

Before-reading questions

1-2 *Reader's own answers.*

During-reading questions**CHAPTER ONE**

- 1 Because Joyce used to be a nurse and knows how the injury would affect someone.
- 2 It was started because Penny Gray, who used to be a Detective Inspector in the Kent Police, had a file of unsolved murder cases. She wanted to go through it looking for anything that was missed. The Thursday Murder Club is Elizabeth, Joyce (who has taken the place of Penny), Ibrahim and Ron. They meet every Thursday in the Jigsaw Room.

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 It means he is not going to accept Ian Ventham's arguments.
- 2 It is about a new development at Coopers Chase that will mean cutting down a lot of trees. He has a final stage planned called Hillcrest. He plans to buy the land for this from Gordon Playfair.

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 She goes to tell her about Tony Curran's murder. John is Penny's husband and spends every day with her at Willows.
- 2 Donna pretends to tie her shoe because she wants to hear what Chris Hudson is saying to his team about the murder case.

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 He ran the drugs business in Fairhaven.
- 2 He asks Donna to text him a copy because he wants her phone number.

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 They want to find out if Ian Ventham had enough time to drive to Tony Curran's house and kill him.
- 2 He is the other man in the photograph. They need to speak to him so that they can rule him out.

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 He finds the bones of another body on the lid of a coffin.
- 2 Ian Ventham becomes angry because Father Mackie is telling people what to do and acting like he owns Coopers Chase.

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 He was given an injection of fentanyl.
- 2 They go to interview Jason because they have found out it was him who called Tony Curran three times on the morning of his murder, and his car was in the area at the time (the speed cameras caught his registration number).

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 Stephen is happy to meet Bogdan because he can play chess well.
- 2 The cab driver was shot because he was a witness to the shooting of the boy. Tony wanted to be careful, so he had him killed.

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 Jason has gone to see his dad because he needs the Thursday Murder Club's help to find Bobby Tanner and Johnny.
- 2 The bones are from the 1970s. This is important because they are not as old as the bones in the coffin, so were not buried at the same time.

- 3 The police share that Matthew Mackie is a doctor who retired from medicine and was never a priest. The Murder Club tell the police about the bones. They also share that they are happy that Jason did not kill Tony Curran, and that Turkish Johnny took the photo taken in the Black Bridge.

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 Peter Ward is Bobby Tanner. Elizabeth found him by watching the CCTV of the Woodvale Cemetery where his brother is buried. She noticed a florist's van with Peter Ward's name, address and telephone number parked there on the date of his brother's birthday and the date of his death.
- 2 He met a gang from Liverpool, and they bought and used a florist's business to smuggle drugs into the UK along with the flowers in the lorries. Later, after the police had caught the other gang members, Peter had made some money and realized he had learned a lot about flowers. So he started his own florist's in Folkestone.
- 3 They know Peter Ward is not a suspect because he has CCTV of himself in his florist's shop on the day of the murder.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

- 1 They decide to meet someone who will know if Turkish Johnny came back to the UK when Curran was murdered.
- 2 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* She didn't rise above Detective Inspector because she probably argued with important male police officers who wanted to stop her career because she was strong and female.

CHAPTER TWELVE

- 1 She has learned that a company called Bramley Holdings has bought Coopers Chase.
- 2 It means "you will have to kill me before I let you do that".
- 3 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* She is trying to get Mackie to confess by telling him a story that he recognizes about himself. By telling him this story, she is letting him know that she knows what he has done.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

- 1 She is "Maggie", the woman that Matthew Mackie loved. They had a relationship, and she realized she was expecting a baby. She killed herself when Sister Mary found out about it. Mackie asked for "Maggie" to be buried in the cemetery in return for staying silent about what happened.
- 2 Ian Ventham was planning to dig up the cemetery where Maggie is buried. This gave Mackie a very good reason for wanting him dead.
- 3 He arranges to meet her on a dating app because he wants to accuse her of Ian Ventham's murder. Yes, it is a successful meeting because they enjoy their lunch and being with each other, but Jason soon realizes that Karen is not the murderer.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

- 1 He tells them that a farmer is buried there. John says he killed him with an injection because he was very unhappy.
- 2 Peter Mercer is really buried there.
- 3 She says this because she sees John give Penny an injection (probably of fentanyl) that she guesses will kill her.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

- 1 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:*
Bogdan admits the truth to Stephen because he is clever and already knows it, and it is better to admit it than have him tell the police. Bogdan also trusts Stephen as he has spent a lot of time with him playing chess, and they have become friends.
- 2 The police think he went to Cyprus because, after helping Bogdan to kill Turkish Johnny, Steve Ercan flew to Cyprus, using Johnny's passport, and then came back, using his own. Steve and Bogdan also took clothes and money from Johnny's flat to make it look like he had decided to leave.
- 3 Elizabeth starts to cry because she is sad about Penny and John, and worried for Stephen's health.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

- 1 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:*
Elizabeth didn't go to the funeral because she was too upset about her friend's death or did not agree with what she did (or perhaps both).
- 2 Bramley Holdings, a company owned by Joyce's daughter Joanna, bought Coopers Chase. Joanna has seen how happy her mother is at Coopers Chase and does not want things to change for her. Joanna also knows her company will make a lot of money from Coopers Chase and the Hillcrest development.
- 3 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* The note could be news about another murder.

After-reading questions

- 1 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:*
Bogdan will probably get away with his crime because the members of the Thursday Murder Club like him and understand why he did what he did.
- 2 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* It says that they can still be very healthy and active, and that they can still enjoy themselves and make themselves useful.
- 3 *Reader's own answer. Model answer:* She was probably a spy (a person who tries to find out another country's secrets) or someone who worked for the government's secret services.
- 4 *Reader's own answer.*

Exercises

CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO

- 1 1 d 2 e 3 a 4 f
5 c 6 g 7 b

CHAPTER THREE

- 2 1 Elizabeth arrived at Ibrahim's apartment very early. She **had** rung him the night before with the news about Tony Curran.
- 2 After visiting Ibrahim, she **had** immediately come to see Penny.
- 3 Donna **has** placed the tea on a desk. She reaches down, pretending to tie her shoe.
- 4 He **has/had** been to retirement villages before and this lovely, peaceful development is not what he was expecting. (Both forms are possible in 4.)

CHAPTERS FOUR AND FIVE

- 3 1 Joyce is thinking about Joanna.
- 2 Donna is thinking about the Thursday Murder Club.
- 3 Ian Ventham is thinking about Donna and Chris.

- 4 Chris is thinking about Jason Ritchie.
- 5 John is thinking about Elizabeth.

CHAPTER SIX

- 4 1 guest 2 spade
- 3 priest 4 hole
- 5 box 6 cover

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 5 1 I've **seen** many people die and I've cried a lot of tears.
- 2 Well, it must be someone who **was standing** close to him in order to give him an injection.
- 3 He was married but **dating** other women.
- 4 The time **taken** means it had to stop for ten minutes somewhere in between – just enough to murder someone.
- 5 What were you doing at Tony Curran's house on the day he was **murdered**?

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 6 1 false. He has been watching her for a while and has not seen a man.
- 2 true
- 3 false. It was easy twenty years ago, but the gang has gone now.
- 4 true

CHAPTER NINE

- 7 1 Jason told Ron that he got the photo on the morning of Curran's murder.
- 2 Jason replied that it was always drugs in those days.
- 3 Ron asked Jason if he had killed Tony Curran.
- 4 Elizabeth asked Jason if Tony Curran had been the sort of man who might do that.
- 5 Chris asked Elizabeth and Joyce how they could be so stupid.
- 6 Joyce asked Chris if he would like some wine.

CHAPTERS TEN AND ELEVEN

- 8 1 Peter gave up crime and started selling flowers in a **florist's**.
- 2 Johnny left England after the police made him a **suspect** for the murder of the cab driver.
- 3 Johnny left and took one hundred **grand** of Tony's money.
- 4 They were arrested for **smuggling drugs** into England.
- 5 Peter and Jason wanted to leave the **gang** after the shooting in the Black Bridge.

CHAPTERS TWELVE AND THIRTEEN

- 9 1 a 2 c 3 d 4 b 5 e 6 f

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

- 10 1 Who is in the grave?
- 2 Why did you move to Coopers Chase?
- 3 How did you kill Ian Ventham?
- 4 How did you know Peter Mercer had medical training?
- 5 Why did Peter Mercer leave the army?
- 6 When did Penny tell you what she had done?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

- 11 Bogdan nods. "**I told Johnny (that) I needed** to speak to him. Don't tell Tony, don't tell the others. I **told him that** a friend **worked** in Newhaven port and there might be some money for him, and **was** he interested? And **he was** interested, so we **met** at the port at 2 a.m. with a man called Steve Ercan, and he **came** with us. Steve **knew** Kazimir. **He** was also his friend. So, we **got** in a little boat and Johnny **was** stupid, he just **thought** about money. We **sailed, sailed, sailed** and the water **was** rough, and I **was** telling him **the** plan, that we **would use** this little boat to smuggle people and drugs. Then I **took** out a gun and I **told** him **to** kneel

down and I **said**, ‘You killed Kazimir’ so he **knew** why, and I **shot** him. I **took** his cards and keys. We put stones in his pockets and **threw** him in **the** sea. We **went** back to Newhaven and then we **drove** to his apartment. We **took** his passport and **packed** a suitcase full of clothes. There **was** a lot of money – drug money – and we **took** this, too. I knew some of the money was Tony’s so I **was** glad to take it.”

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

12 1 c 2 e 3 a 4 b 5 f 6 d

Project work

Reader’s own answers.

Essay questions

Reader’s own answers.