

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.