you opened the wrong drawer, and they will never believe you. Unfortunately, your father's bank books disappeared with him."

"Well, what's the matter with Hades?"

"If I come home with a wife at my age, my father won't give me a penny."

Jasmine spoke up.

"I love washing," she said quietly. "I have always washed my



own handkerchiefs. I'll wash clothes for people and support both of you."

"Do they have laundry ladies ¹ in Hades?" asked Kismine innocently.

"Of course," answered John. "It's just like everywhere else."

1. laundry ladies : people who wash other people's clothes.





The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

"I thought it was too hot to wear any clothes."

John laughed.

"Just try it, he said. "They'll throw you out of town before you know what's happening."

"Will father be there?" she asked.

John looked at her in astonishment.

"Your father is dead," he answered sadly. "Why should he go to Hades? You've confused it with another place with the same name."¹

After dinner they put away the tablecloth and put out their blankets for the night.

"What a dream it was," Kismine said, looking up at the stars. "How strange it seems to be here under the stars with one dress and a poor fiancé."

"Under the stars," she repeated. "I never noticed the stars before. I always thought of them as great big diamonds that belonged to someone. Now they frighten me. They make me feel that my youth was all a dream."

"It was a dream," said John quietly. "Everybody's youth is a dream — just a form of chemical madness."

"How pleasant then to be mad." cried Kismine.

"That's what I'm told," said John. "Let us love for a while, for a year or so, you and me. That's a form of divine drunkenness that we can all try. Turn up your coat collar,² little girl, it's a cold night."

He covered himself with his blanket and fell asleep.

1. **you've confused ... same name** : see page 43 for an explanation of the meaning of Hades.

2. **collar** :



Go back to the text

- 1 Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it not correct, mark B.

	A	B
1 The slaves were carrying Braddock Washington.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Braddock Washington got into the mountain by using a trapdoor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 When Braddock Washington arrived at the entrance of the mountain it exploded and killed him.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Kismine took her friend's diamonds by mistake.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Jasmine says she can do other people's laundry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 John thinks Kismine has confused Hades with another place.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 No one eats dinner because they don't feel hungry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The stars frighten Kismine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 John thinks that Kismine's house was like a dream.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 They return to Hades the same night.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Your opinion

Answer these questions.

- Who disappeared into the mountain with Braddock Washington?
Is John sad about this?
- Does Kismine really understand what has happened to her father?
- Are they realistic to think they can all go to live in Hades?
- Do you think there is a "message" in this story?

3 Summary

Complete these sentences to make a summary and complete the crossword. When you finish, number the sentences in the order they happen.

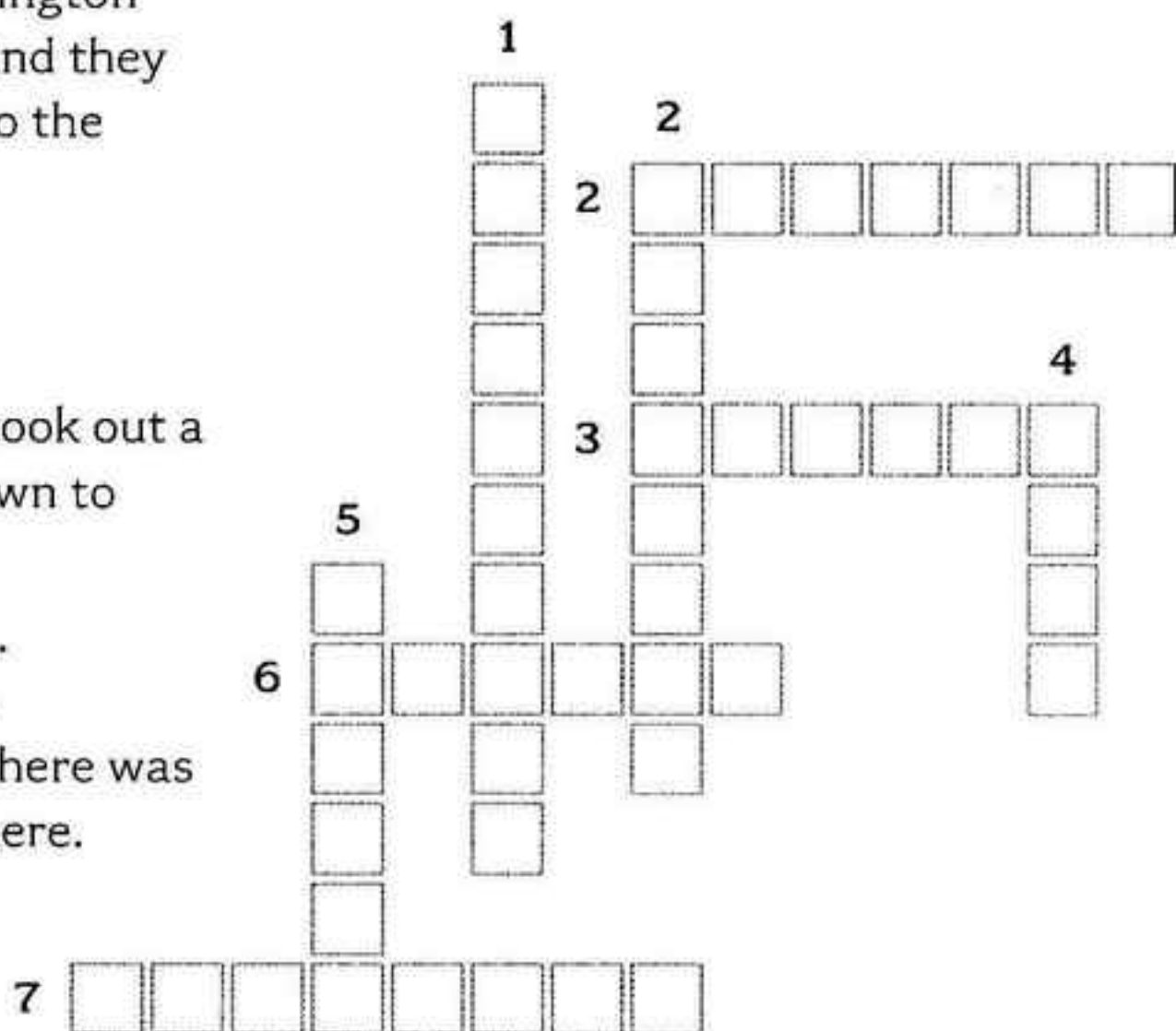
Across

- ☐ 2 Two slaves carried a bright, shiny object.
- ☐ 3 The airplanes near the castle.
- ☐ 6 Kismine took out the in her pocket. They were made of glass.
- ☐ 7 Braddock Washington opened a and they disappeared into the mountain.

Down

- ☐ 1 At sunset they took out a and sat down to eat.
- ☐ 2 The castle
Everything was
destroyed and there was
silence everywhere.

- ☐ 4 The sky became and the wind started blowing.
- ☐ 5 John and Kismine talked about their future and then fell



4 Speaking

What will happen to John, Kismine and Jasmine 20 years later?
Discuss these questions with another student.

What jobs will they have? Where will they live? Are John and Kismine married? Are they happy?

5 Quiz

How materialistic are you?
Find the word “materialistic” in a dictionary.
What does it mean? Which of the characters in the story could you use this word for? Do you think you are materialistic?

Tick (✓) a box for each of the questions in the quiz and check your score in the key. Ask a friend the same questions. Tick “Y” for yes, “N” for no, or “?” for unsure.

- 1 Do you think that having money is important to be happy in life?
- 2 Have you ever stayed with a boyfriend/girlfriend because they bought you things?
- 3 There is a fire in your house. Do you still worry about taking your favourite possessions?
- 4 Have you ever bought something completely unnecessary because it was fashionable?
- 5 Would you prefer to work in a well-paid job you hate rather than a job you like for a small amount of money?
- 6 If someone borrows something and keeps it, do you still ask them for it even if you don't really need it?

Y N ?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mostly “Y”: Yes, you definitely are materialistic. Money and your possessions are important in your life, and you will always make sure you have them, but be careful, don't let that come between you and your friends!
Mostly “N”: No, you are certainly not materialistic. This is good but take care of your possessions sometimes and be careful people don't use your good nature to get what they want.
Mostly “?”: Either you are not very materialistic or you're lying!

1 Comprehension

Complete each question with a question word and answer them.

where who what which why

- 1 type of school did John's parents want to send him to?
- 2 was "the richest man in the world"?
- 3 did Percy's family live?
- 4 were they so wealthy?
- 5 did John fall in love with?
- 6 On night did Braddock Washington kill the guests?
- 7 happened to the diamond mountain?
- 8 did John, Kismine and Jasmine decide to go?

2 Summary

Match a sentence (1-8) to one of the chapters (1-7). There is one you will not need.

- 1 ☐ Percy and his father introduce John to the prisoners.
- 2 ☐ Braddock Washington says a prayer so that his strange life will continue.
- 3 ☐ The summer is over and so is John's visit.
- 4 ☐ Three poor people are ready to start a new life.
- 5 ☐ John is invited to the house of the richest man in the world.
- 6 ☐ Mr Washington finds wealth and John finds love.
- 7 ☐ The mystery of the missing airline pilot is resolved.
- 8 ☐ The story of a diamond mountain.

3 Writing

Imagine you are Kismine and you are going to tell your story to your children. Describe where you lived and what happens to you after you leave the mountain. Use the sentences below to start your description.

I was born in a big beautiful castle in the mountains. It wasn't on any map. The house was on a diamond mountain ...

4 Crossword

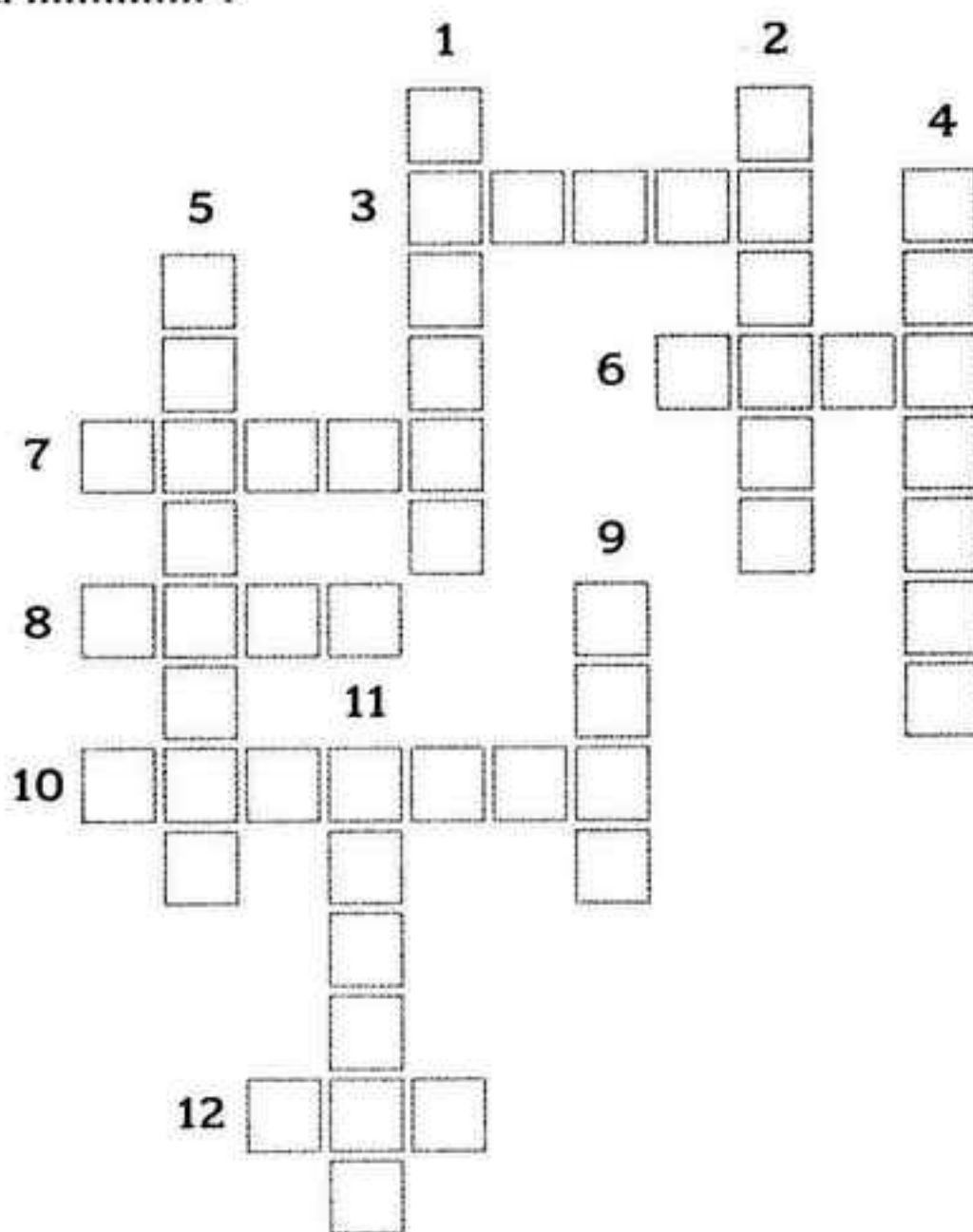
Complete the spaces in the sentences with a word from the glossary notes to complete the crossword.

Across

- 3 I fell and hurt my, the last time I was walking in the mountain.
- 6 It's beautiful here when the sun comes up. It's so quiet at
- 7 The newspapers said a politician tried to him to keep it a secret.
- 8 I love the It's my favourite season.
- 10 That man keeps at me. Tell him to look at something else!
- 12 What a beautiful coat! Is it real

Down

- 1 We use these heavy, metal to lift things.
- 2 They're offering a of \$10,000 to the person who finds that stolen painting.
- 4 I sometimes go fishing but I never go I hate using a gun.
- 5 Rich people used to have working in their houses in the past.
- 9 That's the biggest swimming pool I have ever seen. It's
- 11 is lighter in weight than gold but it is more valuable.



5 Themes

Match a sentence in A to a theme in B.

A	B
1 <input type="checkbox"/> "It's impossible to be both free and poor."	A small town life
2 <input type="checkbox"/> "They'll throw you out of town, before you know what's happening."	B youth
3 <input type="checkbox"/> "What a dream it was!"	C love
4 <input type="checkbox"/> "It's a form of divine drunkenness."	D wealth

6 Characters

Who said these things? They are in the order they appear in the story.

- 1 "Don't forget who you are and where you come from."
- 2 "You know, I'm a very innocent girl."
- 3 "These are some men who had the misfortune of discovering the mountain."
- 4 "If you think it's fun to fall in love with a boy who isn't much better than a corpse..."
- 5 "...let's go up to the roof garden and watch from there."
- 6 "You out there! ...Oh you up there!"
- 7 "With a good selection of jewels we will be able to live well all our lives."
- 8 "I'll wash clothes for people and support you both."

1 1 What — a school in New England; 2 Who — Braddock Washington; 3 Where — in Montana; 4 Why — because they lived on a diamond mountain; 5 Who — Kismine; 6 which — on a night in August or September, near the end of the holiday; 7 What — it exploded; 8 Where — to Hades.
2 1 4; 2 6; 3 5; 4 7; 5 1; 6 3; 7 not used; 8 2.
4 Across: 3 ankle; 6 dawn; 7 bribe; 8 fall; 10 staring; 12 fur.
Down: 1 cables; 2 reward; 4 hunting; 5 servants; 9 huge; 11 radium.
5 1 D; 2 A; 3 B; 4 C.
6 1 John's father; 2 Kismine; 3 Braddock; 4 John; 5 Kismine; 6 Braddock; 7 John; 8 Jasmine.

Key to Exit Test

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Step **Three** **B1.2**

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

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: unfinished past with *for* or *since* (duration form)
Past Perfect Simple: narrative

Verb forms and patterns

Regular verbs and all irregular verbs in current English
Causative: *have / get* + object + past participle
Reported questions and orders with *ask* and *tell*

Modal verbs

Would: hypothesis
Would rather: preference
Should (present and future reference):
moral obligation
Ought to (present and future reference):
moral obligation
Used to: past habits and states

Types of clause

Indefinite Conditional: *if* + past, *would(n't)*
Zero, 1st and 2nd conditionals with *unless*
Non-defining relative clauses with *who* and *where*
Clauses of result: *so*; *so ... that*; *such ... that*
Clauses of concession: *although*, *though*

Other

Comparison: *(not) as / so ... as*; *(not) ... enough to*; *too ... to*

Available at Step **Three**:

- **The £1,000,000 Banknote** Mark Twain
- **The Canterville Ghost** Oscar Wilde
- **Classic Detective Stories**
- **The Diamond as Big as The Ritz**
F. Scott Fitzgerald
- **Great Mysteries of Our World**
Gina D. B. Clemen
- **Gulliver's Travels** Jonathan Swift
- **The Hound of the Baskervilles**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Jane Eyre** Charlotte Brontë
- **Julius Caesar** William Shakespeare
- **Kim** Rudyard Kipling
- **Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories** Oscar Wilde
- **Moonfleet** John Meade Falkner
- **Of Mice and Men** John Steinbeck
- **The Pearl** John Steinbeck
- **The Phantom of the Opera** Gaston Leroux
- **The Prisoner of Zenda** Anthony Hope
- **The Return of Sherlock Holmes**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Romeo and Juliet** William Shakespeare
- **The Scarlet Pimpernel** Baroness Orczy
- **Sherlock Holmes Investigates**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Stories of Suspense** Nathaniel Hawthorne
- **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**
Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Tales of the Supernatural**
- **Three Men in a Boat** Jerome K. Jerome
- **Treasure Island** Robert Louis Stevenson
- **True Adventure Stories** Peter Foreman
- **Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare

The Diamond as Big as The Ritz

"My father has a diamond bigger than the Ritz-Carlton Hotel."

When John is invited to his friend's house for the summer, he does not really believe that he is going to the house of the richest man in the world. But when he arrives, he soon discovers that he is in a completely different world. This is a world of unbelievable wealth, greed, adventure and cruelty.

- Wide range of activities practicing the four skills
- PET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grades 5/6)
- Dossiers: *Diamonds that Made History* and *El Dorado and the American Dream*
- Internet projects
- Full recording of the text
- Exit test with answer key



Step One	■	CEFR A2	Exam Level KET
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

F. Scott Fitzgerald
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