

UNIT-5

MYSTERY

(SUMMARY)

SECTION	In this UNIT, you will develop your				
	LISTENING SKILLS	SPEAKING SKILLS	READING SKILLS	WRITING SKILLS	VOCABULARY
Introduction		Discussion-individual responses	Reading clues to complete a cross word puzzle	Solving a crossword	Learning the meanings of words associated with the text
(A) Bermuda Triangle	Role-play	Role-play	- Consulting a dictionary - Recognising organisation of a text	- Writing a web-chart - Writing an open ended question - Making a project	Learning words related to mystery
(B) The Invisible Man		- Narrating events in logical sequence - Group discussion - writing of a story	- Identifying main points - Analysing, interpreting, inferring and evaluating information - Selecting and extracting information	- Creative writing - Paragraph - Report completion - Writing a mystery story	Learning words related to suspense and mystery while describing people

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	LISTENING SKILLS	SPEAKING SKILLS	READING SKILLS	WRITING SKILLS	VOCABULARY
(C) The Tragedy Of Birlstone		Class discussion based on the information deduced from a picture	- Recognising the organisation of a text - Deducing information from a picture and a note - Analysing, interpreting and inferring information	Writing an eye witness account	Learning words related to tragedy
(D) Harry Potter	Listen to a conversation adapted from Harry Potter			- Completion of summary statements - Writing a film / book review	

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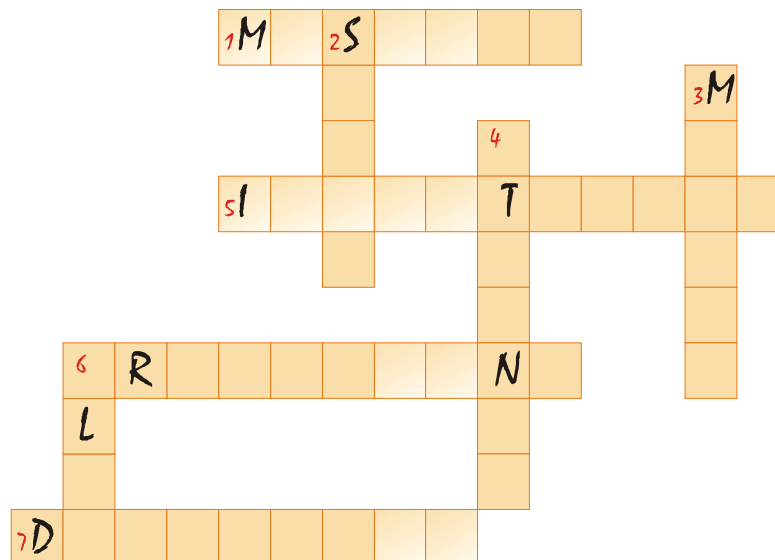
In this unit...

a crossword based on terminology associated with mystery.

- (A) **The Bermuda Triangle** - A mystery that gripped the twentieth century. The section puts across various theories, myths, and eye witness accounts of survivors. You will write a dialogue between a radio jockey and a survivor of the Bermuda Triangle and conduct an interview. You will also make a power point presentation on any mystery of nature.
- (B) **The Invisible man** - Learn words and phrases associated with mystery and write a short paragraph. Sharpen your comprehension skills by answering MCQs. Thereafter, write your own mystery story.
- (C) **The Tragedy of Birlstone** - Become a detective and find out details of the murderer and the victim. Also, write an eye witness account of a robbery and answer MCQs.
- (D) **Harry Potter** - Listen to an adapted conversation between Harry Potter and Hagrid and complete the summary statements. Enjoy being a critic - learn to write a book / film review.

INTRODUCTION

Complete the puzzle.



Clues

Across.

1. Something that is difficult to understand or explain.
5. To carefully examine the facts of a situation
6. Place where an unlawful event has occurred
7. A person employed to find out information and examine any unlawful activity.

Down

2. To find a way of dealing with a problem.
3. A reason for doing something.
4. Unusual or odd.
6. A piece of evidence or information.

A.1. The Mystery of Bermuda Triangle.

The potential of nature, of discovered and undiscovered elements in our world, persuades us to probe into some of her mysteries and what they may tell us. Prepare yourself then for a true odyssey of the Earth around us.

Air France Plane Missing Near Bermuda Triangle

June 1, 2009 An Air France plane is missing. The Agence France-Presse reported that an Air France Airbus A330-200 wide-body jet carrying 216 passengers and 12 crew members disappeared from the radar screens on Monday somewhere off Brazil's Atlantic coast.

Flight AF 447, out of Rio de Janeiro, was headed for Paris. According to the Mirror,



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Air France reported that the plane had radioed in, that they were going through turbulence. They also reported that a message, signalling electrical circuit malfunction, was received before it disappeared.

A search for the missing plane was conducted by the Brazilian Air Force. The French were also involved in the search.

Another well known case of 1962, vividly brings home the need for careful behind-the-scenes probing. Once again, it involved an aircraft.

The date was January 8, 1962. A huge 4 engine KB50 aerial tanker was enroute from the east coast to Lajes in the Azores. The captain, Major Bob Tawney, reported in at the expected time. All was normal, routine. But he, his crew and the big tanker, never made it to the Azores. Apparently, the last word from the flight had been the usual routine report, which had placed them a few hundred miles off the East Coast.

FLASH! The media broadcasted, fed by a sincere Coast Guard, that a large oil slick was sighted 300 miles off Norfolk, Virginia, in the plane's proposed route. The mystery could be breaking...

But that was the only clue ever found. Although never proved that it was from the plane, publicly the suspicions were obvious: the tanker and its qualified crew met a horrid and sudden death by crashing headlong into the sea.

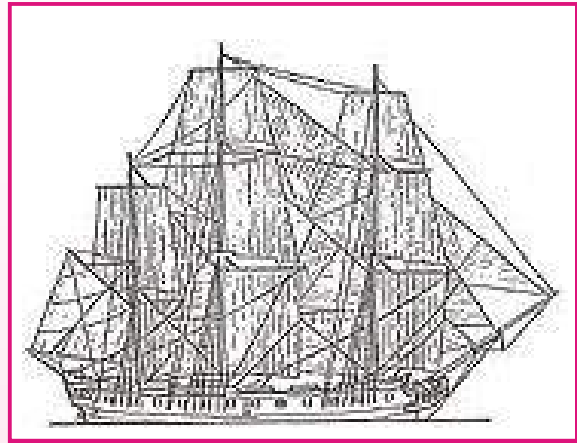
However, the report which was finished months later confirmed no such thing. Tawney had been clearly overheard by a Navy transport hours after his last message. This placed him north of Bermuda, hundreds of miles past the spot of the oil slick. There is no evidence, therefore, that the plane and its crew ever met any known fate.

The Sea of Lost Ships

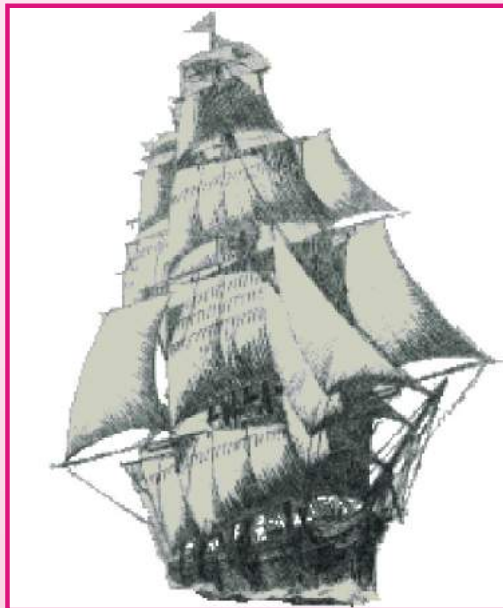
The ships below represent samples of the many vessels that have mysteriously vanished in the Bermuda Triangle.



Many US warships are listed missing by the US Navy between 1780 and 1824, including the *General Gates*, *Hornet*, *Insurgent*, *Pickering*, *Wasp*, *Wildcat* and *Expervier*.



The *Rosalie* was built in 1838 of 222 tons of wood. In 1840, she was found deserted but in ship shape near the Bahamas.



Ellen Austin's Encounter disappeared in 1881 in the Triangle

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Bermuda Triangle Theories

Bermuda Triangle Theories

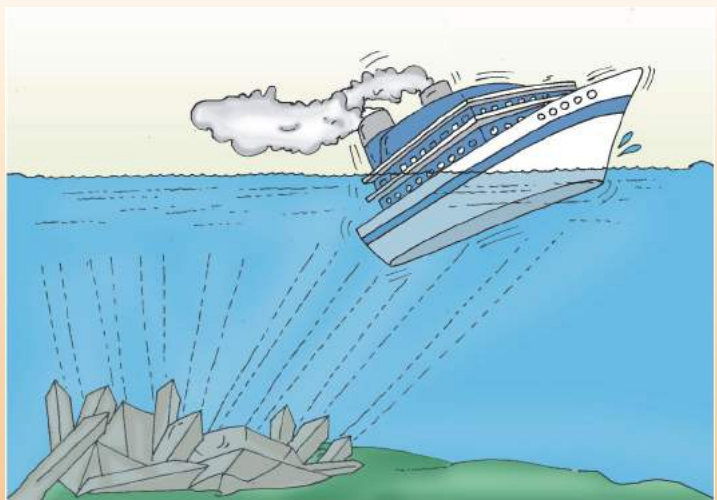
The Bermuda triangle is a stretch over the Atlantic Ocean, measuring less than a thousand miles on any one side. The name 'Bermuda Triangle' remained a colloquial expression throughout the 1950s. By the early 1960s, it acquired the name 'The Devil's Triangle.' Bordered by Florida, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico, the location became famous on account of the strange disappearance of ships, as well as aircrafts in the area. A number of supernatural explanations have been put forward with regard to the mysterious disappearances.

Many probable logical explanations for the missing vessels include hurricanes, earthquakes, as well as magnetic fields, which render navigation devices worthless. However, most people do not like to accept such boring explanations and instead opt for more interesting options like alien abduction, giant squids, or getting sucked into another dimension.

Supernatural theories

Death Rays from Atlantis

Rays from the magic crystals, left from the time of Atlantis, deep down in the sea are responsible for the strange sinking of ships. However, several underwater expeditions have revealed places under the ocean that look man-made, but no such crystals have been found. In fact, no real proof that Atlantis existed, has been ever found.





Sea monsters

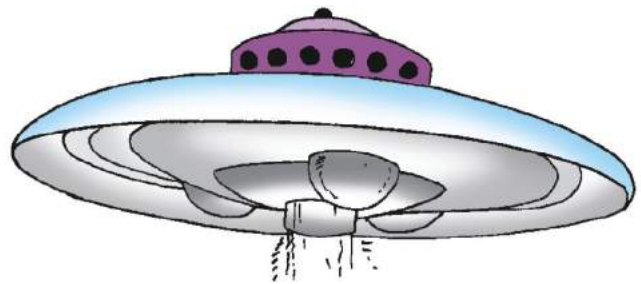
The presence of sea monsters was the most widely believed explanation especially in the earlier times, when their existence was believed to be true.

Presence of a time warp

People claim to be lost in the time warp while going through the region.

Alien abductions

The Bermuda Triangle is a collecting station from where aliens take our people, ships, planes and other objects back to their planet to study.



Scientific Explanations

Magnetic Compass

According to the scientists in the US Navy, this area is one of the only two in the world, where a magnetic compass points to true north rather than magnetic north. This probably caused some navigators to go off course, which is very dangerous because many of the islands in 'The Triangle' have large areas of shallow water where vessels can run aground. They can also sink a long way down as some of the ocean's deepest trenches, from 19,000 to over 27,000 feet below sea level, are found here.

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Unpredictable weather

Since the island is situated in the Atlantic Ocean, the weather is influenced by several factors and can change instantly. That means that at one moment, the weather is stable, and at another, it becomes extremely turbulent accompanied by strong currents of wind along with the hurricanes.

Formation of methane in the sea.

Methane can lower the density of water, leading to the sinking of ships. Similarly, methane can cut out an aircraft engine, leading to crashes.

Bermuda Triangle Survivors

These witnesses constitute a long list of pilots, sailors and fishermen.

1. It is interesting to note that Christopher Columbus was one such witness. He wrote in his memoir on how his compass acted strangely while sailing through the Bermuda Triangle. He, along with another shipmate, witnessed a glowing globe of light that seemed to hover over the sea.
2. It is said that when clouds or fog enter the Bermuda Triangle, strange things start happening. Such a phenomenon has been witnessed with the Philadelphia Experiment in which the USS Eldridge vanished and reappeared later, miles away, with some of the crew men warped into the hull of the ship.
3. In 1901, Anne Moberly and Eleanor Jourdain stepped into a mist and claimed to arrive at a time period before the French Revolution. It is said, that the mist and the ominous clouds might be the key to time travel or entering into other dimensions.
4. Even a great pilot like Charles Lindbergh, witnessed unusual events while flying in the reaches of the Bermuda Triangle. It is said that when he was making a nonstop flight from Havana to St. Louis, his magnetic compass started rotating. His Earthinductor-compass needle jumped back and forth erratically. This has now all been revealed in his autobiography.



5. Another eyewitness account is that of Bruce Gernon, who flew his plane, a Bonanza A36, into the Bermuda Triangle and encountered a non-threatening mile and a half long cloud. As he neared, the cloud seemed to come alive. It became huge and engulfed his plane. However, a tunnel opened up in the cloud and he went through this tunnel. It had cloud trails swirling around his plane. He also reported that while going into this tunnel, he experienced zero gravity and the only thing that kept him in the cockpit was his seatbelt.

Whatever be the actual reason, there is an involvement of more than one factor behind the disappearances of ships and aircrafts in the Bermuda triangle region.

The Bermuda triangle continues to evoke a lot of interest. Most people like to read about it. In fact, in the last few decades, the island of Bermuda has emerged as a major tourist destination as well; mainly due to its close proximity with the Bermuda Triangle.

A.5. Work in pairs and complete the table of the supernatural theories and logical explanations as presented in 'The Mystery of Bermuda Triangle'.

Supernatural Theories	
(i) _____ _____	(ii) _____ _____
(iii) _____ _____	(iv) Alien abductions

Scientific Explanations	
(i) Loss of direction due to change in magnetic field.	(ii) _____ _____
(iii) _____ _____	

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A.6. Teacher/Students will read out an interview between a radio jockey and a pilot. (Page 174)

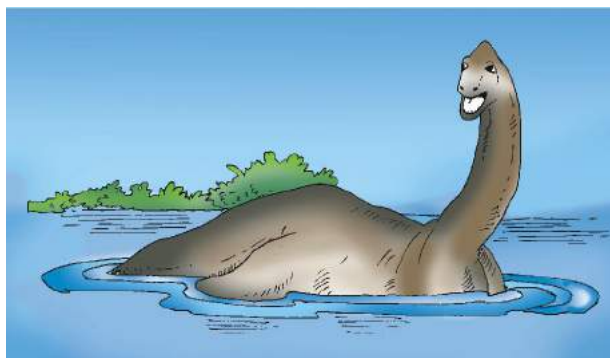
A.7. (a) In groups of four, prepare a questionnaire for a pilot who has survived the Bermuda Triangle. Use the hints given below.

- Radar normal • No disturbances • Sudden communication failure
- Strange occurrence (use any of the theories or myths you have just read about)

(b) On the basis of the questionnaire, hold a conversation with your partner - one could be a radio jockey and the other could be the pilot.

A.8. In groups of six, work on one of the mysteries given below by surfing the net and through other sources. Create a power point presentation/ a photo essay.

- * Yeti, the abominable snowman
- * Loch Ness Monster
- * UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects)
- * Lost city of Atlantis
- * Crop circles
- * Nazca lines



B. THE INVISIBLE MAN

- B.1. List some phrases and words that come to your mind, when you look at the picture given below.



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B.2. Discuss in groups.

- * Have you heard a story, seen a film, or read about someone becoming invisible?
- * Did he/she use his/her power for good or for evil?

B.3. Study the words given in the box below and complete the police report.

arresting	broken	chief	committing	court
directly	doubt	guilty	lawyer	remain
shadows	suspicious			

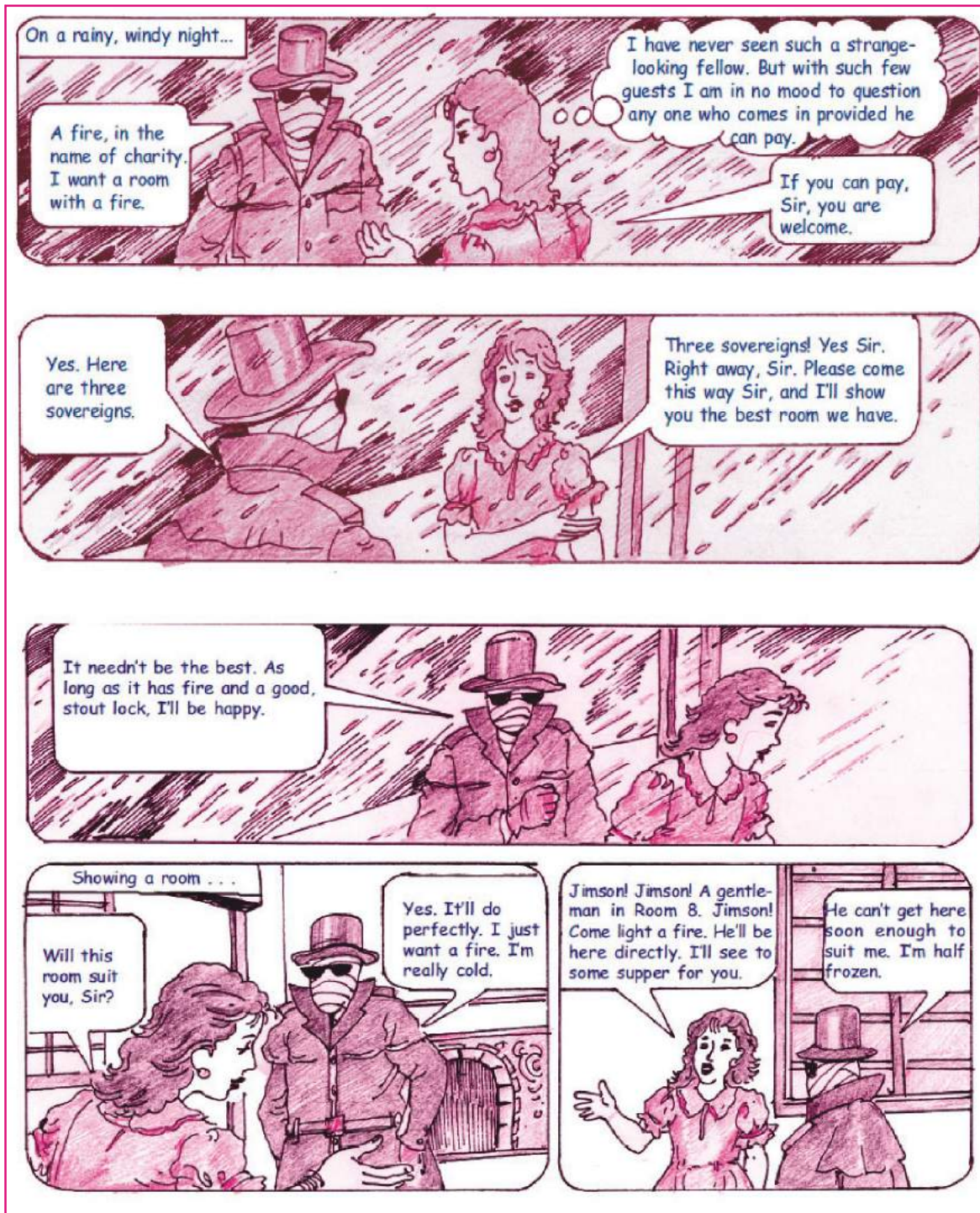
Wednesday, 4 January

At 9.15 pm, I was driving along Belvedere Street when I noticed something moving in the (a) _____. On closer examination, I could see two rather (b) _____ looking men outside House Number 5. I felt certain these men were in the middle of (c) _____ a crime, so I stopped my car round the corner and walked (d) _____ over to the two suspects. By this time I was in no (e) _____, that a robbery was taking place. I quietly spoke to the (f) _____ of police on my radio to inform him that two men had (g) _____ into a house and were trying to steal what looked like a television. At that moment the criminals saw me. I warned them not to move and told them I was (h) _____ them for robbery. I informed them that they could (i) _____ silent if they wished and that they could phone their (j) _____ from the police station. The men said they weren't (k) _____ and that they were just borrowing their friend's TV. "You can tell that to the judge when you get to the (l) _____, " I said.

B.4. What would you do if you became invisible? Would you use your invisibility to play tricks on people or for the good of people?

Write a short paragraph on 'If I were invisible'.

B.5. Read the comic strip based on H.G. Wells' novella.



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You are soaked through. May I take your hat and coat to dry them up by the kitchen fire, Sir?

Yes, Sir!

No, I prefer to keep them on and I don't want people hanging about. I'll pay you well but I want to be left alone. I have a great deal of work to do and I don't want to be disturbed. I trust I make myself clear? Utterly . . . wholly . . . completely . . . alone.

Were . . . er . . . were you in an accident? Er . . . All those bandages . . . I thought . . . er . . .

Leave me alone or I'll have to shift out.

For two days . . .

Sir, your dinner.

Leave the tray outside. I'll take it.

Jimson had strange stories to tell . . .

Kept his back to me the whole time. Wouldn't let me see so much as a centimetre of his face. Got me to wondering. I kept asking him questions and making observations about the weather until he was ready to burst, he was so anxious for me to get out. At last he couldn't control his anger and he whirled around. And would you believe it? He held a handkerchief in front of his face. Like he didn't want me to see him. Know what I think? I think he's invisible.

Jimson you are a superstitious old fool! Invisible? Your mind is wandering.

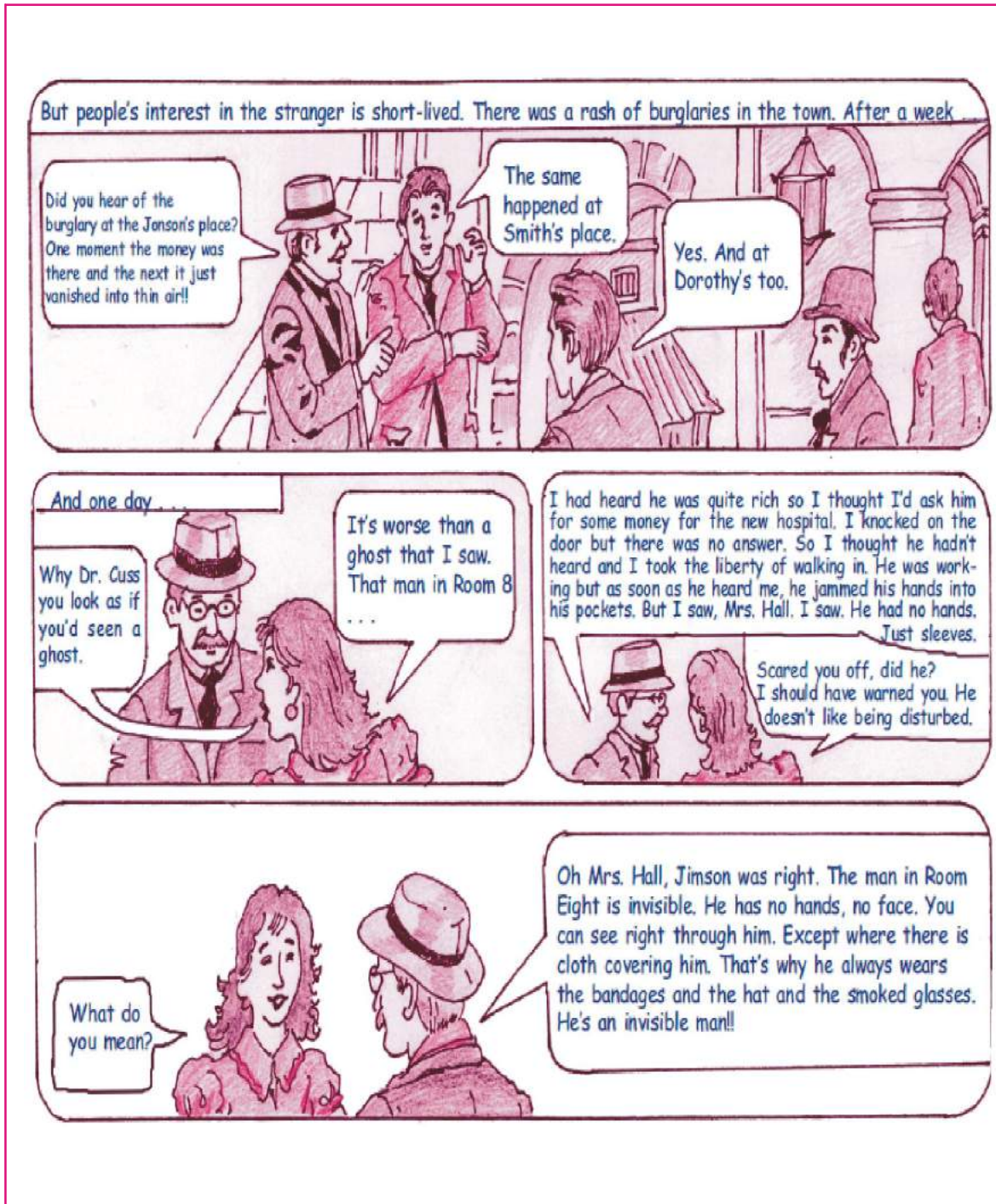
Soon the entire town is talking about the strange guest at the inn.

I hear he is invisible.

No one's seen his face.

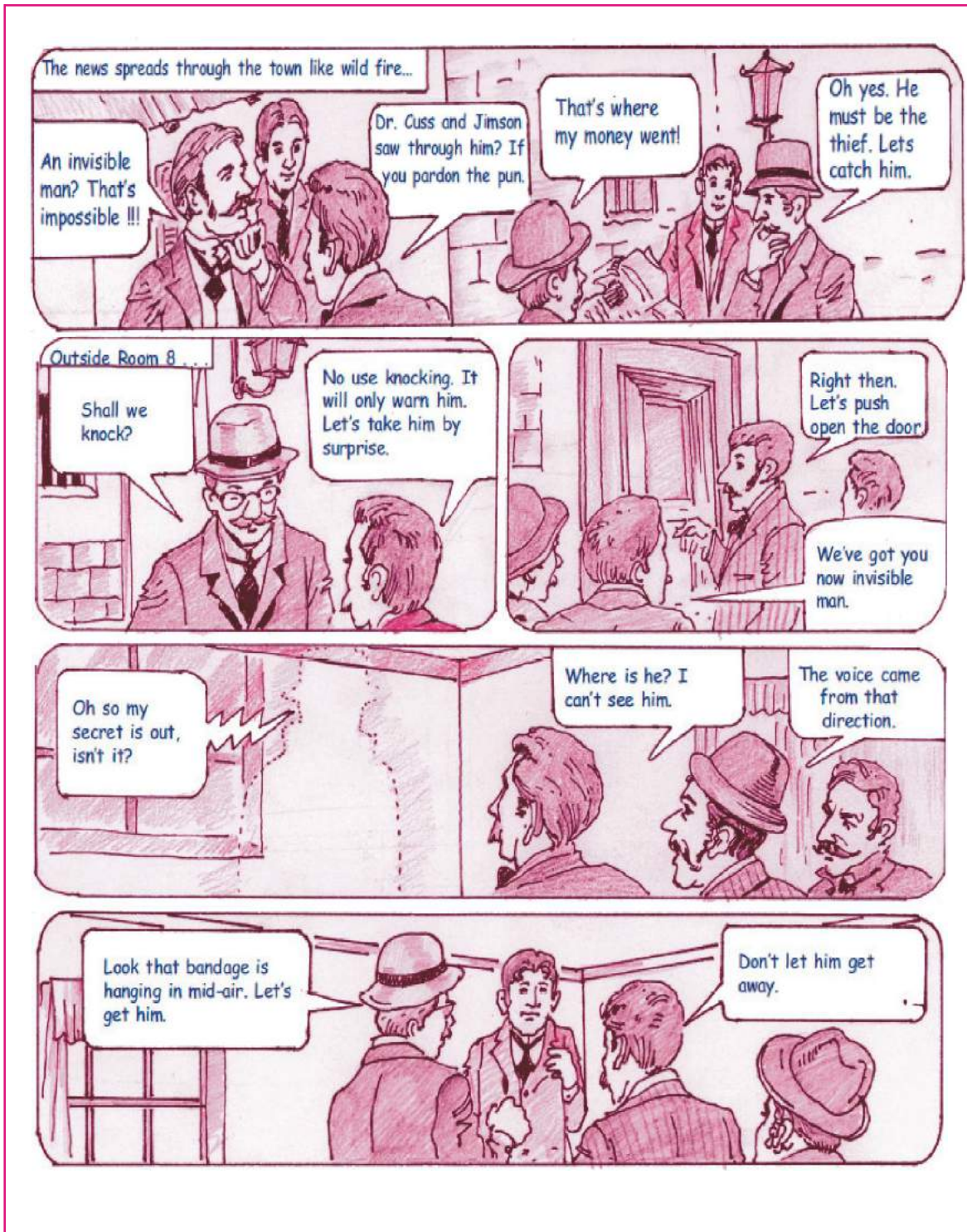
He doesn't step out of the room.

His meals are left in a tray outside his room.



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Answer the questions by selecting the correct option.

- (a) The strange-looking man wanted....
- (i) the best room at the inn.
 - (ii) a room with a fire and a good lock.
 - (iii) a room with a good view.
 - (iv) a room where he could work quietly.
- (b) Jimson was suspicious of the stranger because...
- (i) he did not answer Jimson's questions.
 - (ii) he did not want to talk about the weather.
 - (iii) he kept his back turned towards Jimson at all times.
 - (iv) he shouted at Jimson when he entered his room.
- (c) The people of the town gossiped about the stranger as...
- (i) he did not go out or talk to anyone in the town.
 - (ii) he had met with an accident and his face was bandaged.
 - (iii) he was new to the town and behaved rudely.
 - (iv) he stayed in his room and did not show his face to anyone.
- (d) "There was a rush of burglaries in the town". This means that
- (i) there were many robberies in the town.
 - (ii) a few people in the town had seen a robber.
 - (iii) the burglaries in the town were done in a rush.
 - (iv) the burglar was a rash and careless man.
- (e) Although Jimson and Dr Cuss are suspicious of the strange guest, Mrs Hall tolerates him because....
- (i) she is not superstitious or ignorant.
 - (ii) she is sorry for the stranger who is bandaged.
 - (iii) the stranger is paying her a good amount of money for the room.
 - (iv) the stranger is polite and kind to Mrs Hall at all times.

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- (f) The stranger who was staying at the inn can be described as being....
- (i) violent
 - (ii) upright
 - (iii) dishonest
 - (iv) sensible

B.7. WRITING A MYSTERY STORY

Mysteries can be divided into several categories. There are **puzzling stories**, **detective / crime stories**, and **suspense stories**. They all give the reader a chance to become involved in the solution of the story through **clues** and character **descriptions**.

Characters

Before you start to write, think about the characters you might put in your story.

- * What will each character do?
- * Why is he or she important to the story?
- * In what ways are your characters alike?
- * How are they different?
- * What can your characters learn from each other?
- * One last thing to remember: your characters don't always have to be human. If an animal plays a part in the story, that animal is a character, too

Setting

A story has to happen in a **place**.

- * The setting might be a place you are familiar with.
- * It might even be another planet!
- * A setting doesn't even have to be a real place.

Details

- * Use your **imagination**.
- * Details help readers understand how something looks, how it feels, how it sounds - even how something smells or tastes!

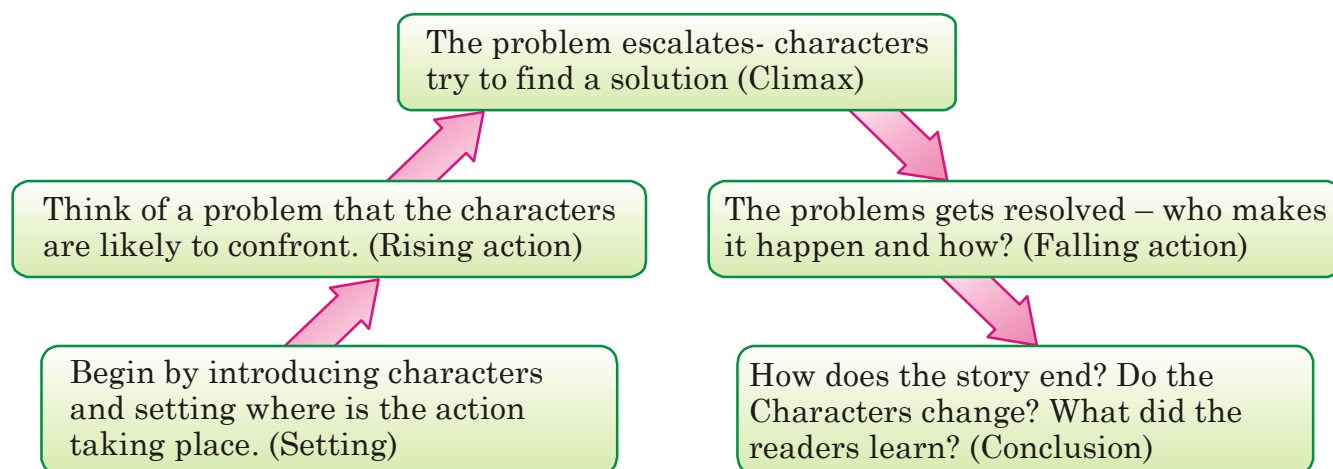
Plot

- * Your characters have to **DO** something!
- * What they do is the **plot** of your story.
- * To make the plot exciting add **situations**.

Ending

- * The **ending** of a story is the solution to the conflict.
- * Solve the problem, dilemma or conflict faced by the main character.
- * Show that your main character has changed or grown in some way.
- * Tie up all the loose ends. Readers shouldn't have to choose between several hinted endings.

Use the Story pyramid to organise your ideas



B.6. Working in groups of four, create your own mystery story. You may use the following chart to plan your story.

Title of 'Solve-it Story'	
Main Character	
Secondary character	

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Setting (where and when)	
Problem	
Main events	
Climax	
Solution/Conclusion	

C. THE TRAGEDY OF BIRLSTONE

C.1 Look at the picture below and list some phrases and words that come to your mind when you look at it.



C.2. Can you make some guesses about the dead man? Give reasons for your answers.

- a) Did the man die a natural death or was he murdered?
- b) Was the dead man rich or poor?
- c) Who is the man bending over him?

C.3. Here are a police constable's notes of his investigation of the murder at Manor House. After reading the notes, discuss where the murder could have taken place. What was the motive behind the evil act? How was the act committed?

Murder at Manor House

Birlstone: January 6th

Manor House - state of wild confusion and alarm

- white faced servants
- frightened butler
- man horribly injured- terrible marks
- we have no clues yet

C.4. Dr. Wood, the capable general practitioner, has been requested to solve this case. He gathers information about the murder from the inmates of the house. The information is presented in two parts.

Part A: Background story by Arthur Conan Doyle

Part B: Conversation between Dr. Wood and Cecil Barker

Part A

Background Story

The village of Birlstone is a small and very ancient cluster of half-timbered cottages on the northern border of the county of Sussex. For centuries, it had remained unchanged but its picturesque appearance has attracted well-to-do residents. A number of small shops have come into being to meet the wants of the increased population.

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About half a mile from the town, standing in an old park famous for its huge beech trees, was the ancient Manor House, with its many gables and its small diamond paned windows. The only approach to the house was over a drawbridge, the chains and windlass of which had been rusted and broken. The family consisted of only two individuals - John Douglas and his wife. Douglas was cheery and genial to all and had acquired great popularity among the villagers. He appeared to have plenty of money. Thus, it came about that John Douglas had, within five years, won himself quite a reputation in Birlstone. His wife was a beautiful woman, tall, dark and slender, younger than her husband; a disparity which seemed in no way to mar the contentment of their family life. It was remarked sometimes, that the confidence between the two did not appear to be complete. There were signs, sometimes, of some nerve strain upon the part of Mrs. Douglas.

Cecil Barker was a frequent and welcome visitor at Manor House. Barker was an easy going, free handed gentleman.

It was on Jan 6th at 11:45 that the alarm reached the small local police station that John Douglas had been murdered. Dr. Wood seemed to be unnerved and troubled.

Part B

Conversation between Dr. Wood and Cecil Barker

Dr. Wood: We will touch nothing until my superiors arrive. *(He spoke in a hushed voice, staring at the dreadful head)*

C Barker: Nothing has been touched until now.

Dr. Wood: When did this happen?

C Barker: It was just half-past eleven. I was sitting by the fire in my bedroom when I heard the gun shot. In thirty seconds, I was in the room.

Dr. Wood: Was the door open?

C. Barker: Yes, it was open. Poor Douglas was lying as you see him.



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Dr. Wood: Did you see anyone?

C. Barker: No, I heard Mrs. Douglas coming down the stairs behind me, and I rushed out to prevent her from seeing this dreadful sight.

Dr. Wood: But I have heard that the drawbridge is kept up all night.

C. Barker: Yes, it was up until I lowered it.

Dr. Wood: Then, how could any murderer have got away? It is out of question! Mr Douglas must have shot himself.

C. Barker: That was our first idea. But see! The diamond paned window is open to its full extent.

Dr. Wood: I think someone stood there while trying to get out.

C. Barker: You mean that someone waded across the moat?

Dr. Wood: Exactly!

C. Barker: I agree with you.

Dr. Wood: But what I ask you is, how did he even get into the house at all if the bridge was up?

C. Barker: Ah, that's the question.

Dr. Wood: At what time was the bridge raised?

C. Barker: It was nearly 6 o'clock.

Dr. Wood: Then it comes to this, if anyone came from outside - if they did - they must have got in across the bridge before six and had been in hiding ever since. The man was waiting. He shot him, when he got the chance.



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C.5. Answer the following questions by ticking the correct options.

1. The only change in Birlstone in years has been _____
 - a. the opening of a few shops.
 - b. the timbered cottages.
 - c. an improvement in its picturesque appearance.
 - d. a number of well-to-do residents have settled there.
2. The Manor House stood out because of its _____
 - a. diamond-paned windows.
 - b. huge beech trees.
 - c. drawbridge and windows.
 - d. residents.
3. John Douglas had won quite a reputation for himself in Birlstone because of his _____
 - a. genial temperament.
 - b. Manor House.
 - c. his wealth.
 - d. his beautiful wife.
4. Cecil Barker's first reaction at the sight of the dead Douglas was to _____
 - a. inform Mr Woods.
 - b. stop Mrs Douglas from seeing the dead body.
 - c. call for help.
 - d. observe the open door.

C. 6. Answer the following briefly.

1. Why do you think this extract is named a 'Tragedy'?
2. Cecil Barker was a sensitive person. Justify the statement giving evidence from the text.
3. Examine the importance of the time, 6 o'clock, in the given excerpt.

D. HARRY POTTER

D.1. Your teacher/ classmate will read out the conversation adapted from 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by J. K. Rowling, from page no 174.

As you listen to the excerpt, complete the following statements.

1. Aunt Petunia did not like her sister and brother-in-law as _____.
2. Harry's mother had met his father at _____.
3. Harry had been told that his parents had _____
This was not the truth, as _____.
4. The name of the Wizard who killed Harry Potter's parents was _____.
5. Hagrid was reluctant to name _____ and called him _____.
6. Harry got the scar on his forehead when _____.

D.2. Film / Book Review

The aim of writing a review is to judge a film or a book and inform the viewer / reader about it. The reviewer talks about the subject of the film / book being reviewed and how the film maker or director / author has handled the subject. At times, the reviewer's aim is to arouse the interest of the viewer / reader so that she / he wishes to see the film / read the book. Sometimes, the reviewer warns the viewer/ reader, why she / he should not see or read a particular film / book.

Write a review of a Harry Potter film / book or an episode of Malgudi Days that you have seen.

You must include:

- * the name of the film / book
- * the cast / director / writer
- * the important characters
- * a very brief outline of the film / book
- * why the film/ book was worth seeing or reading / not worth seeing or reading

Sources

- 1) [//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda-Triangle//](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda-Triangle//)
- 2) [/www.bermuda-triangle.org/](http://www.bermuda-triangle.org/)
- 3) [/www.bermudatrianglemystery.net./](http://www.bermudatrianglemystery.net./)