Death of an Englishman

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 76)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING
1 T 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 F 6 T 7 F 8 T

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING
1a Y 1b Y/N (different opinions are possible) 1c Y
2a N 2b N 2c Y 3a N 3b Y 3c N

While Reading

CHAPTER 1 WHILE READING
1 Because he worked there as a cleaner.
2 Because he was on night duty and the Marshal was ill.
3 Because he already knew the Marshal, who lived next door to his sister.
4 Because he wanted the chance to visit the scene of a crime, and he didn’t like the Marshal.
5 Because his wife was dying. / Because he had found a dead body.
6 Because it had an official government seal round the neck.

CHAPTERS 2 TO 4 WHILE READING
1 T
2 F Language-Smythe was shot once.
3 T
4 F There was a lot of money (almost half a million pounds) in the safe in the bedroom.
5 F The angel’s head had been stolen from the house of an American woman.
6 T
7 F The first bang was the noise of a door. / The second bang was the noise of a gun.
8 F Bacci’s English wasn’t good enough for him to question Miss White.
9 F There were fingerprints of seven people in Language-Smythe’s flat.
10 T

CHAPTERS 5 AND 6 WHILE READING
1 Because he was still wearing his clothes under his dressing-gown.
2 Because the money was still in the safe.
3 Because Miss White often saw him.
4 Because you need to get a permit and pay a very high tax to export antiques legally.
5 Because he was shot in the back, just outside his bedroom.
6 Because Giovanna switched her light on in the night and they saw it.
7 Because he is an antique dealer and he lives in the same building.
8 Because he was in business with Langley-Smythe and perhaps something went wrong / they had an argument.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 7
The ‘yes’ answers are numbers 4 and 5.

CHAPTERS 7 AND 8 WHILE READING
1 The Captain, to Cesarini, because he thought that Cesarini was the antique dealer helping Langley-Smythe.
2 The small, thin man to the bus driver, because he was trying to escape from the police.
3 The bus driver to the small, thin man, because he thought the man had a gun.
4 The Marshal, to Cipolla, because he was dreaming about him.
5 The Captain, to Cesarini, about the gun that killed Langley-Smythe.
6 Cesarini, to the Captain, about Langley-Smythe’s flat.
7 The Captain, to Cesarini, about Langley-Smythe.
8 Bacci, to the Marshal, about the woman in front of the lift.

CHAPTERS 9 AND 10 WHILE READING
1 Who . . .? Martha, the Ciprianis’ maid.
2 Where . . .? She was standing in front of the lift.
3 Where . . .? Into the courtyard.
4 Why . . .? Because he wanted to make the courtyard tidy.
5 What . . .? That he was being arrested.
6 What . . .? She was looking for clothes pegs in the rubbish bag.
7 Why . . .? Because she wanted to make enough money so that Cipolla could stay at home with her when she was dying.
8 Why . . .? Because he didn’t pay her for the cleaning work that she did.
9 Who . . .? Cipolla.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 11
The ‘yes’ answers are 2 (in Giovanna’s toy cupboard) and 4.
After Reading

**ACTIVITY 1** AFTER READING

When I arrived at Via Maggio fifty-eight, I rang Langley-Smythe’s bell. No one answered, and so I asked the night-guard to let me into the building. As soon as I opened the front door of Langley-Smythe’s flat, I saw the cleaner, Cipolla, sitting in an armchair. Then I noticed the body, which was lying on the floor by the bedroom door. I telephoned the Marshal because I didn’t know what to do. The Marshal told me that the cleaner’s wife was dying and that I should keep him there. While we were waiting for the Marshal, I decided to give Cipolla something to do. I told him to go outside and start cleaning up the courtyard. I left the flat for a few minutes after the Marshal arrived because he asked me to get some medicine for him. After I came back from the shop, the Captain told Cipolla to put down his bag of rubbish and came to the police station with us.

**POSSIBLE EXTRA SENTENCES:**

- It was strange that the cleaner had come to work when his wife was dying.
- Cipolla didn’t have his brush.
- Cipolla looked cold because he didn’t have a coat.

**ACTIVITY 2** AFTER READING

**Possible answers:**

**LANGLEY-SMYTHE:** What are you doing here?

**CIPOLLA:** I want my wife’s money.

**LANGLEY-SMYTHE:** Money! You stupid little man. I never asked her to clean my flat.

**CIPOLLA:** But she did a good job for you. She worked hard, and now she’s dead.

**LANGLEY-SMYTHE:** I don’t care about that. Get out! Look, I’ve got a gun and I’m not afraid to use it.

**CIPOLLA:** I’m not going until you give me the money.

**LANGLEY-SMYTHE:** Then call the police if you want to. I know a Marshal of the Carabinieri. He’ll help me. (He lives next door to my sister.)

**LANGLEY-SMYTHE:** Come here and listen to me. Your wife was a thief. She stole things from me. I’m going to tell everyone about her if you don’t go away right now.

**CIPOLLA:** But you must listen to me.

**ACTIVITY 3** AFTER READING

**Possible answers:**

This man must not go to prison. The Englishman was shot by accident; Signor Cipolla is not a murderer (criminal). He had a terrible life when he was a child because of the war. His father was killed (dead) and his family never had enough to eat. After the war, he came to Florence and worked as a cleaner. He got married, but his wife could not have children and this made her very unhappy (sad). Signor Cipolla worked hard to take care of his wife, but then she became very ill. There was nothing that the doctors (hospital) could do, so Signora Cipolla took a job cleaning the Englishman’s flat. She wanted to make enough money to die at home with her husband beside her. But the cruel Englishman, who was also a criminal, never paid her. And Signor Cesarini, who arranged the cleaning job, didn’t pay her either. So in the end, Signor Cipolla couldn’t stay at home with his wife because they needed his money to buy medicine (morphine) for her pain. On the night that his wife died, a neighbour (friend) gave Signor Cipolla some ‘grappa’, which made him drunk. He went to see the Englishman, who was angry and took out a gun. Then he put it down; he hit Signor Cipolla across the face and called his wife a thief. Signor Cipolla picked up the gun because he wanted to make Langley-Smythe listen to him, not because he wanted to kill him. He aimed the gun at the bedroom door, and when he shot the Englishman, his eyes were shut (closed)!

**ACTIVITY 4** AFTER READING

**Possible answers:**

1. Milena was Cipolla’s wife. She had English lessons from Miss White but she didn’t learn English. She was unhappy because she couldn’t have children, so she wanted to go out to work. Sadly, she only got a job after she became very ill.

2. Marshal Guarriaccia is fat and comes from a poor family in Sicily. He wears dark glasses because he has a problem with his eyes. He is an experienced policeman who notices details.

3. Cesarini is a legal antiques dealer who wears expensive clothes. He owned the Englishman’s flat and arranged for Milena to clean it. He was a criminal who helped to export antiques illegally.

4. Giovanna is a fat little girl with black hair. She lives with her family in a flat on the second floor. She likes guns and she took the gun out of the black rubbish bag and hid it in her toy cupboard.

5. Miss White is an elderly Englishwoman who can’t speak Italian. She lives on the top floor and has made her flat into a museum about an English poet. She is nice and tried to teach Milena English.

6. Carbmier Bacci is young and inexperienced. He comes from Florence and his family used to be rich. He speaks a little English and he is a good student, but he is not a very good policeman yet.

7. Cipolla is a little man who wears a black overall. He loves the city and hated the country. He works as a cleaner, but he didn’t want his wife to work. He always waits patiently for other people to tell him what to do.

**ACTIVITY 5** AFTER READING

**Open answers.**