The Butler Did It and Other Plays

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 42)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
Do not give the answers now, but ask students to wait and see if their guesses were correct as they read the plays. The correct answers are:
The Butler Did It a box, a gun, a bedroom
Old Friends a waiter, a café
Fred’s Future a crystal ball, Hollywood
Have a Nice Holiday! a travel agent, Spain
Rules are Rules a monkey
Marry Me, Darling! a gold watch, New York

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
1 Perhaps someone’s wife has a lover.
2 There is a monkey in one play.
3 Someone wants to have a holiday.
4 James is a very good butler.
5 Someone needs an animal licence.
6 One play has an office worker in it.
7 Someone has a rich girlfriend.

ACTIVITY 3 BEFORE READING
ACROSS: 1 cheap 4 rule 6 butler 7 far 8 marry
DOWN: 2 holiday 3 problem 5 sir

ACTIVITY 4 BEFORE READING
Do not give the answers now, but ask students to wait and see if their guesses were correct as they read the plays. The correct answers are:
1 NO 2 NO 3 YES

While Reading

THE BUTLER DID IT WHILE READING
1 Who is speaking to James on the phone? Henry / His employer.
2 Who is in the bathroom at the moment? Henry’s wife / James’ employer’s wife and the plumber, Mr Blessiu.
3 Where does Henry usually keep his gun? In a box under his bed.
4 What does Henry want James to do? To shoot his wife and her lover.
5 What does Henry say when James sneezes? Bless you!
6 What does Henry think at the end of the play? Perhaps he asked James to shoot the wrong people.

HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY! WHILE READING
1 6 3 7 2 4 8 5

OLD FRIENDS WHILE READING
1 Amanda.
2 The waiter.
3 Celia.
4 Amanda.
5 Celia.
6 Robert / Bob.

FRED’S FUTURE WHILE READING
1 T 2 F 3 F 4 F 5 F

RULES ARE RULES AND MARRY ME, DARLING! WHILE READING
The man with the monkey waited for half an hour / said, ‘Sorry.’
The woman in the licence office changed the room number / phoned a friend.
Gwen looked in the mirror / had some garlic for lunch.
Roger drank some coffee / smoked a cigarette.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING
The Butler Did It Bless You, James!
Old Friends One Man and Two Women
Fred’s Future Anyone for Tennis?
Have a Nice Holiday! No Going Back
Rules are Rules The Man with the Monkey
Marry Me, Darling! Love is Everything You Need

Students can give their own opinions when saying which titles are better.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING
I had a very bad day today, so I feel very tired now. I went to the licence office because I wanted a licence for the monkey. I waited and waited in the office, but the woman there didn’t want to help. First she told me to get a ticket, and then she told me to go to another office. Suddenly I got angry, and began to cry! In the end she closed the office when it was only one minute past five!
ACTIVITY 3  AFTER READING
5 2 9 6 3 8 11 10 1 4 7
Celia: Now Robert, what's all this about Amanda?
Robert: Mandy? Yes, she's beautiful, and a wonderful dancer!
Celia: But you don't like dancing!
Robert: Oh darling, with Mandy, it's different. She moves so well!
Celia: Well! So you really like her?
Robert: Yes, I'm sorry, Celia darling, I do like her.
Celia: Just tell me one thing – are you going to ask Amanda to marry you?
Robert: Do you know, I think – yes, I am, darling!
Celia: So that's the end for us, is it, Robert?
Robert: Well, yes, darling. And, er, can you give me back my ring? It was very expensive.
Celia: Here it is. I never liked it. And stop calling me darling!

ACTIVITY 4  AFTER READING
1 Rosa in Fred's Future, after Fred goes out.
2 Roger in Marry Me, Darling! as he arrives at Gwen's sister's house.
3 Henry in The Butler Did It, when his phone call is finished.

ACTIVITY 5  AFTER READING
The word is HANDSOME.

ACTIVITY 6  AFTER READING
Dear Sue,
Here in Queensland it's very hot at the moment. – 40°C! So Trevor swims in the pool most of the time. I'm sleeping well because the hotel is usually very quiet. But last night the young man in the room next to us had his television on very late. And when Trevor spoke to him at breakfast, he got very angry. Really, these young people! So we're going to change our hotel today.
Yesterday Trevor suddenly said, 'Where are our tickets home? I can't find them!' He does like a good laugh! See you soon. Love, Linda

ACTIVITY 7  AFTER READING
Open answers.