



Marcel and the Shakespeare Letters

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While reading

Pages 1–7

1 Match the questions with the answers. Write 1–5.

- a When does Marcel visit London?
- b Who does Marcel visit in London?
- c Where does Professor Barton live?
- d What has Professor Barton got?
- e Where did Professor Barton get the letters?

- 1) 42, Old Wilton Street.
- 2) Every November.
- 3) In Oxford.
- 4) The Shakespeare letters.
- 5) His friend, Henry.

2 What do Marcel and Henry see in Professor Barton's flat? Are these right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a a bookcase
- b a woman
- c the Shakespeare letters
- d some pictures
- e a safe

3 Put the sentences in the correct order. Write 1–9.

- a She has the Shakespeare letters in her bag.
- b There Henry tells Marcel about the Shakespeare letters.
- c Two friends go to Professor Barton's flat.
- d Marcel comes to London to visit his friend Henry.
- e Henry opens the safe.
- f Through a big hole at the back of the safe they see a woman.
- g But there are no Shakespeare letters in the safe.
- h Marcel and Henry run after the woman.
- i The woman takes her bag and leaves.

4 Underline the correct word(s).

- a The American woman is / The two old ladies are on holidays.
- b Marcel looks for the note / telephone.
- c The mice go to the airport by train / taxi.
- d The American woman is sitting with her bag / a newspaper in her hands.

- e Marcel makes a hole in the bag with his teeth / knife.
- f The man from the British Museum thanks Marcel / Professor Barton.

5 Who says these things and when? Do not look at the book.

- a 'A train's coming.'
- b 'Quick, quick – what are we waiting for?'
- c 'Wait and see.'
- d 'He knows his job.'
- e 'Two mice!'
- f 'Sorry! Are you OK?'
- g 'Why are the letters here?'

6 Answer the questions.

- a How does the note on the table help the mice?
- b What does 'Concorde' mean?
- c Why does Marcel think, 'That was clever, very, very clever.'
- d How do the mice find the American woman at the airport?
- e Why doesn't the American woman catch the mice?
- f What does Professor Barton see when he comes home?

7 Are these right or wrong?

- a Marcel loves the big black taxis in London.
- b Marcel lives in Paris all year long.
- c Professor Barton lives at 45, Old Wilton Street.
- d Professor Barton found some letters at an old man's house in Oxford.
- e There is a safe behind the bookcase.
- f There is a bag in front of the woman.
- g Two old women usually live in the flat next door.
- h The two women are in Italy on holiday.

After reading

- 8 Write: You are going to interview a famous detective, Marcel, about his visit to London for the newspaper 'The Mouse Daily Express'. Write 10 questions for the interview. Then write possible answers that Marcel gives.
- 9 Write: Write a paragraph to explain why the American woman wants to have the Shakespeare letters.



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1 Complete with the correct words.

safe fireworks smoke numbers sign hole clever

- a The on Number 42, Old Wilton Street says 'Professor J.T. Barton'.
- b Henry thinks that Professor Barton is very
- c There are a lot of in the street.
- d Marcel and Henry come to the professor's flat through a near the front door.
- e The is behind the books in the bookcase.
- f Henry has got some paper with the to open the safe.
- g When the friends open the safe they see a lot of there.

2 Choose the right sentence. Write 1 or 2.

- a Henry lives not far from
 - 1) Heathrow airport.
 - 2) Knightsbridge station.
- b Professor Barton is going to be famous because he has got some
 - 1) letters from Shakespeare to his son.
 - 2) famous pictures.
- c Professor Barton is going to give the letters
 - 1) to the British Museum.
 - 2) to the old lady from Oxford.
- d The two friends go to the professor's flat because Marcel wants
 - 1) to read the Shakespeare letters.
 - 2) to take the Shakespeare letters.
- e Henry opens the safe with
 - 1) a key.
 - 2) a dial.
- f Marcel hears a very big *BANG!!!* because
 - 1) the woman makes a hole in the safe.
 - 2) there is a big firework.
- g The Shakespeare letters are in
 - 1) the safe.
 - 2) the woman's bag.

3 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a The American woman lives near Professor Barton.
- b The American woman wants to fly back from Heathrow.

- c There are a lot of people at the underground station.
- d Knightsbridge is not far from Heathrow.
- e At Heathrow the two mice help two men with big bags to open the door.
- f Marcel makes a hole in the bag with his knife.
- g Marcel finds the Shakespeare letters in the woman's bag.
- h Professor Barton stops smiling because he sees the Shakespeare letters on the table.
- i Henry tells the journalists about the Shakespeare letters.

4 Match and complete the sentences. Write 1–7.

- a Marcel doesn't want to telephone the police because
- b The two friends run after the woman because
- c The American woman wants to take the Shakespeare letters because
- d There are a lot of fireworks in the street because
- e The woman doesn't see the mice because
- f The woman runs after the mice because
- g Professor Barton doesn't understand why
 - 1) they are important.
 - 2) she is listening to music and reading a newspaper.
 - 3) the Shakespeare letters are on the table.
 - 4) it's Guy Fawkes Day.
 - 5) they took the Shakespeare letters from her bag.
 - 6) they don't have time.
 - 7) they want to return the letters.

5 Circle the extra word in the sentences.

- a Her bag is on the a floor.
- b Henry walks behind his her friend.
- c Marcel stops in on front of the woman's bag.
- d She's listening looking to music and reading.
- e Henry sees to him and smiles.
- f She's running very better quickly.
- g Henry and Marcel are standing at the back behind of the room.
- h In the morning, Henry and Marcel go goes to the British Museum.
- i He arrives on at ten o'clock.
- j Then he looks at the a letters – and then he looks at the safe again.



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Book key

- 1 Open answers
 2 **a** He is in London.
b He is near Knightsbridge station.
c It is winter.
d He is visiting an old friend.
 3 **a** journalist > detective
b Road > Street
c stays > lives
d books > letters
e door > hole
f Mr > Professor
g closes > opens
h bookcase > safe
i man > woman
 4 Open answers
 5 Open answers (**a** No **b** No **c** Yes)
 6 **a** 5 **b** 8 **c** 3 **d** 1 **e** 9 **f** 2 **g** 7 **h** 4 **i** 6
 7–9 Open answers

Discussion activities keys

1–5 Open answers

Activity worksheet key

- 1 **a** 2
b 5
c 1
d 4
e 3
 2 **a** ✓
b ✗
c ✗
d ✓
e ✓
 3 **a** 7
b 2
c 3
d 1
e 4
f 6
g 5
h 9
i 8

- 4 **a** The two old ladies are
b note
c train
d a newspaper
e knife
f Professor Barton
 5 **a** Marcel, when the two mice are at the station.
b Henry, when they are on the train going to Heathrow.
c Marcel, when he stops in front of the American woman's bag.
d Henry, at the airport, when he walks to the American woman's bag.
e The American woman, when she sees the mice with the Shakespeare letters.
f The fat man with two bags, when he runs into the American woman.
g Professor Barton, when he comes back home from the cinema.
 6 Open answers
 7 **a** Right
b Wrong
c Wrong
d Wrong
e Right
f Right
g Right
h Wrong
 8–9 Open answers

Progress test key

- 1 **a** sign
b clever
c fireworks
d hole
e safe
f numbers
g smoke
 2 **a** 2
b 1
c 1
d 1
e 2
f 2
g 2



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3 a X

b ✓

c ✓

d X

e X

f ✓

g ✓

h ✓

i X

4 a 6

b 7

c 1

d 4

e 2

f 5

g 3

5 a a

b her

c on

d looking

e to

f better

g behind

h goes

i on

j a