

INTERACT
WITH
LITERATURE



Bram Stoker ♦ Roberta Simpson Brown
Adèle Geras ♦ Maria Leach ♦ Stephen King
Evelyn Waugh ♦ Edgar Allan Poe ♦ Felix Boyd
Frederic Brown ♦ Agatha Christie

Amazing

C h a r a c t e r s

by Guglielmo Corrado

TEACHER'S BOOK



Notes on Pictures / Photos

The pictures / photos in the students' book may be used as:

- a brainstorming activity aimed at eliciting words that the students already know;
- a post-reading activity to check the acquisition of what has been thought.

UNIT ONE

Horriying Characters

Dracula

BEFORE READING (p. 6)

- 1 a *Accepted answers:* the ghost of a dead wrongdoer; a huge bat feeding on the blood of sleeping people; an un-dead creature.
b become vampires themselves
c to drive a cross through the vampire's heart

EXTRACT ONE (p. 8)

- 1 What was unusual about Dracula's appearance: 1 He was clad in black from head to toe; 2 He hadn't a single speck of colour about him.
Effect produced by the silver lamp: it produced long, quivering shadows by burning unsteadily in the draught of the open door.
- 2 a The Count's hand was very cold and so it felt like the hand of a dead man.
b Jonathan thought that he was facing the driver and not the Count because the strength of their handshakes was so similar.
c The bedroom was large, well lighted and warmed. When Jonathan saw it, he felt better.
d The Count said that he had already had dinner.
- 3 face: very strong, aquiline
nose: thin, with peculiarly arched nostrils
forehead: lofty, domed
hair: growing thinly round the temples but profusely elsewhere

eyebrows: massive, nearly meeting over his nose
 mouth: fixed, rather cruel-looking
 teeth: peculiarly sharp, white and protruding
 ears: pale, extremely pointed
 chin: broad and strong
 cheeks: firm but thin
 hands: rather unrefined, broad with short, fat fingers; with hairs in the centre of the palms
 nails: long and fine, cut to a sharp point

EXTRACT TWO (p. 12)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | What Jonathan began to do after getting up | He began to shave. |
| | What Jonathan suddenly felt on his shoulder | He felt the Count's hand. |
| | What surprised Jonathan while looking in the mirror | He was surprised at seeing no reflection of the Count in the mirror. |
| | How the Count reacted when he saw Jonathan's blood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Count's eyes burnt brightly with a sort of demoniac fury. - He tried to take hold of Jonathan's throat. - He threw the shaving-glass out of the window with great force. |

EXTRACT THREE (p. 14)

- 1 Tenor: cloak
 Vehicle: great wings
 Ground: because the opened cloak looked like wings and made the Count look animal-like
 Effect: (*possible answer*): shocking and a little scary
- Tenor: fingers and toes
 Vehicle: lizard
 Ground: because they moved as speedily as a lizard moving along a wall
 Effect: (*possible answer*): puzzling and surprising
- 2 Jonathan is scared by the fact he is not just facing a man, but an animal-like creature in the semblance of man.

3 *Possible titles*: Man or Animal? / Something... Really Amazing! / A Dreadful Creature

- 4 a Because the three women threw no shadow on the floor, even though the moonlight was behind them (see line 28).
 b Two of the women were dark and had aquiline noses (see line 30).
 c All of them had 'brilliant white teeth' (see line 36).
 d 'Some longing and at the same time some deadly fear' made Jonathan feel uneasy (see line 38).
 e They whispered together and then laughed (see lines 41-42).

5 Open-ended.

EXTRACT FOUR (p. 18)

| WORDS/EXPRESSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Lines | Pleasure | Lines | Disgust/Fear |
| 6 | delightful anticipation | 6 | agony |
| 8 | sweet/honey-sweet | 10 | a bitter offensiveness |
| 13 | thrilling voluptuousness | 14 | repulsive |
| 15-16 | scarlet lips and red tongue | 16 | white sharp teeth |
| 24 | languorous ecstasy | 25 | beating heart |

- 2 a eyes: - positively blazing (l. 33)
 - had a lurid red light in them (l. 33)
 face: deathly pale (l. 34)
 the lines of his face: 'hard like drawn wires' (l. 35)
 eyebrows: 'thick' and 'like a heaving bar of white-hot metal' (l. 35-36)
- b • *Suggested answer*: Because of his horrific aspect, harsh manners and hard voice.
 • The Count stopped the three women to prevent them from touching Jonathan. They would have to wait until he had finished with him.
 • The Count gave the three women the 'dreadful bag' to satiate their hunger.
 • Jonathan sank into unconsciousness because of the horror of the scene which overcame him.
- c The adjectives **longing-dreamy-condescending-unconscious-voluptuous-horrified** may all be used.

- 3 a** l. 28: 'The Count...as if lapped in a storm of fury'
 l. 35: 'The lines...hard like drawn wires'
 l. 36: 'The thick eyebrows...like a heaving bar of white-hot metal'
 l. 48: 'laughter...seemed like the pleasure of fiends'
 l. 57-58: 'a gasp and a low wail, as of a half-smothered child'
b *Suggested answers:* increase the nightmarish atmosphere; awaken horror in the reader.

EXTRACT FIVE (p. 23)

- 1** • Jonathan was looking for the monster (Count Dracula).
 • Jonathan had to search the Count's body for the key.
 • Jonathan's soul was filled with horror.
- 2 a** gorged; **b** bloated; **c** trickled; **d** swollen; **e** pouches; **f** leech; **g** gash; **h** repletion
- 3 a** **1** dark iron-grey **2** The cheeks were **3** ruby-red
4 The mouth was **5** ...were gouts **6** The lids and pouches
7 ...gorged with...
b A leech because the Count sucks blood like a leech.
- 4 a** **1** shuddered; **2** in him revolted; **3** drive him mad; **4** shovel....struck
b **1** turned; **2** fell full...all their blaze of basilisk horror
c **1** paralyse him; **2** turned...glanced...making...forehead; **3** fell
- 5** Open-ended.
- 6 a** Open-ended.
b double, pointed chin; thick, cherry lips; high forehead; piercing, hazel eyes; bushy eyebrows; rosy, plump cheeks; wide, mean mouth; aquiline, hook nose.
c • The thought of helping the Count move to England and the thought that he might generate a circle of semi-demons like him.
 • Because his brain seemed to be on fire and a feeling of despair was pervading him.
- 7** disconsolate-miserable-sad
- 8** Open-ended.

EXTRACT SIX (p. 27)

| | |
|--|--|
| 1 The setting at the beginning of the passage | It was almost sunset. The shadows of the mountains fell long upon the snow. |
| The Count's appearance | He was deathly pale, like a waxen image, red eyes... a look of hate in his eyes. |
| What was used to kill the Count | Jonathan's and Mr Morris' knives. |
| What happened to the Count's body | It crumbled into dust and disappeared. |
| What the Count's face looked like at the moment of final dissolution | There was a look of peace in it. |
| The setting at the end of the passage | A red sky; the sun was setting. |

- 1** (p. 29) **a** different narrators; **b** the first person; **c** the first person; **d** within the story but not at its centre
- 2** *Suggested answers:* to offer different viewpoints; to create more suspense by shifting from one narrator to the other
- 3-6** Open-ended.
-
- The Gothic Story**
- 1** The word 'Gothic' was used as an adjective denoting the language and ethnic identity of the Goths, who moved from the Baltic Sea to the Iberian peninsula from the 3rd to the 5th century A.D.
- 2** By the end of the 18th century the term 'Gothic' was used to mean 'medieval' and 'barbarous'.
- 3** Early Gothic novels were about cruelty, brutality and superstition in the Middle Ages. The characters were poisoners and evil murderers who plotted against helpless maidens; the past ages were regarded as prisons of delusion.
- 4** Edgar Allan Poe introduced 'decadence', a new keynote, through the decline and extinction of an old family line.
- 5** The 'Gothic House' may represent a structure hosting people's deepest fears, such as the fear of death, decay and confinement.
- 6** Joyce Carol Oates views the Gothic novel as a systematic transposition of realistic psychological and emotional experiences; she considers it as a sort of mirror that highlights what happens in our everyday lives: our feeling haunted, hunted, etc.
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Earthbound

BEFORE READING (p. 35)

1 Open-ended.

3 verb: Bound to go back to earth

- 4 • Marty had to leave because some things could not be avoided and he had had no choice.
 • Marty came back because his mother was suffering sadness.
 • Marty walked slowly because his legs felt unsteady and weak.

5 Setting: the road to the old farm

Where Marty 'got out': near the church

What the farm looked like when Marty came back: 'Most things hadn't changed, yet something was different' and Marty could not imagine what it was

What disturbed Marty: his feeling out of place

| 6 Word | Line | Dictionary Meaning |
|------------|-------|--|
| bound | 16 | tied |
| picking up | 16 | increasing in speed |
| rustle | 17 | make a gentle sound as of dry leaves blown in a breeze |
| jarred | 25 | moved with a hard shaking movement |
| barn | 30 | a large farm building for storing grain etc. |
| looming | 30 | coming into sight dimly |
| combine | 31 | a machine that cuts, sorts and cleans grain |
| roll in | 33-34 | move or advance |

7 False:

- a** Marty remembered a lot about his past life.
c Marty's mother was at home.
d Marty's father was dead.
f No, the picture only vibrated because of the thunder.

8 l.17 'like corn fairies whispering'

- 9 Tenor: the noise of the corn
 Vehicle: corn fairies whispering
 Ground: because it was a pleasant sound (fairies are usually seen positively)
 Effect: Open-ended

10 What:

troubled Marty as he passed the barn: the air; the odour

Marty asked himself: if his mother would think he had changed much

Marty was looking forward to: seeing his mother's face

Marty did under the porch: he seized the swing, because the wind drove him against the railing

Marty's mother did when she heard the noise: she came to the door to see what had happened

Marty did when his mother appeared at the door: he gave her his biggest smile

11 Correct words:

near/for/how long/away/At first/choice/coming back/grieving/legs/walking/about/farmhouse/together/death/tried/broke/distance/farmhouse/asked himself/changed/seeing/seized/swing/out/had happened/at

12 Open-ended.

- 13 **a** she stood there blinking
 a musty rotten odour
 the grinning skull and the rotting burial clothes of her dead son
b he reached out to her

14 The fact that Marty 'got out' from somewhere (the earth, perhaps from a cemetery) near a church. (see line 1).

15 *Possible answers:* unexpected; amazing

16 Open-ended.

17 Yes, it is. See no. 14.

19 Open-ended.

The Horror Story

- 1 The origins of Poe's horror are to be found in the Gothic novel. Poe used the conventional elements of Gothicism, but also created new stories in which terror derived mainly from the maze of the human mind and the depths of man's soul.
 - 2 Poe views the 'fall' as a sort of annihilation of the reader's most loathsome and ghastly images of death and suffering ever imagined.
 - 3 According to Stephen King when we read about a writer's imaginary horrors, we transpose our real horrors and phobias into what we read.
-

Carlotta

BEFORE READING (p. 47)

- 1-3 Open-ended.
- 4 What the doctor suggested: to write a sort of diary about his dreams
Marital status: married
Age: thirty
Occupation: teacher of Art at St Peter's School
What he wishes: he wishes he could be rid of Carlotta
Who he feels like: Hamlet
- 5 • The love story started when Edward was 17. Edward's mouth became dry whenever he looked at Carlotta. His heart beat heavily whenever he passed close to her. He was so fascinated by her hair that he started to see different colours in it.
• She falls off a bridge over a rain-swollen river; her hair becomes entangled on some underwater obstacle and she is unable to free herself.
- 6 Body: flat as a pancake/thin
Eyes: strange, widely-spaced, yellowy-green;...not conventionally pretty
Face: somewhat flat
Hair: fragranced, long, loose, black, waved and moved with a life of its own, there were blues and greens...light (l.67-68)
- 7 Her hair and her eyes. Because the writer wants to focus on what mostly impressed the protagonist.

- 8 It refers to Carlotta's small breasts.
- 9 Six months.
- 10 Because he feels somewhat responsible for Carlotta's death which is how Hamlet felt after Ophelia had committed suicide.
- 11 a Edward grieves, but gets over it. He meets Annie and marries her.
b Carlotta speaks to Edward in his dreams.
c Dr Armstrong suggests that Edward should paint a picture or make a clay model of Carlotta.
d Edward gradually feels more and more attracted to Carlotta's ghost and wishes to touch her.
- 12 False:
2: Edward feels sick and hot after the kiss.
5: Edward decides to tell no one.
- 13-15 Open-ended.
- 16 a Annie.
b Annie sees him slumped against the clay model of a woman.
c She becomes hysterical and runs out of the studio screaming.
d Dr Cooper sees Edward's corpse and the floor of the studio covered with water.
- 17 *Possible answers:* unexpected; amazing
- 18 Open-ended.
- 19 a through an introduction
b subjective description of events with personal comments
c create a sense of intimacy between the narrator and the reader
d first-person narrator who is involved in the story
e throughout the whole story
f to tell the readers about Edward's death
- 20 Open-ended.
- 21 The story covers a period of about six months.
- 22 3 May 1993: The date of Annie's statement, which is submitted in evidence at the Coroner's inquest.
15 May 1993: the date on which Edward's diary was submitted in evidence at the Coroner's inquest.

The function of both sections is to explain, complete and give consistency to the mysterious events narrated by Edward in his diary. They also guide the reader to understand the story.

- 23** *Possible titles:* Obsession / A Ghostly Companion / A Living Work of Art
- 24** *Suggested answer:* Edward was not responsible for Carlotta's death: it was an accident. However, he felt partly responsible because he had ended their relationship just before her death.
- 25-27** Open-ended.

The Ghost Story

- 1** Ancient legends and myths are the sources of inspiration of the ghost story.
 - 2** The reader shares the feelings of the character that witnesses the apparition/s.
 - 3** The spirits of the dead may be embodied in some form or disembodied.
 - 4** The reader may encounter either ghosts of the dead or imaginary ghosts. There may be ghostly animals (dogs, cats, owls, etc.) or things (trains, coaches, ships, etc.)
 - 5** Ghosts return to the world of the living for different reasons: because they cannot have peace until they have revealed a crime and punished the people responsible; they have been buried in unhallowed ground and wish to be reburied where they can rest in peace; they desire to torment or protect someone, etc.
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UNIT TWO

Irrational Characters

'Tain't So

BEFORE READING (p. 69)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 corpse | a dead body |
| grave | a trench dug in the ground to receive a coffin on burial |
| gravestone | stone on top of or at the head of a grave with the name, etc. of the person buried there |
| grave-digger | a person who digs graves |
| hearse | a vehicle for conveying the coffin at a funeral |
| coffin | a long narrow wooden box in which a corpse is buried or cremated |
| burial | a funeral |

- 2** **b** is not
The presence of 't' which is the short form for 'it' before 'ain't' helps us to decide.
- 3** These numbers should be inserted in the following order: 2-4-3-1.
- 4** The pronoun refers to Mr Dinkins' widow and to the townspeople.
- 5** What was the matter with old Mr Dinkins? He was very ill.
What did the doctor say? He said that Mr Dinkins was dying.
How did old Mr Dinkins react to what the doctor said? He did not accept the fact that he was about to die and went on saying "Tain't so!"
What happened the next day? He died, was put in a coffin, carried to church for the funeral and then buried in the graveyard.
- 6** We understand that Mr Dinkins is a stubborn old man who does not want to accept what is happening to him.

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|--|--|---|
| 7 | | 1st Neighbour | 2nd Neighbour | A Townsman |
| Setting: | time | the next morning | later on | the next day |
| | place | the graveyard; Mr Dinkins' house | the graveyard | the graveyard |
| What he saw/heard | | He saw Mr Dinkins sitting on the graveyard fence | He heard someone saying hello to him. | He heard someone saying hello to him and asking for news from the town. |
| What he did afterwards | | He went to tell Mr Dinkins' widow what he had seen and heard | First he stopped for a chat, then he went on his way, somewhat puzzled | First he stopped to talk to Mr Dinkins, then rode away fast. He stopped at the next store and told the shopkeeper what he had seen and heard. |

8 Two days.

9 She believed that her husband was foolish (see line 13).

10 **a** They were puzzled and disturbed by his presence.
b The ghost felt at ease and relaxed.

11 The verb is 'pass' to say they were 'passing' by the graveyard.

12 **a** The storekeeper; **b** Mr Dinkins; **c** A townsman; **d** The first neighbour;
e Mr Dinkins' widow; **f** The second neighbour.

13 **a** He refuses to accept the idea that he is dead.
b *Suggested answer:* because he is mad.
c Open-ended.

14 Full name: Theodore Dinkins
Age: 91
Reputation: He was a respected citizen
Where he lived: Wadmalaw Island
When he died: January 17, 1853

15 **a** They held another funeral to persuade Mr Dinkins to believe that he was actually dead.
b Because he was trying to convince himself that he was really dead.
c The ghost said 'Well - maybe so' when he was resigned to accept his death. He has not turned up again since then.

16 **a** The story is closed-ended.
b Open-ended.

17-21 Open-ended.

The Man Who Loved Flowers

BEFORE READING (p. 79)

1 Open-ended.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|---|-------------------------|
| 2 | Setting: | Time | One evening in May 1963 |
| | | Place | New York's Third Avenue |
| Characters involved | | a young man, an old lady, some people in the street | |
| What the old lady is doing | | she is pushing two bags of groceries in a pram | |
| What the old lady says | | She says 'Hey, beautiful!' | |
| What the old lady thinks | | She thinks that the young man is in love. | |

3 **a** the air, the sky, the people in the street
b the overall impression is positive as there is a pleasant atmosphere
c it is seen through the narrator's eyes

4 **a** Open-ended.
b

- A hammer murderer was still on the loose.
- JFK had declared that the situation in Vietnam would be interesting to watch.
- An unidentified woman had been pulled from the East River.
- A grand jury had failed to indict a crime overlord in the war on heroin.
- The Russians had exploded a nuclear device.

c free indirect

- 5 adjectives: sour, tooting
 nouns: seam, spill, stems, pouches, gutter, stock
 verbs: pitching, ducked, knitted, jittered, grinned, zoomed

| 6 Word | Line | Dictionary Meaning |
|----------|------|--|
| stock | 49 | a store of goods ready for sale or distribution |
| knitted | 50 | made from wool with knitting needles |
| pouches | 52 | baggy areas of skin underneath the eyes |
| jittered | 52 | trembled |
| zoomed | 54 | moved very quickly |
| sour | 55 | unfriendly |
| grinned | 66 | smiled broadly |
| gutter | 73 | the edge of a road where rainwater collects and flows away |
| ducked | 76 | lowered |
| tooting | 81 | right |
| pitching | 92 | throwing |
| stems | 96 | stalks of the flowers |
| spill | 97 | a cone of paper serving as a container |
| seam | 101 | a line where two edges join |

- 7 alert / wagon / vague / ninth / roses / cop / blast / mirror / right / softly / quarter

8 Open-ended.

- 9 it refers to the hammer
 They refers to the flowers
 them refers to the victims
 It refers to the weather
 they refers to the bloodstains
 him refers to the young man
 their refers to the couple

- 10 The girl's reaction at seeing the hammer: she backed away, her face a round white blur, her mouth an opening black O of terror.
 How long Norma had been dead: for ten years.
 Number of girls previously killed by the hammer murderer: five.
 Why the bloodstains on the young man's suit did not show: because it was dark outside.

- 11 There was a hint about the murderer in the news broadcast on the radio (see lines 28-29).

12 All answers can be accepted.

- 13 These numbers should be inserted in the following order:
 4-2-1-3-9-5-8-10-7-6.

- 14 The point of greatest tension in the story is the moment when the murderer pulls the hammer out of his coat pocket and kills the girl.

- 15 It lacks all the literary devices which make the story involving and full of suspense (adjectives, connotations, slang expressions, American forms, etc.). It actually tells very little about the story.

16 Open-ended.

17

| Ungrammatical Forms | Line | Correct Forms |
|---------------------|------|----------------------------|
| Can't do no better | 68 | I can't do anything better |
| Put in some | 68 | I can put in some |
| She don't spoil it | 83 | She doesn't spoil it |
| You bring her | 88 | Bring her |
| She don't turn | 88 | She doesn't turn |
| Just doing the job | 106 | I'm just doing the job |

18

| American Expression | Line | British Equivalent |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------|
| I'm gonna tell you | 79 | I'm going to tell you |
| You're damn tooting | 81 | You're quite right |
| She's gonna throw | 89 | She's going to throw |
| You wanna buy | 93 | Do you want to buy |

19-20 Open-ended.

Mr Loveday's Little Outing

BEFORE READING (p. 95)

1-2 Open-ended.

- 3 Who the characters speaking are: Angela and her mother
 Where Angela's father is: in the County Asylum
 Who suggests to Angela that she should visit her father: Angela suggested it herself
 How long Lord Moping has been in the Asylum: for ten years
 What the weather was like on the day of Lady Moping's party: first it was clear and brilliant, then it blackened into a squall
 What happened at six o'clock: Lord Moping attempted suicide
 How often Lady Moping visits her husband: she pays seasonal calls

4 *Correct answer: b*

- 5 **b** They might choose their own clothes.
c They might smoke the most expensive brands of cigars.
d They might have private dinner parties on the anniversaries of their certification.

6 **a** The chair was screwed to the floor.

- b** Lord Moping's talk was centred on: a letter to the Pope, the Danube, the Elbe, the Amazon and the Tigris.
c It means 'You don't mean he's mad, too?'

7 Open-ended.

- 8 **a** He is an elderly little man with white hair and has an expression of great kindness.
b He helps the other patients and acts as Lord Moping's secretary.
c He killed a young woman.
- 9 **a** It is to nobody's interest.
b He has no relatives except a step-sister.
c He is too useful in the institution and Angela's father would be lost without his secretary.

10 Her feelings on leaving the asylum: she felt oppressed by a sense of injustice.
 Reasons why she consulted the encyclopedia: she read the lunacy laws because she wanted to try to get Mr Loveday out of the mental hospital.

Her reaction after talking to Mr Loveday: she had tears in her eyes as she drove away, determined that he would have his little outing.

b Open-ended.

11

| Who | What |
|--|---|
| Angela, Sir Roderick, the doctors | were sitting on the stage of the gymnasium |
| All the stable inmates | were assembled below the stage |
| Lord Moping, on behalf of the wealthier lunatics | gave Mr Loveday a gold cigarette case |
| Those who supposed themselves to be emperors | showered Mr Loveday with decorations and titles of honour |
| The warders | gave him a silver watch |
| Many of the non-paying inmates | were in tears |
| The doctor | made the main speech |
| About a dozen lunatics | hopped and skipped down the drive after Mr Loveday |

12 *Possible answers:* tragic, unexpected

13 *Correct answer:* the events are narrated in jumbled order.

14 The writer has chosen to do so to create more suspense.

15 Open-ended.

16 These numbers should be inserted in the following order:
 5-1-2-3-4-6-7-8-9-10

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 17 arrogant – arrogance | shy – shyness |
| mean – meanness | snobbish – snobbishness |
| dishonest – dishonesty | stubborn – stubbornness |
| aggressive – aggressiveness | frank – frankness |
| generous – generosity | sensitive – sensitivity |
| patient – patience | ambitious – ambition |
| creative – creativity | |

18-20 Open-ended.

The Tell-Tale Heart

BEFORE READING (p. 114)

- 1 **a** A 'vulture' is a bird of prey, which feeds on the corpses of animals.
b The expression 'He is a vulture' is used to indicate a person who benefits from other people's misfortunes.
- 2 Open-ended.
- 3 **a** The narrator is going to tell his story.
b The narrator is fighting against the idea of being thought mad.
c His disease has improved his senses, especially his hearing.
- 4 The following words should be highlighted:
 nervous/mad/disease/I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth/I heard many things in hell/how calmly...
 The words might be considered as a proof of the confusion inside the narrator's mind.
- 5 The following words/expressions should be inserted:
 killing the old man/night/loved the old man/did not desire it/the old man's eye/Little by little/old man's eye.
- 6 The expression suggests that he was terrorised by the eye.

| Narrator's Comments on his Behaviour and Mental State | Lines |
|--|-------|
| You fancy me mad... But you should have seen how wisely... | 15-16 |
| ...with what caution...to work | 17-18 |
| I was never kinder to the old man | 18 |
| I turned...so gently | 19-20 |
| You would have...how cunningly | 22-23 |
| I moved it slowly... | 23 |
| Would a madman have been so wise as this? | 26 |
| I undid the lantern cautiously... | 27 |
| I went boldly...courageously...hearty tone | 32-34 |

- 8 He gives absurd examples because he wants to convince the reader that he is not mad.
- 9 Because he is afraid of the old man's eye which is always closed when the narrator goes into his bedroom at night.
- 10 What the narrator felt upon the 8th night: the extent of his powers and sagacity
 At what idea the narrator was nearly laughing: at the idea of killing the old man
 Simile used to define the room: as black as pitch
 What the old man shouted: 'Who's there?'
- 11 The following words/expressions should be circled:
 I did not hear him lie down l. 52
 hearkening to the death watches l. 53-54
 I heard a slight groan...terror l. 55-56
 the low stifled sound l. 56-57
 awe l. 57
 the terrors that distracted me l. 60
 I knew...awake l. 60-62
- 12 **a** The narrator felt the groan which comes from the soul when it is full of fear.
b The narrator said that the old man's fears were growing, even though he had been trying to ignore them. The narrator realised that the old man was terrorised.
c Death had stalked with his black shadow before the old man and had enveloped him.
- 13 False:
 1: He opened the lantern quietly.
 3: The old man's eye was wide open.
 4: The narrator became furious when he looked at the old man's eye.
 7: The old man shrieked only once.
 8: The narrator smiled gaily after killing the old man.
- 14 **a** the thread of a spider.
b the sound that a watch makes when it is wrapped in cotton.
c a 'hellish tattoo'.
- 15 The expression evokes the beating of a drum.

- 16** The sentence 'the old man's hour had come!' should be underlined. It marks the climax or moment of highest tension: the killing of the old man.
- 17** The words given in the table should be inserted in the following order: mad/concealment/hastily/legs/took/scantlings/cunningly/his/nothing/had caught/dark/knocking/now.
- 18 a** They went to search the premises because a neighbour had heard a shriek.
b He pretended that the old man was in the country.
c After a while he felt himself getting pale, his head ached and he imagined a ringing in his ears. The sound increased until he could tolerate it no longer and he admitted his guilt.

19

| The Officers | The Narrator | The Sound/Noise |
|---|---|--|
| were satisfied | was singularly at ease | // |
| still chatted | I felt myself getting pale My head ached | I fancied a ringing in my ears |
| | I talked more freely | the ringing became more distinct ... it gained definitiveness |
| | I talked more fluently | the sound increased |
| heard it not | I gasped for breath..I talked more quickly...I paced the floor...I foamed, I raved - I swore...boards | the noise steadily increased |
| still the men chatted pleasantly and smiled | | it grew louder... |
| They heard! They suspected! - they <i>knew!</i> | I felt that I must scream or die! ... I shrieked. | ...louder! louder! louder! <i>louder!</i> |

By insisting on the narrator's behaviour, the author introduces madness and the irrational and lets the reader experience a kind of horror which does not depend on supernatural manifestations and cannot be judged following common standards.

- 20** The noise he hears.
- 21** There are lots of linguistic expressions, which quicken the narrative rhythm of the story.

- 22** It adds further emphasis to the old man's mental state and it makes his final revelation sound more dramatic.
- 23 a** the narrator's fear of Death.
b the sound of Death.
- 24-25** Graph 2 is correct because there are two climaxes in the development of the story.
 Beginning: the narrator starts to tell his story.
 Climax 1: the narrator kills the old man.
 Falling action: tension decreases: the narrator hides the old man's corpse.
 Climax 2: the narrator is exasperated by the sound and confesses his crime.
- 26 Correct answers:**
a a first person protagonist narrator
b the narrator
- 27 a** self-confident
b proud
c terrified, scared, worried, anxious
d terrified, anxious
- 28** A person revealing a secret or events recalling a person's thoughts.
- 29** an adjective (attribute)
- 30** Both a and b are correct. A real human heart betrays the narrator, but his own heart (the centre of his emotions) also deceives him.
- 31** Open-ended.
- 32 a** The outcome of the story is unexpected and surprising. The reader's expectations are not fulfilled and he has to revise them. The author who wanted to produce such an effect in the reader has of course carefully planned the outcome.
b The story is set in an indefinite dark room. The author succeeds in evoking a supernatural, fearful and mysterious atmosphere, which prepares the reader for the strange events which follow.
c *The Tell-Tale Heart* can be classified as a psychological, crime or self-confession story. There is a serious crime and the reader is made aware of the psychological state of the insane narrator. The story is told in the form of a self-confession.
- 33** Open-ended.

UNIT THREE

Unforgettable Characters

The Robot Who Wanted to Know

BEFORE READING (p. 133)

- 1-2** A 'robot' is: a machine with a human appearance or functioning like a human; a machine capable of carrying out a complex series of actions automatically.
- 3-8** Open-ended.
- 9** Why Filer 13B-445-K was different from other robots: because Filer wanted to know things that he had just no business knowing.
What the robot watched intently: the robot observed the nylon-clad leg of a blonde girl in tier 22 attentively.
What the robot told the blonde girl: that the seam of her tights or stockings was crooked.
- 10** **a** he was just a robot.
b robots are incapable of lying.
c love, romance and sex.
d think of related books in other subjects.
e he had access to tons of books on the subject.
f listening to male-female conversations whenever he had the opportunity and by observing women from the viewpoint of men and vice versa.
- 11** **a** It consisted of going to the party disguised as a human.
b The sentence could indicate that Filer was breaking the barriers between humans and machines.
c The empty wrapping paper (see line 88).
d He headed straight for the bar and gulped down three glasses of champagne.
- 12** False:
1: He had eyes only for 'the belle'.
3: Carol was bored.
5: Carol was rich.

- 13** **a** His words struck fire...sweep through her (see lines 117-118).
b Carol needed to sit down because she was weak with passion.
c She screamed and burned with anger at the thought that Filer had made a fool of her.
d Filer turned from the girl and clanked away.
- 14** **a** the thoughts in his head were going in very tight circles; his body followed his brain; his legs went faster; his motors whirled more rapidly; his central lubrication pump moved violently.
b The fact that his head hit a corner of a stair and a granite point thrust into the casing, consequently destroying his circuits.
- 15** Open-ended.
- 16** **a** A malfunction in the lubrication pump.
b 1. There was a real gaping hole in Filer's chest.
2. He had failed in his attempt to have a love-affair, so his heart was aching and 'he died of a broken heart'.
- 17** *Possible answers:* intelligent/robot/electronic/reason/accepted/outsider or outcast.
- 18-20** Open-ended.
- 21** *Suggested answer:* No, this is proved by the story. A mechanical being cannot have feelings!
- 22** *Suggested answer:* man
- 23** An attack against man's abuse of science, a romantic story and a story with a moral can all be accepted.
- 24-25** Open-ended.

The Science Fiction Story

- 1** The forerunners of science fiction can be found in *Republic* by Plato, *Gulliver's Travels* by J. Swift and in the works of J. Verne.
- 2** Nuclear power, space exploration, computer science and medical discoveries are the main sources of inspiration.
- 3** Science fiction stories can be classified into two main groups:
- those about the possible dangers man may have to face in the future, if technologies are developed further;
- those about man's possibility to overcome human limitations and to acquire the positive qualities of machines.
- 4** *I, Robot* (1950) revolutionised the traditional belief which associated robots with evil monsters.
-

The Hobbyist

BEFORE READING (p. 149)

1 Open-ended.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2 | Setting | a tiny prescription pharmacy |
| | Characters involved | Sangstrom and the druggist |
| | What rumour one of the characters heard | Sangstrom heard that the druggist had an undetectable poison |
| | What the 'customer' was offered | some coffee |

3 Word Dictionary Definition

| | |
|--------------|--|
| rumor | information that people talk about, which may or may not be true |
| druggist | a pharmacist |
| prescription | a doctor's instruction for the composition and use of a medicine |
| pharmacy | a pharmacist's shop |
| poison | a substance that can cause death or injury when swallowed or absorbed by a living organism |

4 Open-ended.

5 a If you have any enemies you have to be careful: your own life might be in danger!

- b
1. the possibility of a double cross or some form of blackmail.
 2. start to work within three hours.
 3. a thousand dollars.
 4. after getting the antidote.
 5. a confession of his intention to kill his wife.
 6. after the druggist had sent his friend the letter.

6 The words should be inserted in the following order:

druggist/poison/coffee/poisoned/pocket/afraid/help/be able/to pay/being killed/confession/friend/use/murder/publicise.

7 *Possible answer:* The title is appropriate because the druggist's hobby prevents people from being murdered.

Suggested titles: A Strange Chemist / The Life You Save Might Be Your Own / Mysterious Chemistry

8 *Possible answer:* Because the druggist believed that by spreading the word he could prevent more murders.

9 The outcome of the story is surprising and unexpected.

10-11 Open-ended.

The Veiled Lady

BEFORE READING (p. 157)

First Detective

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Name: | Hercule Poirot |
| Nationality: | Belgian |
| Physical features: | short, bald, with a black waxed moustache |
| Personality: | self-confident and intractable |

Second Detective

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Name: | Miss Marple |
| Age: | old |
| Natural flair : | to solve complex cases |
| Unwilling to : | leave her village |

Third Detective

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Who he resembles: | Father Brown |
| Main interest: | the human heart and the establishment of peace and harmony |

1 Open-ended.

2 a Captain Hastings.

b Because he has no interesting cases to solve.

c Because according to Poirot the robbery was just a brave action and not carefully planned (see lines 17-18).

- 3** Name: Lady Millicent Castle Vaughan
 Hair : fair
 Eyes: large, blue
 Voice: soft, musical
 Social class: she belonged to an upper stratum of society
 Who she is engaged to: the young Duke of Southshire
 Why she dare not confess all to the Duke: because of the 'indiscreet' letter she wrote to a young soldier when she was sixteen, which includes phrases that might be misinterpreted; also because the Duke is very jealous and naturally inclined to believe the worst. He might break off the engagement.
- 4** When the letter was written: when Lady Millicent was sixteen
 The addressee: a young soldier
 Who has kept the letter: Mr Lavington
 Where the letter is hidden: in a little Chinese Puzzle box
 What Mr Lavington is threatening: to send the letter to the Duke if Lady Millicent doesn't pay him an enormous sum of money
 How much money Mr Lavington is asking for: twenty thousand pounds
- 5** False
 2: Lavington wants the money by Tuesday evening.
 4: No, they don't. Poirot does not adopt such crude methods.
 5: No, it is actually the second time Poirot has seen the house; he was there that morning, too.
 6: No, the box is in the kitchen.
- 6** **a** He is an odious man, blustering and overbearing in manner.
b Mr Japp is a police inspector.
c He pretends to be sent by Scotland Yard to attend to some burglarproof fastenings that Mr Lavington wants fixed.
d The housekeeper welcomes Poirot with enthusiasm because they had already had two attempted burglaries.
e His belief that it is the right hiding place, full of various homely objects. Nobody would think of it because of the servants.
- 7** **a** Hastings
b Lady Millicent
c Poirot
d Lady Millicent
e Japp
f Poirot

- 8** Open-ended.
- 9** **a** Open-ended.
b Yes it is. It is surprising and closed-ended, although the reader has to reconstruct the way in which the case is solved in his own mind.
- 10** • the shoes were wrong.
 • Lady Millicent's story and her veil appeared to be a little melodramatic.
- 11** **a** Poirot shows his desire to keep the box because he already knows that its original cavity was reduced by half to put four large precious stones in the bottom.
b Corker and Reed.
c Lady Millicent is double-crossed.
d In Poirot's opinion, an English lady is particular about her shoes.
e Poirot supports this idea by saying that the criminals ask for his help even 'when they themselves fail' (see line 299).
- 12** *Suggested answer:* The use of French words/expressions add colour to the story, contribute to the characterisation of Hercule Poirot and produce surprise in the reader by involving him/her in a sort of guessing game. As a result, the reader becomes more involved in the story and brings his/her cultural and linguistic awareness to it.
- 13** 7-8: When Poirot is around, the criminals do not try to attempt crimes.
 28: It is a compliment that Hastings pays to Poirot: he tells him that he is exceptional in his way of solving complex cases.
 107: It is ironical and alludes to the fact that the police would hardly solve the case in question.
 118-119: According to Hastings the case is quite a difficult one.
 121: Mr Lavington gets an advantage in the affair, as he has something dangerous for Lady Millicent in his own hands.
 188: Poirot ironically urges Hastings to use his brain.
 239-240: Hastings ironically criticises Poirot's methods: he believes Poirot did not act correctly, when he used a false card the previous day.
- 14** **a** crime-wave; **b** hardened-criminal; **c** suspect; **d** mass-murderer; **e** psychopath; **f** homicide; **g** theft; **h** evidence; **i** criminal; **j** crime; **k** manslaughter

- 15 Blackmail** to demand something (usually money) from someone by threatening to reveal information which could harm him/her
- Kidnap** to take somebody away by force and illegally, usually to obtain money
- Hijack** to seize control of a vehicle, especially an aircraft, in order to force it to go to a new destination, to take its passengers hostage or to steal its cargo
- Smuggle** to take goods secretly and illegally into or out of a country
- Murder** to kill a human being intentionally
- Steal** to take another person's property secretly, without permission or legal right

16-17 Open-ended.

18 Possible answer: No, he was just a bit ironical towards Poirot!

19 Here follow some of the quotations:

- Let us - *en fin!* - employ our grey cells.
- You have an excellent heart, my friend - but your grey cells are in a deplorable condition.
- Sometimes, Hastings, your mental processes are amazingly quick.
- If you would use your eyes...

20-22 Open-ended.

The Detective Story

- 1** The detective story deals with a famous detective's investigations of a crime, with the discovery of the criminal at the end of the story.
 - 2** The detective stands out from the other characters for his detective skills: it is s/he who judges what is right or wrong!
 - 3** The unusual element in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* is the fact that the narrator is also the murderer.
-

Overview

1-9 Open-ended.