

## Before Reading

### BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 43)

#### ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses but do not tell them the answers. The 'yes' answers are numbers 1 and 2.

#### ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

- 1 *John and Robert Hessian* are brothers.
- 2 *Sir Jee* has a picture of himself.
- 3 *Toby Hall* makes a journey by train.
- 4 *Sir Jee* is rich.
- 5 *Philip* is going to tell his mother something important.
- 6 *John and Robert Hessian* don't talk to each other.
- 7 *Toby Hall* is going to visit a house in Child Row.
- 8 *John and Robert Hessian* have a problem about money.

## While Reading

#### NEWS OF THE ENGAGEMENT WHILE READING

- 1 Philip asked Agnes to marry him and she said *yes*.
- 2 In his letters, Philip *didn't tell* his mother he was going to marry Agnes.
- 3 When Philip opened the door, *Mr Nixon* was there.
- 4 Philip *liked* Mr Nixon.
- 5 When Philip came home from the post office, *Mr Nixon* was alone in the sitting-room.
- 6 Mr Nixon wanted to marry *Philip's mother*. / *Philip* wanted to marry Agnes.
- 7 Philip was *happy* about his mother's news.
- 8 Philip *didn't tell* his mother about Agnes that evening. / Philip told his mother about Agnes *the next day*.

#### THE BURGLARY WHILE READING

- 1 F *Sir Jee didn't like* his portrait.
- 2 T
- 3 T
- 4 F *William Smith didn't go* to prison for five years.
- 5 T
- 6 F *Sir Jee* opened one of the *windows* for *William Smith*.
- 7 F *William Smith* took the *frame* and left the *portrait*.

#### BEGINNING THE NEW YEAR WHILE READING

- 1 *Why . . . ?* Because the station was busy and he had to wait for his drink.
- 2 *Why . . . ?* Because twenty-four years ago it was his home.

- 3 *When . . . ?* Twenty-four years ago.
- 4 *Who . . . ?* Priscilla.
- 5 *Where . . . ?* To America.
- 6 *Who . . . ?* A friend of Toby's.
- 7 *What . . . ?* He changed his name and started work as a potter in Derby.
- 8 *Who . . . ?* Job Tansley.
- 9 *Who . . . ?* Priscilla's daughter.
- 10 *What . . . ?* His hat.

#### THE SILENT BROTHERS WHILE READING

- 1 Powell Liversage to John and Robert Hessian
- 2 Powell Liversage to John and Robert Hessian
- 3 John Hessian to Robert Hessian
- 4 Annie Emery to John Hessian
- 5 Robert Hessian to Maggie
- 6 Annie Emery to Powell Liversage

## After Reading

#### ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

5+8 9+2+7 4+1 11+6 3+10

#### Possible letter:

*Dear Agnes*

*I have some surprising news for you.*

*When* I arrived home last night, my mother looked excited. Our old friend Mr Nixon came to supper, *but* I wasn't pleased to see him *because* I wanted to tell mother about our engagement. After supper, I went to the post office *and* posted a letter to you. *When* I came home again, Mr Nixon was still there. He told me *that* he wanted to marry my mother!

*I hope that they will be as happy together as we will be.*

*With love from*

*Philip*

#### ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

#### Possible answers:

POLICEMAN: Who was in the house last night?

SIR JEE: *I was alone.*

POLICEMAN: How did the burglar get into the castle?

SIR JEE: Through *an open window*.

POLICEMAN: Did you hear anything in the night?

SIR JEE: No, *I didn't*.

POLICEMAN: Did you see anything?

SIR JEE: No, *I didn't*. *I was asleep*.

POLICEMAN: What did the burglar take?

SIR JEE: *All my silver and a gold portrait frame*.

POLICEMAN: What happened to the portrait?

SIR JEE: *It's still here, but it's got writing on it*.

#### Possible extra questions:

- 1 Why were you alone in the castle on Christmas Eve?
- 2 Why was a window open on a cold night in December?

- 3 Why didn't the burglar make a noise with the heavy portrait frame ?  
 4 Why (What) did the burglar write on the portrait?  
 5 **Open question and answer.**

**ACTIVITY 3** AFTER READING

My dear daughter

I have to *tell* you some surprising *news*. Before I married your father, I *married* a man called Toby Hall. That was twenty-four *years* ago. Toby wasn't *happy* because he had to live in my house, so one day he *left* me and went to *America*. I wasn't too *unhappy*, because I still had my *house* and my money. A year later I got a *letter* which said that Toby was *dead*. So when your father asked me to *marry* him, I said yes. We were very happy together, and we had you, our dear *daughter*. But now your *father* is dead and Toby has come back. He didn't *die* in America; he came back to England and worked in Derby as a *potter*. He wants to *live* here with me again. I think we can be *happier* this time. I am *lonely* without you, and I have always *liked* Toby.

With love from

Your mother

**ACTIVITY 4** AFTER READING

The picture goes on page 35, in the story *The Silent Brothers*.

- 1 John and Robert Hessian.
- 2 Annie Emery.
- 3 Because they both think that Annie has agreed to marry them.

Lines from the text on page 35 would make suitable captions, for example:

- 'What are you doing here?' asked Robert angrily.
- The quarrel went on for some time.

**ACTIVITY 5** AFTER READING

- 5 POWELL: You can't stay here, Robert.
- 2 ROBERT: Why not?
- 7 POWELL: Because John's already asleep in the spare room.
- 10 ROBERT: Why is John in your spare room?
- 1 POWELL: He said that he couldn't stay in the same house as you. What's happened?
- 11 ROBERT: Annie said she was going to marry me, but John says she's going to marry him, so we quarrelled.
- 9 POWELL: Well, I'm afraid she isn't going to marry you, and she isn't going to marry John. She's going to marry me.
- 6 ROBERT: You! Powell, you can't marry Annie.
- 3 POWELL: Of course I can. She loves me and I love her.
- 4 ROBERT: Oh no you don't. You just want the twelve

thousand pounds.

- 8 POWELL: That's not true. Annie says you and John can have the money. She doesn't want it.

**ACTIVITY 6** AFTER READING1 *News of the Engagement*

Like Mother, like Son

A New Father

Happy Christmas

2 *The Burglary*

Unhappy Christmas

An Unlucky Portrait

A Dangerous Plan

3 *Beginning the New Year*

Return from the Dead

Two Husbands

The Missed Train

4 *The Silent Brothers*

A Clever Businesswoman

Twelve Thousand Pounds

Mrs Bott's Will

**ACTIVITY 7** AFTER READING

Open answers. Encourage discussion.