Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 58)

ACTIVITY 1  BEFORE READING
1 They are planning to murder Sonia’s boring husband.
2 A burglar.
3 She can read lips.
4 Because someone is blackmailing him.
5 Because Father Brown is only a simple little priest.
6 Pay another man to do the murder.

ACTIVITY 2  BEFORE READING
Encourage students to discuss what constitutes a ‘golden age’ in anything, and in particular in crime stories. There are no correct answers, but the most likely ones are numbers 1 and 4.

ACTIVITY 3  BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses. The correct answers, which they should probably be able to guess, are:
1 The Railway Crossing
2 The Blue Cross
3 As the Inspector Said . . .
4 Cash on Delivery
5 The Man Who Cut Off My Hair

ACTIVITY 4  BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the ‘yes’ answer is number 5.

While Reading

AS THE INSPECTOR SAID . . . WHILE READING
1 He suggested that Robert put his silver in the bank, because there had been several burglaries near the Frenches’ house and the police had not yet caught the burglar.
2 When she heard the sound of Charles climbing through the window.
3 She thought that Charles had shot her husband Robert.
4 Because she wanted to give Charles time to escape.
5 Because he did not want anyone to know that he had used the gun.

THE MAN WHO CUT OFF MY HAIR WHILE READING
1 What . . .? A silver salt-cellar.
2 Why . . .? Because he cut off her long hair.
3 What . . .? The words ‘Cotterill, Cloakroom, Victoria Station, Brighton Railway’, which the man with blue eyes whispered to the other man.
4 Where . . .? In the cloakroom at Victoria Station.
5 Why . . .? Because Judith could lip-read and so knew where the thieves were going.
6 Who . . .? The man who cut off Judith’s hair.

THE RAILWAY CROSSING WHILE READING
The correct order is 6, 10, 3, (although these three could be interchangeable) 5, 9, 1, 4, 8, 2, 7. He forgot to take his keys and had to ring the front door bell to get back into the house. This destroyed his alibi, because Jane would then know that he had gone to the crossing with Dunn.

THE BLUE CROSS WHILE READING
1 Valentin to the waiter, about the salt in the sugar bowl.
2 Valentin to the man in the fruit shop, about the two priests.
3 The waiter in the restaurant to Valentin, about the priest’s bill.
4 The priest (Father Brown) to the waiter, about the extra ten shillings on the bill which would pay for the broken window.
5 Flambeau to Father Brown, about making a copy parcel and changing it for the parcel containing the jewelled cross.
6 Father Brown to Flambeau, about the woman in the sweet-shop and the parcel that Father Brown left behind for her to post.
7 Valentin to Flambeau, meaning that Father Brown had been cleverer than both of them.

BEFORE READING CASH ON DELIVERY
Encourage the students to discuss the answers and speculate about the story.
1 When something is delivered, or a job is done, payment must be made immediately.
2 Somebody’s murder.
3 Because cash can be moved or spent very easily, and it is very difficult to prove that any money has in fact changed hands.

AFTER READING CASH ON DELIVERY
4 Linster knows that he’s killed the wrong woman, but he doesn’t care; he is paid to kill people and he has ‘delivered’ a dead body and got his payment. But Elliston won’t understand this until he sees who the dead woman is, by which time Linster will be long gone.
After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING
1 John Dunn, in The Railway Crossing. Thwaite has left Dunn and Dunn is walking to the railway station alone. He is feeling very sleepy and wants to rest, but does not realize that he is on the railway crossing.
2 Jacob Elliston, in Cash on Delivery. Elliston is in his bedroom, waiting for Max Linster to murder his wife, before he goes back to give him the five thousand pounds.
3 Mr Colegate, in The Man Who Cut Off My Hair. Mr Colegate has just arrived home, cut the rope tying Judith to the chair, and Judith has fainted into his arms.
4 Robert French, in As the Inspector Said . . .
Robert has just left the bedroom, after Sonia had woken him up and told him there was somebody downstairs. He is hoping that this is his chance to kill his wife’s lover, and he has his gun ready in his dressing-gown pocket.
5 Flambeau, in The Blue Cross. Flambeau is on the bus with Father Brown, going to Hampstead Heath. He is planning the best moment to change Father Brown’s parcel containing the blue cross with the copy parcel he has prepared.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING
Students can complete the conversation as they wish, but possible answers would be:
Sonia: Let’s go over the plan again. That night, Robert and I will go to bed at the usual time. At two o’clock you’ll break into the house through a window.
Charles: Right. And when you hear me, you’ll wake Robert and say that there is somebody downstairs.
Sonia: But what do I do if he telephones the police from the bedroom and doesn’t go downstairs?
Charles: You must make him come downstairs.
Sonia: I’ll try. All right. He goes downstairs. I wait until I hear you shoot him, and then I telephone the police.
Charles: But wait a bit first. You must give me time to escape before you phone the police.
Sonia: Yes, of course! How long should I wait?
Charles: To be safe, about fifteen minutes.
Sonia: I’m afraid. What if something goes wrong?
Charles: Don’t worry, nothing will go wrong.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING
There is nothing in the story that actually tells us the answers to these questions, so students can speculate. There are two possible explanations, but the most likely one is that there was a real burglar downstairs at the same time.

1a No, because Charles was dead by now (Sonia heard the gun and something heavy falling before the sound of the door and the running feet).
1b Not very likely, but just possible. Perhaps Robert was faking a burglary, and after shooting Charles, he rushed out of the house, banging a door, ran noisily into the garden and then came back quietly. He looks ‘untidy’ when Sonia sees him next, which might suggest he had been running about.
1c There could have been a third person, a real burglar, who ran away when he heard or saw Robert shoot Charles.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING
1+9 2+8 3+12 4+7 5+11 6+10
You won’t know me next time we meet because my hair is now very short! When I was passing Mr Colegate’s cottage last week I saw two men inside, stealing his silver. They caught me and tied me to a chair, and then one of them got a knife and cut off all my hair. He thought that would frighten me, but it didn’t – it just made me very, very angry! After that, I watched their lips very carefully, so I found out where they were going next. The police caught the thieves in a shop in London and now the man who cut off my hair is in prison!

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING
Did Dunstan Thwaite really murder John Dunn? Although he told the police that he planned to kill Dunn, he said that he did not actually do it. This was Thwaite’s story. He invited Dunn, who was blackmailling him, to his home, and gave him some whisky with a sleeping powder in it. He changed the time on his clock and his watch, in order to give himself an alibi, but his murder plan went wrong. He forgot to take his keys with him when he walked with Dunn to the railway crossing, so he went home, leaving Dunn to walk to the station alone. Dunn probably stopped to rest on the crossing because he was feeling sleepy, and was killed by the train which went through at 10.30. If Thwaite’s story was true, was that murder or an accidental death?
The police did not believe Thwaite, because Dunn was killed at 10.30, and this was seven minutes before the servant opened the front door to let Thwaite back in. Now both men are dead, so we will never know what really happened.
**ACTIVITY 6  AFTER READING**
Open discussion.

**ACTIVITY 7  AFTER READING**
Possible answer:
The first clue that Father Brown left was in a restaurant in London. There was salt in the sugar bowl and the salt-cellars were full of sugar. And there were dark wet stains on the wall where Father Brown had thrown some soup. The next place was a fruit shop. Father Brown knocked over some apples, and changed the cards on the nuts and the oranges. Then there was the restaurant in Hampstead with the broken window. Father Brown changed the bill from four shillings to fourteen shillings, and then broke the window with his umbrella. Finally, there was the sweet-shop in Bullock Street, where Father Brown bought some sweets, then ran back to the shop and asked the woman to send a parcel to an address in Westminster.

**ACTIVITY 8  AFTER READING**
4 Mr Elliston: I didn’t hear the burglar at all. I had the radio on.
1 Police: What burglar, Mr Elliston?
8 Mr Elliston: The burglar who stole my wife’s jewels and—
10 Police: But we found your wife’s jewel-box under the bed.
5 Mr Elliston: Under the bed? Are — are you sure?
7 Police: Yes. Here it is. And the marks on the girl’s throat show that she was killed with one hand. A left hand.
2 Mr Elliston: That’s not possible!
9 Police: Oh yes, it is. A strong man, like yourself, could easily kill a girl with one hand.
6 Mr Elliston: But the burglar killed her!
3 Police: There was no burglar, sir. Now, we would like you to come down to the police station with us.

**ACTIVITY 9  AFTER READING**
As the Inspector Said . . .
- A Careful Man
- Nothing Will Go Wrong
The Man Who Cut Off My Hair
- Mr Colegate’s Silver
- Watch Their Lips
The Railway Crossing
- Death of a Blackmailer
- The Ten-Minute Alibi
The Blue Cross
- Strange Clues
- The Parcel and the Priest
Cash on Delivery
- The Body on the Bed
- The Left-Handed Murder

**ACTIVITY 10  AFTER READING**
Open answers.