

7. The Man in the Train

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

The slamming of the doors had aroused my mother: she peered out of her room. "What on the earth are you boys doing?" she demanded. Herman ventured out of his room. "What was all that running around downstairs?" said mother. We just looked at her. "Burglars!" she shouted, intuitively. I tried to quiet her by starting lightly downstairs...

"Don't either of you go a step," said mother. "We'll call the police." Since the phone was downstairs, I didn't see how we were going to call the police, nor did I want the police, but mother made one of her quick incomparable decisions. She flung up a window of her bedroom which faced the bedroom windows of the house of a neighbour, picked up a shoe, and whammed it through a pane of glass across the narrow space that separated the two houses. Glass tinkled into the bedroom occupied by a retired engraver named Bodwell and his wife. Bodwell had been for some years in rather a bad way and was subject to mild "attacks"...

It was now about two o'clock of a moonless night; clouds hung black and low. Bodwell was at the window in a minute, shouting, frothing a little, shaking his fist. "We'll sell the house and go back to Peoria," we could hear Mrs Bodwell saying. It was sometime before mother got through to Bodwell. "Burglars!" she shouted. "Burglars in the house!" Herman and I hadn't dared to tell her that it was not burglars but ghosts, for she was even more afraid of ghosts than of burglars. Bodwell at first thought that she meant there were burglars in his house, but finally he quieted down and called the police for us over an extension phone by his bed...

The police were on hand in a commendably short time: a Ford sedan full of them, two on motorcycles, and a patrol wagon with about eight in it and a few reporters... Police were all over the place; doors were yanked open, drawers were yanked open, windows were shot up and pulled down, furniture fell with dull thumps... They began to ransack the floor; pulled beds away from walls, tore clothes off hooks in the closets, pulled suitcases and boxes off shelves... The cops were reluctant to leave without getting their hands on somebody besides grandfather; the night had been distinctly a defeat for them... A reporter, a thin-faced, wispy man came up to me... "Just what the hell is the real lowdown here, Bud?" he asked. I decided to be frank with him. "We had ghosts," I said. He gazed at me a long time as if I were a slot machine into which he had, without results, dropped a nickel. Then, he walked away. The cops followed him...

[From the Night the Ghost Got in — by James Thurber]

A. Read the given passage and answer the following questions.

1. What aroused mother?
2. What was the quick decision made by mother?
3. Who were the author's neighbours?
4. Who arrived when the police were called?
5. Why do you think the reporter gazed at the author for a long time and then walk away?

B. Fill in the blanks and give the meanings of the words you use.

1. "Burglars!" she shouted, _____.
2. Mother made one of her quick _____ decisions.
3. Their neighbour was a retired _____ called Bodwell.
4. The police began to _____ the floor.
5. The cops were _____ to leave.

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Change the following adjectives into adverbs.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. happy | _____ | 2. single | _____ |
| 3. kind | _____ | 4. quick | _____ |
| 5. wise | _____ | | |

B. Some adverbs in different forms have different meanings and some don't change meanings. In the following pairs of sentences, the adverb is underlined. Say what it means.

- (a) Rajiv works hard.
(b) Meeta hardly ever does her homework.
- (a) Sit near me in the park.
(b) We are nearly reaching Bareilly.
- (a) I am pretty sure he is the same man.
(b) Mona was prettily dressed.
- (a) The music was very loud.
(b) He sang very loudly.
- (a) The train arrived late.
(b) Lately there has been an increase in thefts.

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. The following words are often misused or mixed up. Make sentences with each pair of words bringing out their differences.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. (a) possible | (b) probable | 2. (a) price | (b) value |
| 3. (a) return | (b) revert | 4. (a) through | (b) thorough |
| 5. (a) craft | (b) crafty | 6. (a) expire | (b) aspire |

B. Write a letter to your friend about a new girl/boy in your class in about 150 words.

C. Edit the following passage.

the sacred heart cathedral is the oldest church in new delhi and the largest catholic church in the city it was built 70 years after st marys church is built
