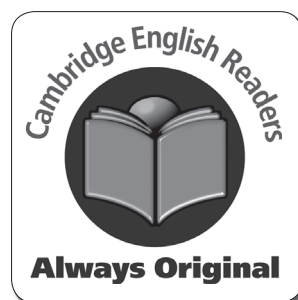


Worksheet

Starter Level



A Death in Oxford Richard MacAndrew

Before reading

- Look at the picture on the front cover. What can you see? What does it make you think about the story?
- Look at the back cover. What kind of story is *A Death in Oxford*?
- Look at the Contents on page 3. What do you notice about the way the chapters are written?
- Look at the *People in the story* on page 4. Work with a partner to put them into different groups – the same person can be in two groups.
- Look at the map on page 5. Say where the different people in the story live or work (e.g. the Leighton Clinic is in Banbury Road).
- Apart from the houses and offices what other places are marked on the map?
- If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.
 - Janet Leighton is happy that Barbara is a writer.
 - The clinic is closing.
- Barbara Collins is losing her job at the Leighton Clinic.
 - What reason does Janet Leighton give for this?
 - What does Barbara Collins think is the real reason?
- How does Barbara feel about Janet Leighton?
- Do you think she has a reason to kill Janet Leighton?

Check your reading

Chapter 1

- What time does the story start?
- Where is Inspector Frank Williams fifteen minutes after the start of the story and why?
- Look at the picture on page 6. What is the room like? Write sentences like this: *A chair is on the floor.*
- Read the story and say what isn't in the room.
- Inspector Williams looks at a book and a letter. Why are they interesting? (Clues: look carefully at the receipt in the picture on page 9; what does a *will* tell us?)
- Where are the police officers going at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 2

- When does this chapter happen?
- True or false?
 - Barbara Collins is angry with Janet Leighton.
 - Janet Leighton is losing her job.
 - There's an article about Barbara Collins in the newspaper.
 - Dr Collins writes for the *Oxford Post*.

Chapter 3

- Who else does Barbara Collins say hates Janet Leighton?
- What do you find out about Janet Leighton and her husband?
- Where are the police officers going next?

Chapter 4

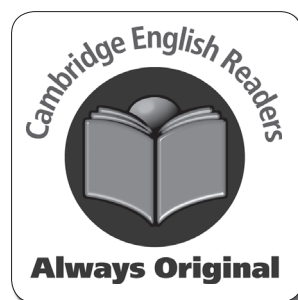
- When does Chapter 4 happen?
- Match the beginnings and endings.
 - Janet visits Elizabeth to talk about
 - Janet doesn't want to leave
 - Janet's house and the clinic
 - Janet wants to leave
 - Janet wants her new will to be ready
 - all her money to HALO.
 - changing her will.
 - on Monday morning.
 - any of her money to her husband and son.
 - are worth about £2 million.
- What does this chapter tell you about Janet's feelings for her family?

Chapter 5

- Look at the pictures on pages 16, 17 and 18. Describe Elizabeth Morgan's office.
- What does Janet Leighton's husband live near?

Worksheet

Starter Level



A Death in Oxford Richard MacAndrew

- Is Elizabeth Morgan sure of Janet Leighton's son's address?
- Janet Leighton's son owns a house in Woodstock Road. True or false?

Chapter 6

- What time does Chapter 6 happen?
- Where does this chapter happen?
- What does Simon Leighton want from his wife?
- What reason does Janet give for not giving Simon any money? Do you believe this after reading Chapter 4?
- What is Simon going to do about it?
- How does Simon feel at the end of their conversation?
- Do you think he has a reason to kill Janet Leighton?

Chapter 7

- Where do Williams and Miller meet Chris Leighton?
- How do the police officers know it is Chris Leighton?

Chapter 8

- When does this chapter happen?
- Which of these sentences are correct. Janet Leighton
 - wants her son to get a job.
 - is happy that he is still a student.
 - is going to give Chris £500 for a car.
 - is going to stop giving him money.
 - suggests he asks his father for the money.
 - tells Chris she is changing her will.
 - is going to leave him some money when she dies.
- How does Chris feel at the end of the chapter?
- Do you think he has a reason to kill Janet Leighton?

Chapter 9

- Where does Chapter 9 happen?
- Who are Williams and Miller talking to?

- What does Miller find out about the dog? Why do you think this is important?
- Whose fingerprints are on (a) the book (b) the knife?
- Why is it interesting to Williams that Simon Leighton's fingerprints are on the book? (Clue: look back to the picture on page 9.)

Chapter 10

- What time does this chapter happen?
- Why does Janet Leighton say 'You again!' when she opens the door?
- What does Simon want?
- What does Simon say about *Our Beautiful World*? What does he mean by saying this?
- How does Simon kill Janet?
- After he kills her what does he do and why?
- Why doesn't he break the Chinese dog? (Clue: what did Miller find out in Chapter 9?)

Chapter 11

- Look at the picture on page 31. Who is there?
- Who do you think killed Janet Leighton and why?
- Simon Leighton says he wasn't in the room the day before. How does Williams know it's not true?
- How do the three people feel about Janet Leighton's death?
- What does Inspector Williams mean when he says the title of the book (*Our Beautiful World*) and 'Not really, is it'?

After reading

Choose some of these activities:

- Either (a) write Inspector Frank Williams' police report about the case or (b) write the *Oxford Post* newspaper report about the case.
- Imagine you are making a film of the book. Which famous actors are going to play the characters?
- Choose either the picture on page 11 or the one on page 22 and write a complete description of it.

Worksheet

Starter Level



A Death in Oxford Richard MacAndrew

4. Write an email to the author, Richard MacAndrew, saying what you like and don't like about the story.
5. Write a description of Janet Leighton saying what she looks like and what she is like as a person.
6. Work with a partner. Act out the dialogue between Janet and Chris Leighton on pages 22–25, with actions. Add some more conversation if you need it. Perform it for others.
7. Make a quiz for other students about the story, e.g. using True/False questions.
8. Look carefully at the picture on pages 6–7 for one minute, then close the book and write down a list of everything there is in the room.