

# THE GREAT PREPOSITION MYSTERY

Lin Lougheed



*Grammar Review for Intermediate/  
Advanced Students of EFL*

REVISED EDITION

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Advanced Students of EFL*

**Lin Lougheed**

*Revised by Shelley Vance Laflin*

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## PREFACE

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*The Great Preposition Mystery* is designed to be used as a review of prepositions in an intermediate/advanced grammar course. The vocabulary is not graded, and some students may have to use a dictionary more frequently than others.

The student gets practice with prepositions in three ways: by choosing an appropriate preposition in context; by selecting an appropriate preposition in a narrowly defined situation; and by using prepositions in student-generated sentences.

As the students work their way through the mystery story and the exercises in each chapter, they should make fewer and fewer errors. By the time the students solve the mystery, they should have solved the *Great Preposition Mystery*.

### Instructions and Notes to Teacher and Students

1. In every chapter of the mystery story, certain passages contain blanks where prepositions have been deleted. The students should fill in the blank with an appropriate preposition. In some cases, more than one preposition may be correct either because two prepositions have the same meaning (e.g., next to, by) or because there is insufficient context (e.g., He walked along (down) the road.). In some cases, the blank may use more than one word where the appropriate preposition consists of two words (e.g., next to, instead of).
2. In most chapters of the mystery story, certain passages do not contain blanks. In these cases, the students should note all prepositions. However, they should not note words which are particles of two-word verbs or which function as adverbs or conjunctions. Look at the following sentences.

The gasoline tank blew up.  
He didn't catch on to the joke.  
The teacher kept on talking.  
The airplane took off.

The underlined words are particles of two-word verbs and should not be circled as prepositions. Particles of two-word verbs cannot usually be separated from the main verb.

Look at the following sentences.

He fell off the cliff.                      She came in the house.  
He fell off.                                      She came in.  
He fell off of the cliff.

In the first sentence, the word *off* functions as a preposition. In the second, the word *off* functions as an adverb. In the third, *off* functions as an adverb and *of* is a preposition. In the fourth sentence, *in* is a preposition. In the fifth sentence, *in* is an adverb.

Look at the following sentences.

We started the exam *after* 9 o'clock.

We started the exam *after* hearing the bell.

We started the exam *after* the teacher told us to begin.

Everyone passed the exam *but* me.

I sat there looking at the exam *but* not reading it.

I took the exam *but* (I) didn't pass it.

In the first and second sentences, the word *after* functions as a preposition. Such words are prepositions when they are followed either by a noun phrase (9 o'clock) or by a gerund (hearing). They function as subordinate conjunctions when followed by a subject + verb (the teacher told). Similarly, the word *but* functions as a preposition in the fourth and fifth sentences and as a conjunction in the sixth sentence.

3. Answers separated by slash / or given in parentheses are suitable alternatives. Answers separated by a comma , indicate the answers for more than one blank in the item.

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## A Review of Prepositions

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A **preposition** is used to connect nouns and noun structures to other structures in the sentence. A noun structure following the preposition is called the *object of the preposition*.

The *object of the preposition* can be

**a noun:** We gave a present **to** *our secretaries*.

**a pronoun:** We gave a present **to** *them*.

**a gerund:** We thought **about** *giving* a present to them.

**a noun clause:** We thought about giving a present **to** *whoever worked for us*.

### Placement of Prepositions

The preposition is usually placed *before* the object. But it may be placed at the *end* of a sentence in

**a question:** Which country did you go **to**?

**a adjective clause:** This map shows the countries which we went **to**.

**a noun clause:** We forget which countries we went **to**.

An *adjectival prepositional phrase* is placed *after* the noun it modifies.

The book **on the desk** is mine.

The dog **next door** bothers me.

An *adverbial prepositional phrase*, like any adverb, may be placed *anywhere* in the sentence.

Or it may be placed at the

**end:** I came **at nine o'clock**.

**middle:** He leaves **in two hours** to visit his friends.

**beginning:** **On Monday**, I have my French class.

### Type of Prepositions

There are one- and two-word prepositions:

**one-word:** in, at, over, among

**two-word:** next to, instead of

There are times when prepositions can be used without objects. At such times, they no longer function as prepositions but become either (1) two-word verbs; (2) adverbs; or (3) conjunctions.

### **Two-word verbs (verb + particle)**

Examples: bring up (raise) find out (discover)  
call off (cancel) catch on (understand)

These combinations have idiomatic meanings and therefore are not discussed in this text. Examples, however, will be found in the mystery story.

### **Adverbs**

Example: Did you take the elevator? No, we walked up.

### **Conjunctions**

Examples: He came before I did.  
Please come before the meeting starts.



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**THE CASE OF THE RECORD WITHOUT A LABEL**

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# CHAPTER ONE

## On the Road

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

### *Waiting for Sara*

I looked around the apartment where I had spent most of my life. The window was open and sounds from the street mixed with the talk show from the radio that my mother always kept on. It seemed that she had even turned the volume up to get her mind off the fact that I was leaving. She sat in her favorite chair, the one I had had to fix at least twice a year for as long as I remember. Who would fix it now? I wondered absently.

The doorbell rang and my sister entered without waiting for someone to let her in.

“You sure picked a good day for going south,” she yelled over her shoulder at me as she put the sack of groceries she was carrying on the table. “Arizona couldn’t be any hotter than New York today.”

Nobody replied. The heat and the occasion had made us quiet. Eleanor continued her monologue. “Where’s Sara? When is she coming? She should be here by now. Did she talk to you this morning, Mama?”

The direct question forced Mama to look at my sister. At first she just nodded her head, but then added, “She said she’d be here about now.”

“Well, I hope she comes soon. We need some life in this place. You two are carrying on as if it were the end of the world. Look at both of you sitting in your chairs waiting for doomsday.” She reached out and put her hand on Mama’s shoulder. “Come on now, Mama. He’s only going to Flagstaff. That’s not far away. You can still talk to him on the phone. And he’ll come back here and visit, won’t you, Dwight?”

She threw a quick sharp look in my direction. I got up from my chair and came over and sat next to Mama. “Of course I will. You’ll be seeing me every holiday.”

“And weekends he’ll call you when the rates go down.” She put her hand on my elbow and gave it a squeeze.

“Mama, I’ll call you even if the rates are up.”

“Now don’t you go wasting your money like that. You’ve got to learn to save.” The idea of encouraging me toward thrift aroused my mother from her sad state. She had a purpose again: looking after me.

### **Questions about the Story**

1. Where had Dwight spent most of his life?
2. At the beginning of the story where did Dwight’s mother sit?
3. How often did Dwight have to fix the chair?
4. Where is Dwight going to work?
5. How will Dwight keep in touch with his mother?

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.) Some blanks may use more than one word.

### *Sara Arrives*

I have always been well taken care of. Since my father died \_\_\_\_\_ a heart attack, my two older sisters and my mother have been taking care \_\_\_\_\_ me, their little boy. When my sisters got married and moved out of the apartment, it was just Mama and I sitting alone \_\_\_\_\_ night listening \_\_\_\_\_ the neighbors fight \_\_\_\_\_ door. When I finished college and went \_\_\_\_\_ the Police Academy, Mama was really proud. She thought that I would get a job in the city and be able to stay \_\_\_\_\_ her. But when recruiters came \_\_\_\_\_ Arizona, I was offered a job \_\_\_\_\_ Flagstaff.

"Where is that girl?" Eleanor was looking out the window \_\_\_\_\_ Sara. "She ought to have been here \_\_\_\_\_ now."

"Give her time. You're always after your sister. Let her alone." Mama got up \_\_\_\_\_ her chair and moved over to the sink and began putting away the dishes she had washed earlier. "She'll come when she can. She has that new baby \_\_\_\_\_ home, you know. You can't just up and leave a new baby, you know."

"She can get a babysitter." My sister walked over to my mother to help put the dishes \_\_\_\_\_ the cabinet. "They make enough money to get a babysitter."

"You can't trust just anyone to stay \_\_\_\_\_ your children. You'll find that out." Mama returned to her chair and began rearranging the things \_\_\_\_\_ the table. She avoided looking \_\_\_\_\_ me.

"Dwight, come here and help me. You mother's getting lazy in her old age."

"Nothing lazy \_\_\_\_\_ me. There's just no need to put those dishes away now. I'll have plenty of time when I'm alone."

My mother's lack of humor was matched \_\_\_\_\_ her capability to produce guilt. It was sad to see an independent woman \_\_\_\_\_ my mother \_\_\_\_\_ a dependent image \_\_\_\_\_ herself.

"Mama, how can you say you're going to be all alone? Why, every child \_\_\_\_\_ this street is in and out \_\_\_\_\_ your apartment all day long looking \_\_\_\_\_ treats \_\_\_\_\_ your cookie jar. And \_\_\_\_\_ the evening you play cards and bingo \_\_\_\_\_ the ladies on the street. How can you say you're going to be alone. You should be happy that you don't have to pick up \_\_\_\_\_ this boy here."

"Who are you calling 'boy'?"

"You think just because you're going off to be a police detective in Arizona that you aren't our little boy. Just don't you forget who looked after you..."

"Stop your picking on him; let him have a little peace his last few minutes here."

The teasing was interrupted by Sara's coming \_\_\_\_\_ the room \_\_\_\_\_ her little daughter Jeannie asleep \_\_\_\_\_ her arms. The entrance of the grandchild shifted the focus \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ her, and my mother immediately took charge of the child's welfare. "Sara, what do you mean \_\_\_\_\_ dressing that child \_\_\_\_\_ that light outfit? Why, she'll catch a draft and get sick in that..."

"Mama, she's all right. I'll just put her \_\_\_\_\_ the bedroom where she can sleep." The child shifted in her mother's arms, but did not wake up.

I followed Sara \_\_\_\_\_ the bedroom and watched her lay my niece \_\_\_\_\_ the middle of the old bed. I knew that the next time I saw my niece she would be walking and talking. My sister put a lightweight sheet over her and holding her fingers \_\_\_\_\_ her lips, she motioned \_\_\_\_\_ me to follow her back \_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen.

## Questions about the Story

1. How did Dwight's father die?
2. Why does Mama think Sara is late?
3. Who will keep Mama company after Dwight leaves?
4. How was Sara's daughter dressed?
5. What did Sara do with her baby after she arrived at her mother's?

Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

### *Off to Arizona*

In the kitchen she threw her arms around me and gave me a sisterly squeeze. "I'm going to miss you. Who's going to come and look after Jeannie when you go away?" She kissed me and then slipped an envelope into my pocket. I felt the outline of the envelope and knew she had put money in it. I was embarrassed and happy at the same time. It had taken a lot of money to study at the Police Academy, and I knew I would need a lot more to start in Flagstaff.

"Well, you two sure are quiet. Is that how you want Dwight to remember his family when he's off on the other side of the world?" Holding me by my arm she brought me over to the kitchen table where my mother and other sister sat staring into their coffee cups. "Let's have a little laughter. Our boy is going off to be a famous detective." She turned to me suddenly and looked at me as if she were trying to figure something out. She went over to her handbag and pulled out a newspaper with the headline ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL. "This will probably be your first case, Dwight."

"Deaths from falls are all routine police work; it's not work for a detective, and besides it will be all over by the time I arrive."

"When do you leave?"

"What time is it? 5:15?! I'm going to miss my bus. It leaves at 6:00."

My mother started to cry and held me tightly by the hand. Promising again to call when I arrived in Flagstaff, I headed out the door and down the stairs. I ran to the subway but still had to wait for the train. The man on the platform next to me was reading the paper. I looked over his shoulder and read the headline ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL. The train came before I could read more. But my curiosity was aroused.

## Questions about the Story

1. What did Sara put in Dwight's pocket?
2. What did Mama take from her handbag?
3. How was the Arizona heiress killed?
4. What time does the bus to Flagstaff leave?
5. Where did Dwight wait for the train?



*Detective Smith says good-bye to his family.*

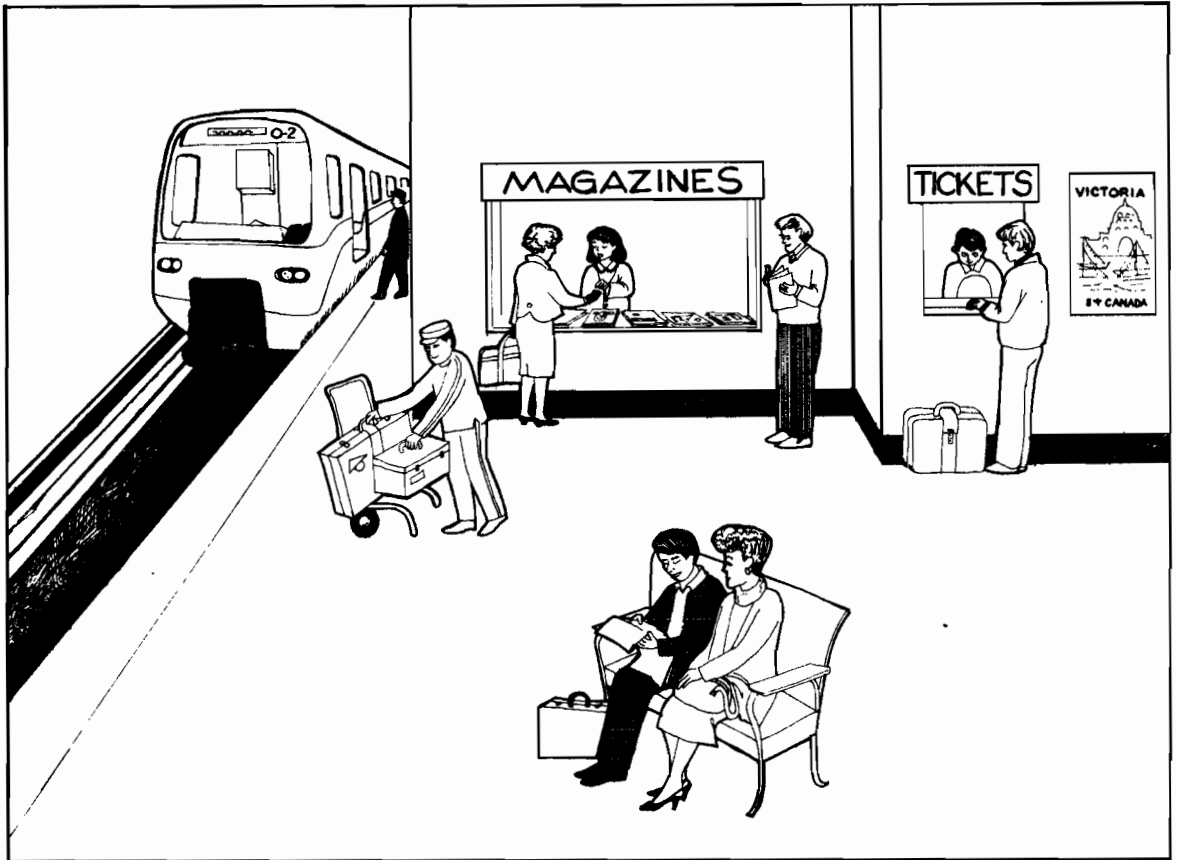
### Questions about the Picture

A. Directions: Look at the photo and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition. More than one answer may be correct.

1. Mama is sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the table.
2. Dwight has his arms \_\_\_\_\_ his mother.
3. Dwight's sister Sara is \_\_\_\_\_ front \_\_\_\_\_ the refrigerator.
4. His other sister, Eleanor, is standing \_\_\_\_\_ a chair.
5. Eleanor is \_\_\_\_\_ two chairs.
6. Dwight is \_\_\_\_\_ his mother.
7. Sara is standing away \_\_\_\_\_ her mother.
8. Eleanor is leaning \_\_\_\_\_ a box.
9. Sara is dressed \_\_\_\_\_ a light blouse and skirt.
10. Both sisters have smiles \_\_\_\_\_ their faces.

B. Directions: Look at the photo and answer the questions.

1. Where is Dwight standing?
2. Where is the empty chair?
3. How is Dwight dressed?
4. Where is the refrigerator?
5. Where is Dwight's mother sitting?
6. Where is Mama's handbag?

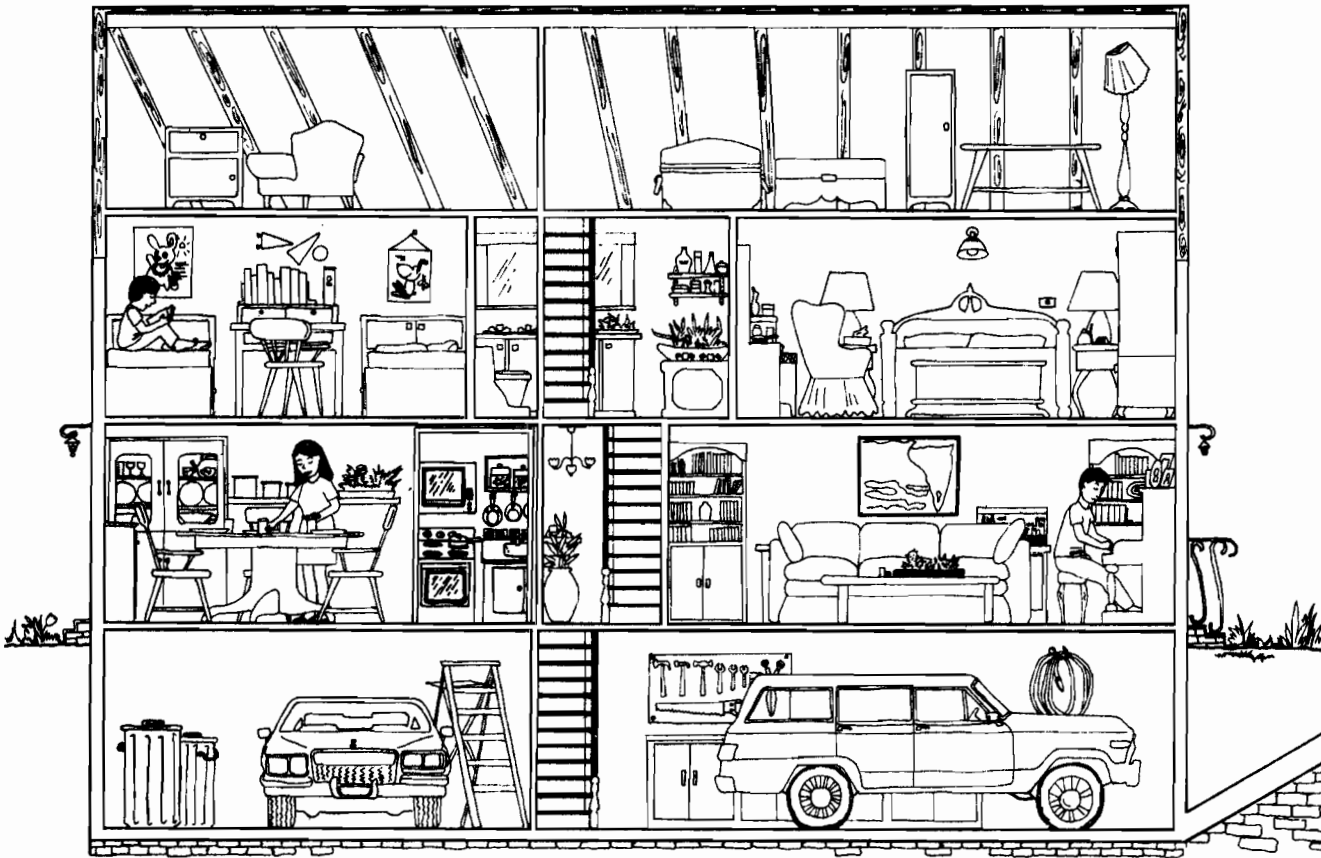


### Prepositions that Identify People and Things

A. Directions: Look at the picture and fill in the blanks with one of the following prepositions. More than one answer may be correct.

in	behind
of	next to
at	on

1. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ the magazine counter is buying something.
2. The briefcase \_\_\_\_\_ the floor belongs to the man.
3. The man \_\_\_\_\_ the train is the conductor.
4. The man \_\_\_\_\_ the sweater is reading a magazine.
5. One \_\_\_\_\_ the women is wearing gloves.
6. The clock \_\_\_\_\_ the wall says 1:30.
7. The man \_\_\_\_\_ the magazine counter is giving the woman her change.
8. The bags \_\_\_\_\_ the baggage cart belong to the woman.
9. Two \_\_\_\_\_ the people are sitting.
10. The man \_\_\_\_\_ the ticket counter is buying a ticket.
11. The sign \_\_\_\_\_ the ticket counter is a travel poster.
12. Both \_\_\_\_\_ the women have short hair.



B. Directions: Look at the picture and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition. More than one answer may be correct.

1. The room \_\_\_\_\_ the piano is the living room.
2. The room \_\_\_\_\_ the living room is the basement.
3. The man \_\_\_\_\_ the piano is playing.
4. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ the dining room is setting the table.
5. The small room \_\_\_\_\_ the living room and dining room is the hall.
6. The lamp \_\_\_\_\_ the bed is for reading.
7. The room \_\_\_\_\_ the top of the house is the attic.
8. The furniture \_\_\_\_\_ the attic is not being used.
9. The room \_\_\_\_\_ the dining room is the kitchen.
10. The small room \_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen is the bathroom.
11. All \_\_\_\_\_ the people are going to eat.

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## CHAPTER TWO

### New Man in Town

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

#### *A Place to Live*

It was a hundred and ten in the shade when I arrived in Flagstaff. The dust was thick around your ankles and the sun was blinding. I got off the bus and stood in the middle of the street trying to decide which way to go. A taxi driver stuck his head out of his window and asked, "Where to, Mister?"

I had no answer for him, so he offered to take me to Mrs. Johnson's, a small house in the old part of the city. Mrs. Johnson's husband had died in the war and her children had moved off to other cities. She rented rooms to single men and was very particular about whom she let stay in her house. Being a graduate of the Police Academy and a new employee on the police force in Flagstaff, I had no trouble getting a room. Mrs. Johnson was pleased to have me "protecting her from them," as she said. She seemed to define 'them' as any unsavory element with designs on her property or life. Termites fell into this category, and I would spend the first weekend spraying under the house with insecticide.

Luck was with me: I had been in town only an afternoon, and I had already found a place to live. When I went to work the next morning, I knew my luck had changed. The other officers were all suspicious of the outsider from New York. They thought that their own honor was at stake. They thought I was going to come in and show them how to run a police station. They had to make sure that I understood that they already knew how to run a police station. I had no argument with that. I was new, very new, to the profession. I had everything to learn.

#### Questions about the Story

1. What was the temperature in Flagstaff when Dwight arrived?
2. Where did the taxi driver take Dwight?
3. How had Mrs. Johnson's husband died?
4. Why did Mrs. Johnson rent Dwight a room?
5. How did the other officers feel about Dwight?

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.) Some blanks may use more than one word.

#### *The Chief*

My chief was very old-fashioned. He dressed \_\_\_\_\_ a uniform rather than in plainclothes as we did during our training. But at least he let me wear what I wanted to wear. He was very conservative and did not like the officers \_\_\_\_\_ his force to have opinions that differed \_\_\_\_\_ his.



As I was waiting to meet him \_\_\_\_\_ the first time, I could hear the voice \_\_\_\_\_ a hysterical woman coming \_\_\_\_\_ the thin walls:

“But, Chief Hutch, I know it was no accident...none of them were, sir.”

“Well, we have no proof, Mrs. Munsing, and we don’t work here on suppositions and guesses, you know. We have to have facts in order to act.”

“Yes, I know, sir, but I think that if you would just ask some questions...”

“Thank you, Mrs. Munsing, we’ll get someone on it \_\_\_\_\_ you. Thank you very much \_\_\_\_\_ coming in here today and sharing your concerns \_\_\_\_\_ us.” He showed her \_\_\_\_\_ the door, and as he passed me, he stopped and looked \_\_\_\_\_ my white shirt and tie. A smile crossed his face. “We’re in Flagstaff, Detective Smith, not on Fifth Avenue. You’re going to get pretty hot \_\_\_\_\_ that neck choker.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Now, Mrs. Munsing, you just go on back \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Fitch’s house, and my advice to you is not to mention that you came down here to see me.”

“Oh, I wouldn’t, sir. I wouldn’t. And I don’t want you to tell anyone that I came here. I might lose my job.”

After she left he stared \_\_\_\_\_ the door for a few minutes before turning \_\_\_\_\_ me. “Crazy old woman,” he muttered \_\_\_\_\_ his breath. “Come \_\_\_\_\_ me.”

He led me down a long corridor that had pictures \_\_\_\_\_ criminals pasted \_\_\_\_\_ the walls. We passed office \_\_\_\_\_ office and finally emerged \_\_\_\_\_ a long room without windows that had five desks. One \_\_\_\_\_ the desks was empty. He pointed \_\_\_\_\_ it. “That’s yours.” He then turned and walked out \_\_\_\_\_ the room.

I opened all my desk drawers and found them full of bits and pieces \_\_\_\_\_ paper and ends \_\_\_\_\_ pencils. There was dust \_\_\_\_\_ top of the desk which stood in the very middle \_\_\_\_\_ the room. I could hear everything that anyone said \_\_\_\_\_ all sides of me. Which wasn’t much since everyone was trying hard to ignore me. I laughed to myself when I considered the reason \_\_\_\_\_ their coldness. In New York people looked down \_\_\_\_\_ me because I came from a poor area \_\_\_\_\_ the city. Here they look down on me because I come \_\_\_\_\_ the richest city in the world.

I opened the *Manual for Officers* that I found \_\_\_\_\_ the desk drawer but before I could start it a sergeant came in and told me the chief wanted to see me \_\_\_\_\_ his office \_\_\_\_\_ the double.

The chief was just as taciturn as the rest \_\_\_\_\_ the force. He sat behind a very small desk which made him look much bigger than he was. He didn’t invite me to sit down nor did I ask if I could. I stood \_\_\_\_\_ his desk while he began to yell the rules \_\_\_\_\_ the office. The cardinal rule was DON’T MAKE TROUBLE. Don’t look \_\_\_\_\_ trouble. Don’t make waves.

## Questions about the Story

1. How was the police chief dressed?
2. Whose voice did Dwight hear through the walls?
3. Describe the office the chief assigned to Dwight.
4. Where did Dwight find the *Manual for Officers*?
5. What was the cardinal rule of the office?

Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

### ***Poor Mrs. Munsing***

I was glad to get back to Mrs. Johnson's house that night. I wondered if she would be glad to have me, knowing that I was a low man on the totem pole at the station. I sat on the porch and watched the traffic in the street. It was a side street, so only a few cars would pass. More people walked here than drove. One of the pedestrians was the woman I had seen in the police station that afternoon. She was carrying a huge sack of groceries.

"Hello!" I yelled to her from the porch.

She dropped her sack and looked around. She saw me and nervously bent over to pick up the groceries that had fallen all over the sidewalk. I raced to her side to help her. "I'm so clumsy," she offered as an excuse.

"I'm sorry I frightened you."

"Oh, my nerves have been on edge ever since Mrs. Fitch was killed. I mean, ever since she had the accident."

I stopped picking up oranges and looked at her. She met my eyes.

"I shouldn't have said that. I have no right to say that. Excuse me. I must be going."

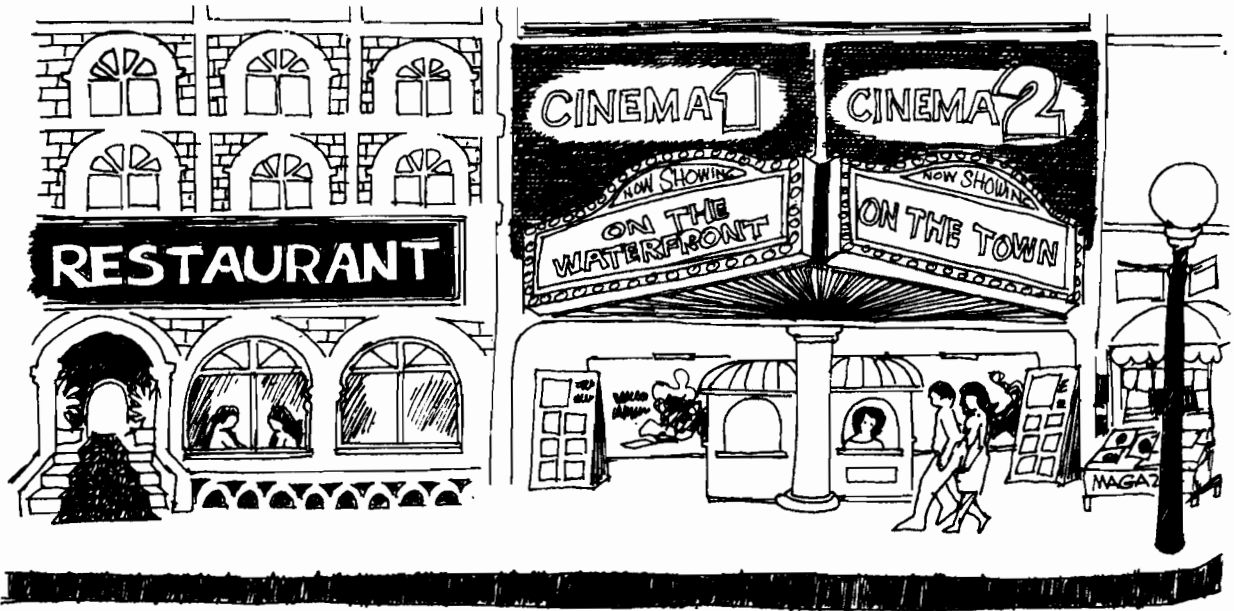
She had not remembered me from the police station that afternoon; she was too concerned about her job and the possibility of being seen talking to a total stranger. She gathered her bags and hurried down the street. I returned to the porch and began thinking about the newspaper article that my sister had shown me before I left New York: ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL.

My thoughts were interrupted by my landlady's coming onto the porch. "I saw you talking to that Mrs. Munsing; she's really crazy. The whole town knows it. She lost her sons in the war and her daughter was struck by lightning and killed. Sad, isn't it? But the whole thing left her a bit crazy. She drinks, you know. They say when she gets up in the morning, she hits the bottle right away. And it lasts until she goes to bed at night. But she's an excellent cook. I was up there for dinner one night. On Christmas eve, it was. The invitations were for seven o'clock, but we had a surprise snow storm that closed the mountain roads, and we had to walk the last five miles to the main house. What a night! I was frozen. I would have turned around and gone back to my own bed, but I wanted to take a good look inside the house. I hadn't been there since the first Mrs. Fitch passed away. It was dangerous on those trails. They're very narrow, I'll let you know. It's no wonder that the third Mrs. Fitch fell off the road. And leaving that poor girl all by herself. Lucky she didn't fall herself."

I didn't understand what she was talking about. What poor girl? I was very confused. I wished I had read the newspaper article on the death.

### **Questions about the Story**

1. What did Dwight do on his first evening?
2. Who did Dwight see from the porch?
3. How did Mrs. Munsing lose her children?
4. What does Mrs. Johnson think of Mrs. Munsing?
5. Why didn't Dwight understand what Mrs. Johnson was talking about?



## Prepositions of Place

A. Directions: Look at the picture and fill in the blanks with one of the following prepositions. More than one answer may be correct.

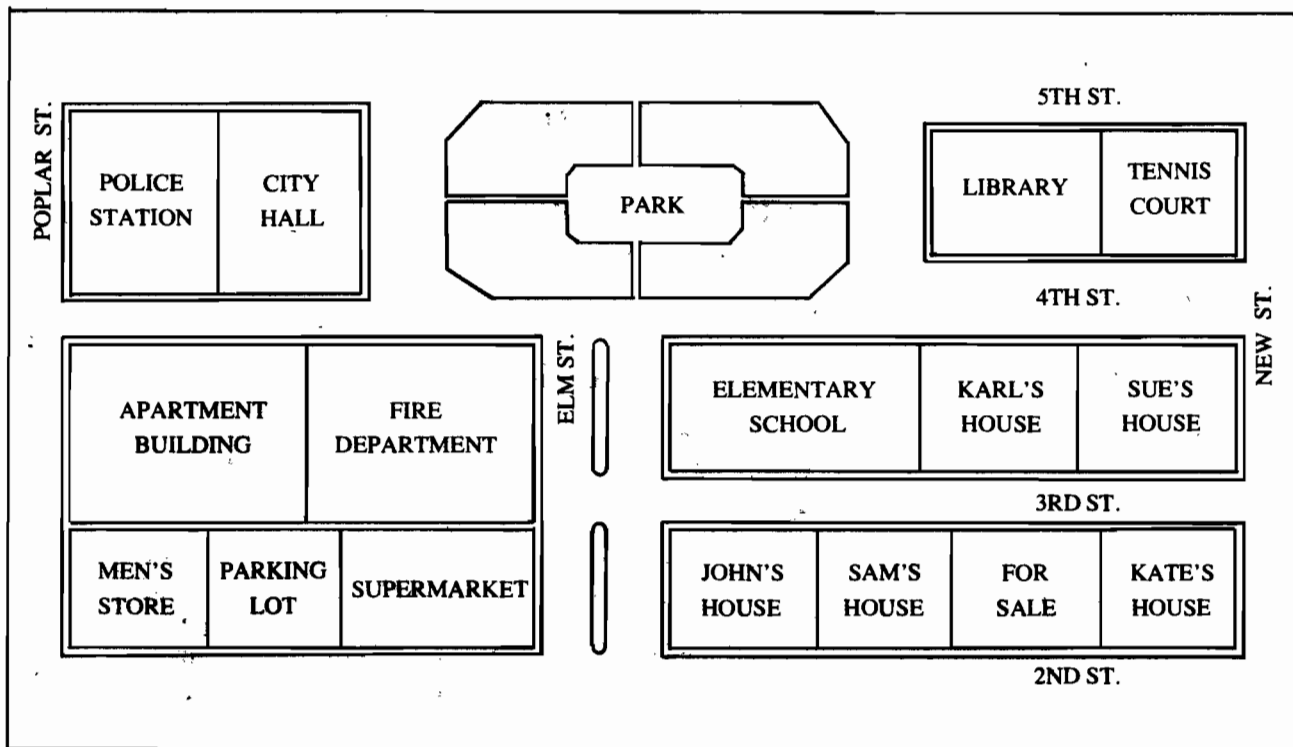
in front of	under
between	in
on top of	above
next to	behind
opposite	on

- Cinema 1 is \_\_\_\_\_ the restaurant and Cinema 2.
- The man and woman are walking \_\_\_\_\_ the sidewalk.
- The lamp post is \_\_\_\_\_ the magazine stand.
- The people in the restaurant are sitting \_\_\_\_\_ each other.
- The restaurant is \_\_\_\_\_ Cinema 1.
- The ticket booth is \_\_\_\_\_ the theater signs.
- The magazine stand is \_\_\_\_\_ the lamp post.
- The ticket seller is \_\_\_\_\_ the ticket booth.
- The man and woman are \_\_\_\_\_ Cinema 2.
- The film titles are \_\_\_\_\_ the sidewalk.
- The door to the restaurant is \_\_\_\_\_ the restaurant sign.
- The lamp post is \_\_\_\_\_ the corner.
- Cinema 2 is \_\_\_\_\_ Cinema 1 and the magazine stand.
- Two people are eating \_\_\_\_\_ the restaurant.



B. Directions: Look at the picture and answer the questions using the prepositions given.

1. Where is the man in the parking lot standing? (between)
2. Where is the parking lot? (beside)
3. Where is there a sale? (at)
4. Where is the door to Sax Brothers? (to the right of)
5. Where is the black car parked? (next to)
6. Where is the white car parked? (on the opposite side of)
7. Where is the parking lot sign? (above)
8. Where is the shop window? (below)
9. Where is Sax Brothers located? (on)
10. Where are the tall buildings? (behind)



C. Directions: Look at the map and describe the location of each place using a preposition. There are several possible answers.

Example: Supermarket

The supermarket is next to the fire department.

The supermarket is behind the fire department.

The supermarket is across from John's house.

The supermarket is on the corner of 2nd St. and Elm.

1. City hall
2. Kate's house
3. Library
4. Apartment building
5. Sam's house
6. Parking lot
7. Fire department
8. Elementary school
9. Park
10. Police station
11. Men's store
12. House for sale
13. Karl's house
14. Tennis court

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## CHAPTER THREE

### The Fitches of Flagstaff

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

#### *From Rags to Riches*

The next day after work I went to the local newspaper office and asked if I could look at their old newspapers. I said since I was new in town, I wanted to get a sense of its history by reading the news of the past few years. This article caught my eye:

Mrs. James B. Fitch fell to her death today when walking with her stepdaughter on the family property. The funeral services will be held at the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Valley at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, the 12th of April. Expressions of sympathy should be in the form of contributions to the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Valley. The deceased is survived by her husband, Mr. James Fitch, and her stepdaughter, Sonia Fitch.

That evening at dinner I casually asked Mrs. Johnson about the Fitches. I especially wanted to know about the stepdaughter and the three wives.

"Yes, indeed, Mr. Fitch had three wives all richer than Rockefeller, they say. When he married his first wife, he didn't have a penny. Her father was dead set against her marrying that no-good Fitch. He tried to keep them apart. He even sent her to a girl's school in Switzerland or some place like that. But when she became twenty-one, she inherited her grandfather's money; and when she came back to Flagstaff, she married Fitch. She also came back from Switzerland with a daughter. It almost killed the old man. He was in the hospital for weeks. He was going to have his lawyers annul the marriage or disinherit the daughter. But he died in his sleep one night...and you know, she, the first Mrs. Fitch, died shortly thereafter, too. She was flying a plane that disappeared in the mountains. It was never found again. Would you like some more gravy on your potatoes?"

I hated to interrupt her story with my eating, so I encouraged her to go on.

"Well," she obliged, "Fitch got this woman in to look after the girl, but I think she spent more time looking at Fitch than after the daughter. The girl is blind, you know. She just sits all day in the house listening to music. And people who have been up at the house say it's always the same song. It would drive you crazy. No wonder poor Mrs. Munsing is crazy. That girl is strange. I have never seen her myself. She didn't come to the Christmas dinner the night I was there. She always takes her meals alone. Poor child; it must be a terrible strain not being able to see."

#### Questions about the Story

1. Where did Dwight go to find out more about the Fitches?
2. Where and when were the funeral services held?
3. What did the father of the first Mrs. Fitch do to prevent his daughter's marriage to Fitch?
4. What happened to the father when his daughter married Fitch?
5. Describe the daughter of the first Mrs. Fitch.

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.) Some blanks may use more than one word.

### *All of Them Dead*

I was still curious \_\_\_\_\_ the Fitches. "Did Fitch marry the woman who was looking after his daughter?"

Mrs. Johnson laughed as if I had asked her if there really was a man \_\_\_\_\_ the moon.

"Well, not married as you mean 'married'. Nothing official in the church or city hall, you understand. But I don't know. I only know what they tell me. And they don't know much what goes on \_\_\_\_\_ that big house \_\_\_\_\_ the mountain."

"Well, who was the second Mrs. Fitch?"

"She was a wonderful woman; she loved children and took them for rides \_\_\_\_\_ her horses into the hills. It was just after one \_\_\_\_\_ those rides that she died. Yes, she was really thirsty and Mrs. Munsing brought her out some nice lemonade. Well, she drank that lemonade and never got up \_\_\_\_\_ her chair. I tell you, no one felt like having lemonade \_\_\_\_\_ a while."

"Did no one think that the drink may have been poison?"

"Well, of course we did. But Mr. Fitch and the police chief determined it was some food poisoning \_\_\_\_\_ the little sandwiches that she had taken on the trip \_\_\_\_\_ her. You know they get really bad \_\_\_\_\_ the heat."

"And Fitch inherited her money, too?"

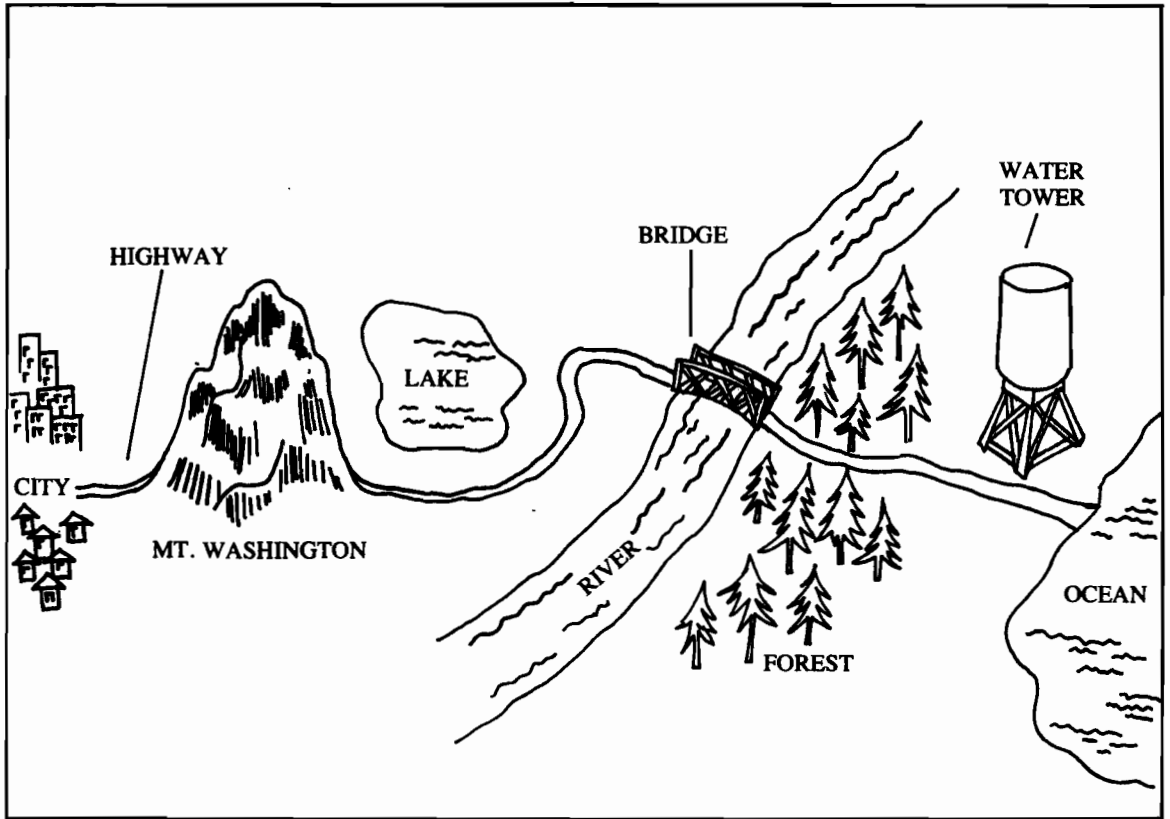
"Yes, indeed. She had lots of money. She owned practically the whole town. There wasn't anyone growing up who wasn't paying rent \_\_\_\_\_ her family. And since she was the only child, her husband got it all. The same thing with the third wife who fell \_\_\_\_\_ her death.

"Clever, isn't he? Always marrying these rich women who have no other relations. Seems kind of strange that they all died, but I guess stranger things have happened. Well, you sit \_\_\_\_\_ a spell; I'm going in to watch TV. Come in when you want."

The next day \_\_\_\_\_ noon, I went back \_\_\_\_\_ the newspaper office and asked to see the newspapers \_\_\_\_\_ the time \_\_\_\_\_ the deaths \_\_\_\_\_ the three Fitch wives. That afternoon I was called into the chief's office.

### **Questions about the Story**

1. What did the second Mrs. Fitch die of?
2. What did Fitch inherit from his second wife?
3. How did the third Mrs. Fitch die?
4. Where did Dwight go the next day?



## Prepositions of Direction

A. Directions: Look at the picture and fill in the blanks with one of the following prepositions. Each preposition may be used only once.

down	to
through	along
from	across
around	into
up	of
past	at

One hot summer morning, we decided to take a trip in our car \_\_\_\_\_ the city \_\_\_\_\_ the ocean. We got \_\_\_\_\_ the car and drove \_\_\_\_\_ the highway. We went \_\_\_\_\_ one side of Mt. Washington and \_\_\_\_\_ the other side. The highway went \_\_\_\_\_ the lake and \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge. Then we drove \_\_\_\_\_ the forest and \_\_\_\_\_ the big water tower. We arrived \_\_\_\_\_ the beach and climbed out \_\_\_\_\_ the car.



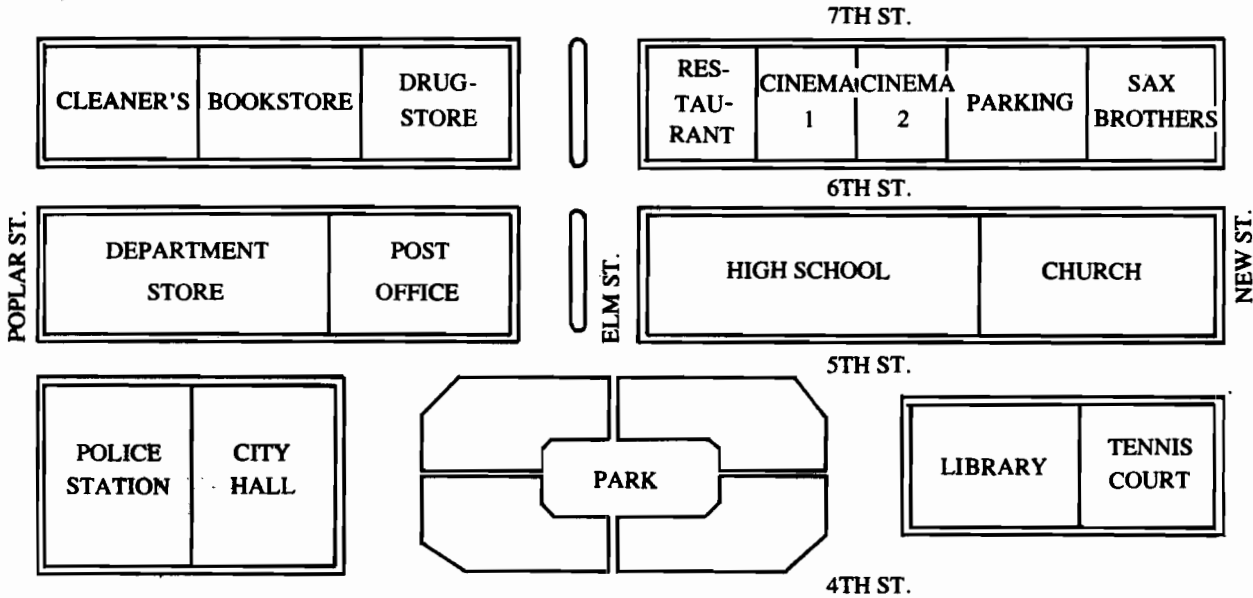
B. Directions: Look at the map and describe how to go from one place to another.

Example: From the park to Cinema 2:

Go down Elm Street past the high school.

Go across 6th Street and turn right.

Go along 6th Street past the restaurant and Cinema 1.



1. From city hall to the tennis court
2. From Sax Brothers to the department store
3. From the park to the cleaner's
4. From the police station to the drugstore
5. From the bookstore to the library
6. From the post office to Sax Brothers
7. From the park to the church
8. From the cleaner's to the tennis court

C. Directions: Look at the map in the previous exercise. Pick any two locations and ask another student how to get from one to the other.

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# CHAPTER FOUR

## Looking for Clues

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

### *Rule Number One*

When I walked into the chief's office, I saw from the look on his face that he was not going to give me good news.

"You like working here?" he asked without expecting an answer. "Well, you got to learn the rules. We all have rules and maybe here we have more rules than you did in New York. Rules keep us honest, you know what I mean?"

I said I didn't.

"Don't get smart with me. You know what I mean. Our rules keep us from getting in one another's way. You know what I mean."

I still didn't understand his point, but I nodded my head.

"That's good. Now, Rule Number One is we don't bother with the Fitch family." He looked straight into my eyes and I stared back into his. I didn't understand how the rule of avoiding someone would keep us honest. He slowed down his speech and raised his voice to make sure I would understand. "The Fitch family has been good to this town. They built this building we are sitting in and they built the courthouse. They built the school we all send our children to and they have given almost all of the police officers loans to buy homes. So we don't like to bother them unnecessarily. You know what I mean?"

I was beginning to understand. "Of course, Chief. There's no need to bother any citizen unnecessarily."

"Then why in heaven's name were you reading old newspapers about the *accidental* deaths of the Fitch women?" He stressed accidental to make sure that I knew that there was no doubt about the cause of the deaths. I wondered about how he knew I had been reading the old clippings. He answered my unvoiced question.

"My brother told me you have been in twice asking for stories on the Fitches. You want to tell me why?"

I replied that a new person in town must be familiar with all the major happenings of the town that formed the town's history.

"I'll tell you all you need to know. And what you need to know is that the deaths were accidental. The first Mrs. Fitch was flying her own small plane which got lost and was never found again. The second woman died of food poisoning."

"What kind of food poisoning?"

"FOOD! FOOD! FOOD poisoning. What more do you need to know?"

Nothing. I knew the third and last Mrs. Fitch had fallen off a cliff while walking with her step-daughter. There didn't seem to be any pattern to the deaths except that they all happened to wives of Mr. Fitch.

"Now, if I hear you're messing around in the Fitches' business again, you'll be on the first bus back to that city you came from."

## Questions about the Story

1. How did Dwight know the chief did not have good news?
2. What didn't Dwight understand?
3. What had the Fitches done for the people of Flagstaff?
4. What excuse did Dwight give the chief for reading the newspaper clippings?
5. How did the chief threaten Dwight?

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.)

### *On the Case*

\_\_\_\_\_ that moment the intercom buzzed and the chief answered it. "Yeah? Sure, put him \_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, Mr. Fitch...How are you this morning? Well, we couldn't be better \_\_\_\_\_ here... nothing more serious than a few parking violations....Yes, she was \_\_\_\_\_ here, but you know how old people get \_\_\_\_\_ times...yes, I didn't pay much attention \_\_\_\_\_ her story, you know what an imagination your cook has...everyone knows her family and her father being crazy and all; well, they just say she takes after her father...You DO?"

The chief turned \_\_\_\_\_ me with a look \_\_\_\_\_ astonishment \_\_\_\_\_ his face. "Well, if you want, but I don't really see the need. Yes, sir. I'll be glad to help you settle the issue once and \_\_\_\_\_ all. I'll send up Rodriguez to check \_\_\_\_\_ it immediately...Who, sir? Why, sir? But he's just new, sir. He doesn't know anything \_\_\_\_\_ the town, sir. Oh, I see. OK, sir. Yes, he's right here, if you would like to talk \_\_\_\_\_ him."

The chief put his hand \_\_\_\_\_ the receiver and said, "It's Fitch; he wants you to come and investigate the death of his last wife."

Fitch seemed very concerned when I talked \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_ the phone. He said he had heard his cook was worried that there was some mystery connected \_\_\_\_\_ the death \_\_\_\_\_ his wife, and he would like the air cleared once and \_\_\_\_\_ all. He thought I would be a good one to be put \_\_\_\_\_ the case, because I would bring a fresh approach \_\_\_\_\_ the problem. I think what he wanted to say was that he didn't trust any \_\_\_\_\_ these small-town cops to do an efficient job. But I thanked him \_\_\_\_\_ his confidence and told him I would be out \_\_\_\_\_ his house soon.

I handed the telephone back \_\_\_\_\_ the chief. "Is there anything else you wanted to say \_\_\_\_\_ me, Chief?"

## Questions about the Story

1. Why did the chief not want Dwight to visit the Fitches?
2. What woman were the chief and Fitch talking about?
3. Why was the cook worried?
4. What did Fitch want Dwight to do?
5. Why did Fitch want Dwight and not another investigator?



*"Is there anything else you want to say to me?"*

### Questions about the Picture

A. Directions: Look at the photo and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition.

1. Dwight is handing the phone \_\_\_\_\_ the chief.
2. The light is shining \_\_\_\_\_ the chief's desk.
3. There are some guns \_\_\_\_\_ the wall \_\_\_\_\_ the chief.
4. The phone and the lamp are both \_\_\_\_\_ the desk.
5. There is a calendar \_\_\_\_\_ the wall \_\_\_\_\_ the window.

B. Directions: Look at the photo and answer the questions.

1. Where is Dwight?
2. Where is the phone receiver?
3. What is the chief doing?
4. How is Dwight dressed?
5. Where is the chief sitting?
6. Where is the window?

### Prepositions of Time

A. Directions: Look at the calendar and fill in the blanks with one of the following prepositions.

during	in	after
until	since	to
from	on	for
before	at	of

February 1987

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 John arrives 6:00	3	4 Steve to Japan	5	6	7 shop before lunch
8 Grandma to visit	9 Grandma	10 Grandma	11 Grandma leaves	12	13	14 John's 10 year reunion
15	16 Kay's 20th birthday party – noon	17	18 Kay at school 3:00 – 5:00	19	20	21
22	23 exams	24 exams	25 exams	26 exams	27 exams	28

- John will arrive \_\_\_\_\_ 6 o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ Monday. He has been away \_\_\_\_\_ last week.
- Steve is going to Japan \_\_\_\_\_ the 4th \_\_\_\_\_ February.
- I'll do my shopping \_\_\_\_\_ the morning \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday.
- Grandma will sleep in the guest bedroom \_\_\_\_\_ her visit.
- John graduated from high school \_\_\_\_\_ 1977. He hasn't seen his classmates \_\_\_\_\_ a long time.
- Kay was born \_\_\_\_\_ 1967. Her birthday party is \_\_\_\_\_ noon.
- Kay will be at school \_\_\_\_\_ 3 o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ 5 o'clock. She will have to clean her bedroom either \_\_\_\_\_ 3 o'clock or \_\_\_\_\_ 5 o'clock.
- Exams begin \_\_\_\_\_ the 23rd and last \_\_\_\_\_ the 26th.

B. Directions: Answer the questions using the prepositions given.

- When is your birthday? (on)
- When is the summer in your country? (from, to)
- What year were you born? (in)
- What time does your English class begin? (at)
- How long does your English class last? (for)
- When is the dry season in your country? (from, until)
- When is your first meal of the day? (in)
- How long do you sleep at night? (for)
- What day of the week is your English class? (on)
- How long have you been studying English? (since)
- When do you eat lunch? (at)
- What is the work week in your country? (from, to)
- What year did you begin school? (in)
- When do you go to sleep? (at)
- What month were you born? (in)

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## CHAPTER FIVE

### At the Scene of the Crime

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

#### *A View of the House*

The Fitch house was thirty miles outside of Flagstaff. It was set back into the mountains with a steep, narrow road as the only access to the property. The chief said that all the police cars had been assigned to senior officers, so I would have to take a bus. The bus turned off the main road before we reached the road to the Fitch home, so I had to walk the last two miles. The air was cool in the mountains, unlike the still heat of the city. But I was hot from the walk, and I stopped at the gate to the private road leading up to the Fitch home. I sat on a rock and surveyed the peaceful surroundings and knew that the Fitch cook must be wrong. This place was too quiet, too peaceful, to be the site of a murder, let alone three murders. On the other hand, the motive was classic: husband marries rich women, kills them and inherits their fortunes. But that would be too obvious. Nothing like that happens now in the twentieth century.

My watch told me it was time to get along. I turned up the drive and slowly climbed what I hoped would be the last mile to the house. I kept telling myself it would be easier returning.

As I turned a corner, I saw a figure move quickly through the trees and out of my sight. The forest was dark, so I couldn't really see if the figure was a man or a woman. It seemed to be a large figure, and he or she wore a straw hat that covered the head. Usually I would have called out to the stranger, but there was something about the forest that made me timid. I hurried to the house and kept looking to the right and left for another glimpse of the figure. I came into a clearing and could see the house across a broad expanse of lawn. It was an unusual house for the area. Instead of being one story high and spread out across the lawn, this one was compact and rose like a tower on the hill. From the windows you must have a view of the entire valley.

#### **Questions about the Story**

1. Describe the weather.
2. How did Dwight get to the Fitches?
3. How was the figure Dwight saw dressed?
4. Where did Dwight see the figure?
5. What is the view from the windows of the house?

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.)

#### *An Inhospitable Welcome*

I started toward the house but stopped when I heard a noise behind me. I turned around and saw a man dressed \_\_\_\_\_ a straw hat and a long cape like those worn by the Navaho shepherds \_\_\_\_\_ the region. He also had a rifle \_\_\_\_\_ his left hand.

“State your business, stranger.”

“I’m \_\_\_\_\_ the police. I...”

“Police don’t walk; they drive,” he said raising the rifle level with his shoulder. “Doesn’t seem right you being\* \_\_\_\_\_ this land. Looking \_\_\_\_\_ things you ain’t\* supposed to be seeing.”

“I’m here at the invitation \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Fitch. He called the police station and asked someone to come up.”

“He didn’t tell me nothing\* \_\_\_\_\_ it.”

“Couldn’t we just go up to the main house and ask if Mr. Fitch is expecting me?”

“Visitors come \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday... Today ain’t\* but Thursday. I don’t like changes. It’s not good.” He motioned for me to precede him \_\_\_\_\_ the path.

At least he had lowered his rifle. I’m glad he didn’t check me and find the small pistol I keep \_\_\_\_\_ my shoulder holster. By the time we reached the porch \_\_\_\_\_ the house, the whole household had assembled. They were obviously curious \_\_\_\_\_ who was being led to their house \_\_\_\_\_ gunpoint.

“Darjo, is that any way to treat a guest?” said an older man \_\_\_\_\_ a face that tried to look friendly and welcoming, but somehow did not succeed.

“He didn’t come \_\_\_\_\_ a car,” replied Darjo as if that was a suitable reason to question someone at gunpoint. I began to wonder if Darjo wasn’t a retired member \_\_\_\_\_ the Flagstaff Police Force. Darjo moved to the other end \_\_\_\_\_ the porch and sat \_\_\_\_\_ a step wiping the barrel \_\_\_\_\_ his rifle \_\_\_\_\_ a rag he had pulled \_\_\_\_\_ his pocket.

“My apologies again \_\_\_\_\_ your inhospitable welcome. We are very glad you were able to come \_\_\_\_\_ such short notice. I presume you will be able to spend the evening \_\_\_\_\_ us here. That might facilitate your investigation. Let me introduce you \_\_\_\_\_ the household. This is Ms. Ryan, my personal secretary; she has been \_\_\_\_\_ the family for 15 years ever since my first wife was killed \_\_\_\_\_ the airplane accident. But we will talk of that later. Mrs. Munsing, please show our guest \_\_\_\_\_ his room.” He took me by the elbow and led me toward this woman, white \_\_\_\_\_ fear. It was the same woman who had dropped her groceries \_\_\_\_\_ front \_\_\_\_\_ my house last week.

“We will talk when you are settled. Just ask if we can do anything to make your stay more comfortable. We should even have some casual clothes your size. You needn’t dress so formally in the mountains.”

I had no chance to express my gratitude or regret. It seemed I had no choice \_\_\_\_\_ the matter. Mr. Fitch’s businesslike manner had seen to everything and I was led away to my room without having properly accepted this unexpected invitation.

Mrs. Munsing did not say a word as she led me down the long hallway and \_\_\_\_\_ the narrow flight of stairs \_\_\_\_\_ my room.

“Here you are, sir,” she said, opening the door onto a small, clean room \_\_\_\_\_ a balcony.

## Questions about the Story

1. How was Darjo dressed?
2. How did Darjo act toward Dwight?
3. Where does Dwight keep his pistol?
4. How long has Ms. Ryan been with Mr. Fitch?
5. Where was Dwight’s room?

\*non-standard English

## Prepositions of Time and Place

A. Directions: Look at the itinerary and answer the questions.

### The International Business Person

Date	Depart	Arrive	Flight	Hotel
Monday 9/10	New York 6:14am	Rio 5:32pm	Pan Am 201	Hotel Rio 12 Blvd. of the Americas
Monday 9/17	Rio 5:54am	Paris 10:18pm	Vargis 102	Hotel Mary 678 St. Anne
Tuesday 9/18	Paris 2:30pm	Marseilles 10:35am	Air France 47	Hotel Niva Quai des Anglais
Thursday 9/20	Marseilles 2:30pm	Algiers 5:56pm	Air France 309	Hotel Geneva Place Ali
Sunday 9/23	Algiers 6:34am	Rome 8:48am	Alitalia 445	Transit
Sunday 9/23	Rome 11:17am	Moscow 7:25pm	Aeroflot 570	Intourist Hotel
Friday 9/28 Saturday 9/29	Moscow 11:05pm	Beijing 10:14am	Aeroflot 571	Friendship Hotel

1. What day does the traveller leave for Rome?
2. What time does she arrive in Moscow?
3. What street is the Hotel Mary on?
4. Where can the traveller find the Hotel Geneva?
5. What time does she get to Rome?
6. When does she leave Algiers?
7. Where will she stay in Marseilles?
8. What airline does she fly on to go from Paris to Marseilles?

B. Directions: Using the above sentences as guides, change the underlined words and ask your classmates the questions.

Example: What day does the traveller leave for Rome? (Paris, Rio)



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# CHAPTER SIX

## Introduction to Sonia

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

### *Like Weeds in a Garden*

I looked at the room briefly and turned to ask her if most visitors usually spent the night, but she had disappeared. Maybe they were right. Maybe she was just a crazy old woman. I walked to the balcony and looked out over the garden. Darjo had left the porch and was moving back into the woods. I wondered if it had been he that I had seen in the woods. The sun was beginning to set. It was just as well that I was staying the night. I don't think I would have found a bus back to town at this late hour. The sky was clear, and in the distance I heard the sound of a small plane. How could a murder happen in this tranquil setting? Mrs. Munsing must have a very active imagination.

My balcony looked directly into the garden, and I saw a young woman I hadn't seen before on the porch. She was tending the plants and carefully and slowly touching each one. That must be the daughter, I thought; at the same time, I made my decision to start my investigation with her.

The house was quiet as I passed through the halls and found the door that opened onto the garden. As I approached the garden, the girl looked up quickly and said in a frightened voice, "Who's there? Who's there?"

She looked right at me, or I should say right through me.

"My name is Dwight. Dwight Smith. I'm a guest of your father".

"You must be from the police," she said. "My father said someone was coming to investigate." She turned back to her plants. "I didn't recognize your step and you frightened me. But now I will know it, and you won't be able to surprise me anymore. Nothing surprises me here on the hill. Nothing changes here without my sensing it immediately." She said this directly at me, like a challenge, then she moved to another plant and began feeling the soil at the base of the plant. "You may ask me questions if you want. I know all about police investigations. I have listened to a lot of stories about famous detectives. Dwight Smith is such a common name though. It won't sound very romantic in the newspapers when they write about all the famous crimes that you solve."

I laughed and said I didn't expect to find many crimes in Flagstaff.

"Then why are you here? You don't believe that these women whom my father married really died an accidental death, do you?" She didn't wait for an answer. I think she had already lost any faith she had in me.

"Nothing on earth is an accident. My blindness is not an accident. These plants are not an accident. Those women my father married were not part of this hill. They were not part of the scheme of things; it was obvious they had to be taken away, like weeds in a garden."

### Questions about the Story

1. Why was Dwight glad he was staying the night?
2. What was the view from Dwight's balcony?
3. Why did Dwight want to talk to Sonia?
4. Where did Dwight talk to Sonia?

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.) Some blanks may use more than one word.

### ***Pretty Poison***

I was startled \_\_\_\_\_ the bitterness \_\_\_\_\_ her voice.

“Look \_\_\_\_\_ this garden. To you it may not look beautiful. Other people tell me the colors \_\_\_\_\_ the flowers do not go well together, but they have only one sense. People trust their eyes too much. We must use other senses to appreciate a garden. Feel this.”

I walked over \_\_\_\_\_ her and felt the soft leaf \_\_\_\_\_ a plant.

“That’s lamb’s ears. I have never felt a lamb’s ear, but I’m sure it would be as soft and woolly as this leaf.”

I looked \_\_\_\_\_ the garden. She was right. I did not think it was beautiful. There was another plan of organization that was meant for a blind person, not a sighted person. The color of the flowers and the arrangement \_\_\_\_\_ the plants would not have been done \_\_\_\_\_ that manner by a gardener \_\_\_\_\_ sight.

“This has a beautiful flower,” I said, hoping to express my interest \_\_\_\_\_ the garden when I really wanted to hear more \_\_\_\_\_ this blind girl’s hatred of the two intruders, her stepmothers.

“Where? Let me feel. Yes, it may be beautiful. It has a very delicate smell. But it’s very poisonous, you know. It’s called Black Hellebore; the Christmas Rose. The ancient Greeks thought it cured madness, and in a way I guess it does; death is always a cure of sorts.”

“Why do you have poisonous plants \_\_\_\_\_ your garden?”

“Oh, I have lots \_\_\_\_\_ them. Sometimes the most beautiful, innocent flower is deadly. Can you see the foxglove there?” She pointed toward some tall plants with purple flowers. “The leaves make a salad look too good to eat, and actually you shouldn’t. If you want to live, that is. And, of course, I also have monkshood.” She pointed to a plant \_\_\_\_\_ her feet and bent over to pick it up. “The juice \_\_\_\_\_ this plant is tasteless, but when added to tea or any drink, it becomes deadly.”

I began to think \_\_\_\_\_ the second wife, who died \_\_\_\_\_ food poisoning. I looked around the garden to see if there were any other dangerous plants I could recognize.

“Nature is frightening, isn’t it? But if you understand her, you can use her. She always gives warnings to us.”

From the porch, Ms. Ryan was calling for us to come \_\_\_\_\_ tea. Sonia reached her hand \_\_\_\_\_ her basket and held out some parsley she had just cut. “You are not afraid \_\_\_\_\_ parsley, are you?” She handed me a bit to eat. As I chewed, she explained that parsley first grew from the blood \_\_\_\_\_ the child Opheltis who had been killed \_\_\_\_\_ a snake. Seeing parsley then became known as seeing one’s death.

“You go have your tea \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Ryan. And enjoy it.”

She then went back to the house. I followed slowly behind and reached the porch where Ms. Ryan was waiting \_\_\_\_\_ me.

### **Questions about the Story**

1. What did Dwight notice about Sonia’s voice?
2. How did Sonia sense her flowers?
3. What was strange about the garden?
- 4. Why did Ms. Ryan call Dwight?

## Prepositions of Cause and Purpose

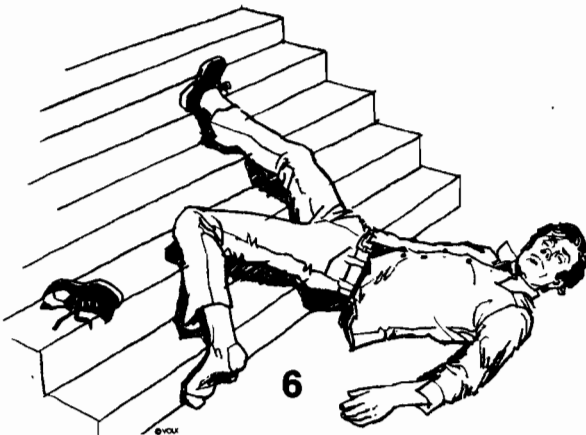
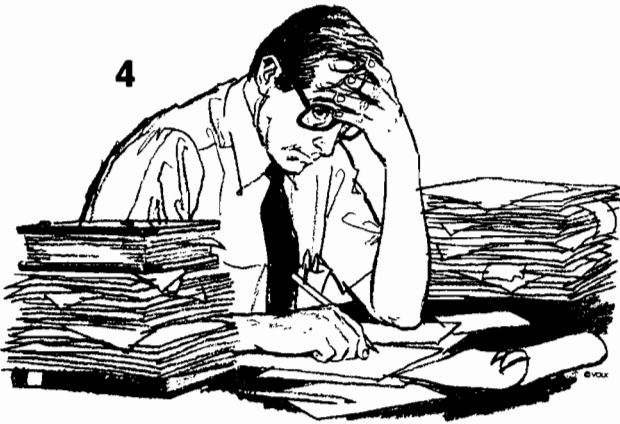
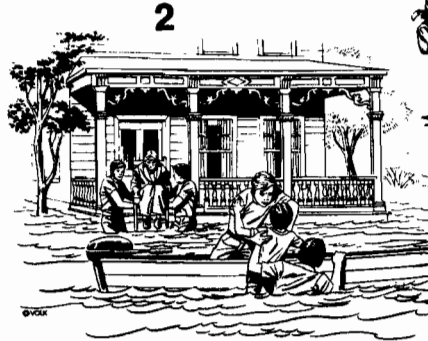
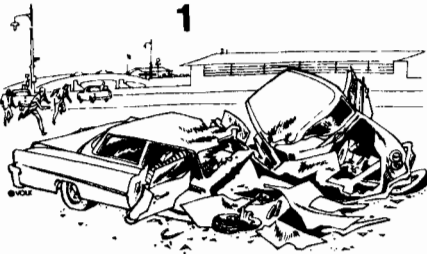
A. Directions: Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with one of the following prepositions. More than one answer may be correct.

on	of
in	from
to	for

1. The man died \_\_\_\_\_ a heart attack.
2. He helped us out \_\_\_\_\_ concern for our welfare.
3. The soldier died \_\_\_\_\_ battle.
4. The runner was weak \_\_\_\_\_ exertion.
5. We blamed our ruined picnic \_\_\_\_\_ the rain.
6. My mother went to the hospital \_\_\_\_\_ an operation.
7. They took in the homeless out \_\_\_\_\_ the kindness of their hearts.
8. The politician attributed his success \_\_\_\_\_ the media.
9. This pan is \_\_\_\_\_ cooking omelettes.
10. My grandmother died \_\_\_\_\_ old age.
11. Sally died \_\_\_\_\_ a blow to the head.
12. Due \_\_\_\_\_ poor attendance, this course has been cancelled.
13. The police took the man in \_\_\_\_\_ questioning.
14. More people are using the bus because \_\_\_\_\_ the fuel shortage.

**B** Directions: Complete each sentence using the corresponding picture. Be sure to use a preposition that shows cause or purpose. More than one answer may be correct.

1. The drivers were hurt \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The people were victims \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The man was angry \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The man was tired \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The thief broke into the safe \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The man died \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The patient died \_\_\_\_\_.



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## CHAPTER SEVEN

### In From the Cold

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

#### *Care for a Sandwich?*

Ms. Ryan took one step forward to meet me. "Have you been getting a lesson on plants?" The question was not an idle one.

"Yes. Where did she learn so much about plants?"

"One of the nuns from the convent on our estate comes over regularly to give lessons to Sonia. I was hired to be her governess fifteen years ago when her mother died, but I soon discovered that I have no patience with children. Fortunately, Mr. Fitch needed someone to manage the house and his life. I am very good at managing things."

I could not disagree with her. She moved with a manner that implied directness and precision. She pointed me to a chair at the end of the patio. We both sat around a table piled with small cakes and sandwiches.

"Mrs. Munsing is a very good cook, but I am afraid we will have to let her go. All this talk of hers about murders. She gets all those ideas from reading those mystery stories to Sonia. Poison in the food! What a silly idea. Care for a sandwich?"

"How long has she been with the family?" I asked taking a sandwich but not eating it.

"Oh, she has been here for...well, she was here before I came. Mr. Fitch hired her when his wife Amelia died. I've told Mr. Fitch that I thought he should let her go, but he is a very kind person and hates to send anyone on her way."

"And when did Darjo begin working here?"

"He was here even before Mr. Fitch came. Actually, he used to work for Amelia Fitch when her father owned this property. Darjo was a famous pilot in World War II, but he was shot down and held prisoner. He evidently hasn't been the same since. He used to take care of the planes that Amelia flew. She was a good pilot herself, I am told, and had several planes.

"Amelia's father had even built a small airport in the valley beyond the house. The land has been given over to the convent now. Occasionally I hear a plane, so I think it's still in use. But I never walk over there. I don't like the woods; they are too dark."

I looked at the woods which surrounded the house and understood what she meant. I remembered how uncomfortable I had been when I was in the forest. "What does Darjo do now?"

"Not much. He's getting too old. He hated the other two wives and he doesn't like me much either. If there were a murderer, it would probably be him. He doesn't like anything to disturb the life he has known. Mr. Fitch once tried to get some dogs to guard the property. The next morning we found them with their throats cut. It was horrible. We were sure Darjo had done it, but there was no real proof. We just know he doesn't like anything new coming and staying. More tea?"

"Why doesn't Mr. Fitch get rid of him?"

"Out of loyalty to his first wife. It was in her will that Darjo would be taken care of until he died."

And that he could live here on this land.” She sat forward in her chair and put a sweater around her shoulders. “It’s getting cold out here. Why don’t you go on down to the kitchen and talk to Mrs. Munsing? It’s warm down there, and after all, she’s the one who started this investigation. I’m sure she’ll have much to say.”

### Questions about the Story

1. Where is the convent?
2. Where did Dwight sit?
3. How long has Mrs. Munsing been with the Fitches?
4. How were the dogs found?
5. Why does Mr. Fitch keep Darjo?

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.)

### *Down in the Kitchen*

Ms. Ryan led me \_\_\_\_\_ the dark hall and \_\_\_\_\_ the steps \_\_\_\_\_ a large kitchen that was warm \_\_\_\_\_ the oven. “Mrs. Munsing, Detective Smith would like to talk \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ dinner. I hope he won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ your way.”

The old woman shot a nervous look \_\_\_\_\_ my direction and gave a slight nod \_\_\_\_\_ the direction \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Ryan. Ms. Ryan turned \_\_\_\_\_ me and said she would see me \_\_\_\_\_ dinner and left. Mrs. Munsing made herself busy \_\_\_\_\_ preparing the food. I saw \_\_\_\_\_ the table the basket \_\_\_\_\_ leaves and herbs that Sonia had collected. The parsley was spread out \_\_\_\_\_ the table. I had never associated death \_\_\_\_\_ that innocent plant. But the more I was \_\_\_\_\_ this house, the more everything began to be associated \_\_\_\_\_ death. First appearances can be deceiving.

Mrs. Munsing had still not turned around. I started the conversation \_\_\_\_\_ asking, “What do you think \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Ryan?” It proved to be a good opener.

“Oh, Mr. Smith, sir. She’s an evil woman, that one. She acts all sweet and nice, but she’s hard as nails. Don’t trust her, Mr. Smith. Don’t trust her.” She grabbed the knife \_\_\_\_\_ the table top and began to chop the tops \_\_\_\_\_ the carrots. Pointing \_\_\_\_\_ her knife, she continued, “There has been nothing but trouble ever since she came \_\_\_\_\_ this house. He got her to take care \_\_\_\_\_ poor little Sonia, but she began to act as if she owned the house. You’d think she was the wife or something. Later, when Mr. Fitch married, she acted all sweet \_\_\_\_\_ the new wives, but here \_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen she would complain \_\_\_\_\_ them getting \_\_\_\_\_ the way. And none \_\_\_\_\_ them had anything to do \_\_\_\_\_ poor little Sonia. If it hadn’t been \_\_\_\_\_ the nun who comes \_\_\_\_\_ the morning to give her lessons, no one would pay any attention \_\_\_\_\_ her, except me and Darjo. Why, that little girl would be sitting \_\_\_\_\_ here \_\_\_\_\_ that table eating, and those women would come \_\_\_\_\_ here and ignore her. They would think because she was blind, they didn’t have to notice her.”

### Questions about the Story

1. Where is the kitchen?
2. When did Ms. Ryan expect to see Dwight again?
3. Why didn’t Mrs. Munsing like Ms. Ryan?
4. How did the new wives treat Sonia?

## Prepositions Plus Noun Clauses

A. Directions: Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with one of the following prepositions. More than one answer may be correct.

to                      on                      about  
of                      by                      for  
from

1. When you leave home, you have to live \_\_\_\_\_ whatever you earn.
2. That man is responsible \_\_\_\_\_ what his dog did.
3. The girl objected \_\_\_\_\_ what her younger brother did.
4. The judge wasn't convinced \_\_\_\_\_ what the thief said.
5. I'm sorry; I didn't think \_\_\_\_\_ how it might hurt you.
6. His mother isn't very happy \_\_\_\_\_ where he is living.
7. The thief never admitted \_\_\_\_\_ what he did in the crime.
8. Make a note \_\_\_\_\_ what you might forget.
9. Are you aware \_\_\_\_\_ how this might affect your work?
10. The two drivers couldn't agree \_\_\_\_\_ what happened in the accident.

B. Directions: Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition. More than one answer may be correct.

1. The workers weren't satisfied \_\_\_\_\_ what they were paid.
2. Please pay attention \_\_\_\_\_ how this is done.
3. We are concerned \_\_\_\_\_ how well he will do on the exam.
4. They are interested \_\_\_\_\_ how well we do.
5. The service here is bad; you have to ask \_\_\_\_\_ what you want.
6. Have you decided \_\_\_\_\_ when we'll go on vacation?
7. Be careful in this store; you have to pay \_\_\_\_\_ whatever you break.
8. The taxi driver isn't sure \_\_\_\_\_ where he is going.
9. I hope you listened \_\_\_\_\_ what the teacher said.
10. Her parents are worried \_\_\_\_\_ who will bring her home.
11. Most of the people didn't approve \_\_\_\_\_ what the judge decided.
12. If you get lost, go back \_\_\_\_\_ where you began.
13. The crops were damaged \_\_\_\_\_ what the rain did.

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## CHAPTER EIGHT

### Parsley by the Bed

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

#### *Sitting in the Dark*

I wanted to find out why Mrs. Munsing had come to see the police. "Mrs. Munsing, why did you come to the police station?"

"Because of her, because of her...something has to be done about her before she does it again, before she kills someone else."

"Who, Mrs. Munsing? Who do you suspect of...?"

"Is dinner ready yet, Mrs. Munsing?" Ms. Ryan had entered the kitchen again. She no longer had the pleasant smile on her face. Her eyes were set hard and her shoulders squared.

"Why do you come asking? You know what time dinner is. It's always at 6 P.M." The old woman was defiant.

To me it was obvious why Ms. Ryan had come asking. She must have been listening at the door. I excused myself and went to find Mr. Fitch.

Mr. Fitch was sitting in the dark in one of the rooms off the dining room. He was staring out the window. I approached from behind his chair and followed his gaze out the window. I saw the same figure with the hat disappear into the shadows of the forest.

"Who's that?"

"What? Oh, Mr. Smith. You gave me a start. I didn't see anyone come in."

"What was that in the distance?"

"Where? I don't see anything."

"It's gone now. But when I came this afternoon, I saw a figure with a straw hat disappear into the forest. And I thought I just saw it again."

"You must have seen one of the famous Indian ghosts that the people are always talking about. Don't trust your eyes, Mr. Smith. This mountain light will always fool you." He turned on a lamp on the table beside him and motioned for me to bring a chair next to him.

"Mr. Smith, I'm glad you've come. There has been a lot of uneasiness up here lately. This used to be a very quiet place. No problems, everyone got along very well. But lately, everyone is full of suspicions. I know what some of the town rumors are, and I guess you do, too. That's probably why you were doing that investigative work in the town newsroom. Surprised I know that, eh? Well, Mr. Smith, very little happens in this town that I don't know about. But I can tell you that I loved all three of my wives; I did not marry them for their money, nor did I kill them for their money."

#### Questions about the Story

1. Where was Ms. Ryan while Dwight talked to Mrs. Munsing?
2. Where did Dwight find Mr. Fitch?
3. What was Mr. Fitch doing?
4. What did Mr. Fitch say was different about the household now?
5. Why did Mr. Fitch marry?



Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.)

### *For Money or Love?*

“Money doesn’t mean that much \_\_\_\_\_ me. It never means much \_\_\_\_\_ someone who has always had enough to get by. The only people who like money are those \_\_\_\_\_ a lot \_\_\_\_\_ it and those \_\_\_\_\_ none \_\_\_\_\_ it. My wives always had a lot \_\_\_\_\_ it, and they were always worried that someone was going to take it away \_\_\_\_\_ them. I shouldn’t say that \_\_\_\_\_ my first wife though. She was going to give up everything \_\_\_\_\_ our marriage. Her father thought I was just a fortune hunter. He was only reconciled \_\_\_\_\_ her when the baby was born. He loved his grandchild. He left everything \_\_\_\_\_ her, this land and all the holdings \_\_\_\_\_ town, \_\_\_\_\_ the condition that Amelia and I would never live together. Shortly after her father died, Amelia died \_\_\_\_\_ an airplane crash. Or \_\_\_\_\_ least we assume she died, she was never seen again.

“The little girl was only three. I couldn’t raise a child myself, especially a blind child. I found Ms. Ryan and Mrs. Munsing to help out \_\_\_\_\_ the child. As it turned out, Ms. Ryan actually dislikes children and Mrs. Munsing is far too possessive \_\_\_\_\_ the child. Fortunately there is a nun who lives \_\_\_\_\_ the convent \_\_\_\_\_ this property who comes and gives Sonia her school lessons. She is a very normal child \_\_\_\_\_ spite \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that she has never been \_\_\_\_\_ this land and has never played \_\_\_\_\_ children her own age.”

\_\_\_\_\_ the next room I could hear classical music coming \_\_\_\_\_ a record player. I recognized it as Albinoni’s Adagio \_\_\_\_\_ G Minor.

“Your daughter is fond \_\_\_\_\_ music?”

“Yes. When you can’t see, you tend to listen. The nun has taught her much \_\_\_\_\_ music. I know nothing \_\_\_\_\_ it.”

Suddenly the music stopped, and I heard the unpleasant sounds \_\_\_\_\_ two women arguing next door. Then I heard running and a door slam \_\_\_\_\_ the distant part \_\_\_\_\_ the house.

The next instant the door opened, and Ms. Ryan came in and announced dinner. She explained that Sonia wasn’t feeling well; she had a headache.

Mrs. Munsing also must have had a headache since she stayed \_\_\_\_\_ the kitchen and did not serve dinner. Conversation \_\_\_\_\_ the dinner table was kept \_\_\_\_\_ safe topics \_\_\_\_\_ the difference \_\_\_\_\_ life \_\_\_\_\_ Flagstaff and New York City. After dinner we all headed \_\_\_\_\_ our rooms. My room was \_\_\_\_\_ the top floor. Below me was Ms. Ryan. Across the hall was Sonia’s room. Mr. Fitch slept \_\_\_\_\_ the second floor \_\_\_\_\_ Sonia’s room.

The first thing I saw when I came \_\_\_\_\_ the room was a bouquet \_\_\_\_\_ parsley \_\_\_\_\_ the bedside table.

### **Questions about the Story**

1. When did Amelia die?
2. How did Amelia die?
3. Why may Sonia not be a normal child?
4. What did Dwight hear when the music stopped?
5. Where did Dwight find a bouquet of parsley?

## Prepositions Plus Gerunds

A. Directions: Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with one of the following prepositions. More than one answer may be correct.

instead of            by  
without              for  
besides              of  
about

1. The police arrested someone \_\_\_\_\_ breaking into the house.
2. The student became proficient in English \_\_\_\_\_ speaking everyday.
3. We had a lot of time so we decided to tour the whole United States \_\_\_\_\_ just going to New York.
4. Our English club has been thinking \_\_\_\_\_ putting on a play.
5. We were only able to finish the project \_\_\_\_\_ working night and day.
6. They were excited \_\_\_\_\_ winning the lottery.
7. You are capable \_\_\_\_\_ doing your homework yourself.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ working a forty-hour week, he studies at the university in the evening, too.
9. The team won \_\_\_\_\_ scoring more points.
10. They went to the movies \_\_\_\_\_ getting our permission.
11. We get tired \_\_\_\_\_ hearing the same old jokes.
12. He was rewarded \_\_\_\_\_ being first in his class.

B. Directions: Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition. More than one answer may be correct.

1. I learned English \_\_\_\_\_ practicing with native speakers.
2. I feel nervous \_\_\_\_\_ living away from home.
3. My father isn't very good \_\_\_\_\_ cooking.
4. We are interested \_\_\_\_\_ learning more about the customs of other countries.
5. I can't get used \_\_\_\_\_ working everyday.
6. They didn't have enough money so \_\_\_\_\_ going to a fancy dinner, they went skating in the park.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ not smoking the athletes kept themselves ready for competition.
8. We have tried to get over our fear \_\_\_\_\_ flying.
9. The teacher suspects someone \_\_\_\_\_ taking her pen.
10. He was asked to stay after school \_\_\_\_\_ disrupting the class.
11. Take the back roads and you can get out of the city quickly \_\_\_\_\_ being caught in all this traffic.
12. As citizens we should be concerned \_\_\_\_\_ international peace.
13. The students are sometimes better \_\_\_\_\_ following directions than the teacher.
14. She also has six children to raise \_\_\_\_\_ working as a nurse.
15. The dieter lost weight \_\_\_\_\_ not eating between meals.
16. He had counted \_\_\_\_\_ our finishing this before Friday.
17. My mother looks forward \_\_\_\_\_ our coming home for the holidays.
18. Why don't you have the dressmaker do it \_\_\_\_\_ sewing it yourself?
19. We were thinking \_\_\_\_\_ giving them a call.
20. She'll never save enough money for a car \_\_\_\_\_ getting a job.

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## CHAPTER NINE

### Lost in Thought

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

#### *A Review of the Case*

I did not sleep well that night. I listened to every sound. And there were lots of them. I decided I would not spend another night in that house. I planned to finish my investigation and leave that morning. I would let the chief figure out who killed the wives. But I knew he didn't really want to know. Nobody wanted to know. And maybe they weren't murdered. It all could have been accidental: a missing plane, food poisoning, a fall. But what if someone fixed the motor in the plane so it would malfunction at a certain point; what if someone put some poisonous leaves in the food; what if the third wife was pushed from the cliff rather than fell? Did the same person kill all three? Or was the first an accident and the second two murders? Were the last two wives killed by one person or by two different people?

I tried to summarize what I knew.

**Darjo:** He hated change. He hated the fact that these other two women were taking the attention away from the memory of Amelia Fitch. Maybe he had another motive, though, for getting rid of Amelia Fitch. Maybe she knew something about his past that she planned to reveal and he would lose the security of his job. That doesn't seem likely considering they were both flyers. But yet maybe he was jealous of her since she could fly and he no longer could. I will have to find out more about him, even though he doesn't like talking to people...especially to me.

**Sonia Fitch:** Who would suspect a lovely fifteen-year-old capable of murder, especially a lovely, blind girl? She does know an incredible amount about poisonous plants, and she could easily have arranged to put some poisonous substance in the second Mrs. Fitch's food. And she was the one walking with the third Mrs. Fitch when she fell to her death. Her motive was like Darjo's: She didn't like change...especially when change meant a new mother. It could be the typical difficulties between stepmother and stepdaughter carried to an extreme.

**Ms. Ryan:** Here again competition is the motive. She is a very powerful woman, very determined in her manner. She effectively controls the house, the business, and Mr. Fitch. She obviously wasn't pleased at the prospect of sharing her power with another woman. She could have easily arranged for some poisonous substance to be put in the food of Mrs. Fitch, Number Two, and could as easily have pushed Number Three over the cliff. Yet, Sonia would have been there to hear the struggle, the scream, and the extra footsteps. With her sensitive ears she could have detected the person from their footsteps. Unless of course she wanted to protect the murderer. But why would she want to protect Ms. Ryan? The fight between them last night seemed a continuation of a long struggle.

**Mr. Fitch:** Yes, finally Mr. Fitch. The man who has the most to profit from the deaths of three rich wives. Of course he would give lots of money to the town. It helps to have friends at city hall if you plan to murder your wives and do not want an investigation. But why would he call up the police chief and ask that an investigation be carried out? Did he think that people would listen to the crazy Mrs. Munsing?...She is probably not crazy, but overcome by fear. Does she think she will be the

next one on the list?...or will it be me? Why was the parsley put by my bed last night? Did he call me here to get rid of a curious police detective that he has no financial control over? Did he suspect that the police chief would not do an investigation into the mysterious death of the young detective from New York? In that he would probably be right.

### Questions about the Story

1. What did Dwight decide to do?
2. What did Darjo think of the second and third wives?
3. How could Sonia have killed her stepmothers?
4. How could Sonia have detected a person near her?
5. Why might Mr. Fitch have given money to the town?

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.) Some blanks may use more than one word.

### *All's Quiet at the Convent*

The sound \_\_\_\_\_ a small plane \_\_\_\_\_ my head interrupted my thoughts. The plane was very close to the earth \_\_\_\_\_ the airstrip \_\_\_\_\_ the valley. I took my binoculars \_\_\_\_\_ their case and focused on the plane below. It rolled to a stop \_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_ the buildings \_\_\_\_\_ the convent. To my surprise a woman got out dressed \_\_\_\_\_ a long black dress \_\_\_\_\_ a straw hat \_\_\_\_\_ her head.

She tied the plane down and headed into the convent. I decided to pay a visit \_\_\_\_\_ the convent.

As I approached the convent, I found a young nun working \_\_\_\_\_ the garden \_\_\_\_\_ the main house. She looked \_\_\_\_\_ me with suspicion. I greeted her and explained I was a guest of Mr. Fitch. Her manner changed, and, without speaking, she invited me into the house.

There was a group \_\_\_\_\_ nuns sitting around a table waiting \_\_\_\_\_ someone or something. It looked very strange: five nuns sitting \_\_\_\_\_ a table with nothing \_\_\_\_\_ it but a record player.

They looked up, and the young nun gestured toward the Fitch home to explain \_\_\_\_\_ words where I had come from. The nuns nodded but no one spoke. The young nun took a seat \_\_\_\_\_ the table. There was one empty chair, but no one invited me to sit \_\_\_\_\_ it. I stood in awkward silence and they sat \_\_\_\_\_ thoughtful calm.

I noticed some records \_\_\_\_\_ a shelf; all were religious songs, but one had no label. I picked it up out \_\_\_\_\_ curiosity. The second I picked it up, every nun lifted her finger \_\_\_\_\_ her lips to warn me to be silent. I imitated the gesture and put the record \_\_\_\_\_ the table. Now I was really curious to know what the record was.

I wondered if this was a group \_\_\_\_\_ nuns that never spoke. If that was so, how did they teach Sonia? How could the mute teach the blind? In the distance a bell began to ring; all the nuns rose \_\_\_\_\_ their chairs and left the room and me. No one made a motion for me to follow them so I stayed \_\_\_\_\_ the table.

The record player \_\_\_\_\_ the middle of the table \_\_\_\_\_ this room with no other furnishings seemed out \_\_\_\_\_ place. I picked up the record \_\_\_\_\_ a label again. I placed it \_\_\_\_\_ the machine and started it. I heard the familiar sounds \_\_\_\_\_ the Adagio that I had heard in the Fitch home coming from Sonia's record player. Someone else heard it too. A door quickly opened and a woman walked directly \_\_\_\_\_ the record player; she lifted the record from the machine. She turned to me and said, "This is the quiet hour," and then left the room. The woman in the black dress with the straw hat had spoken.

## Questions about the Story

1. Where was the plane?
2. How was the pilot dressed?
3. Where were the nuns sitting?
4. How did Dwight stand in the room?
5. Who spoke to Dwight in the convent?

✧

## Questions about the Picture

A. Directions: Look at the photo and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition. More than one answer may be correct.

1. The nuns are sitting \_\_\_\_\_ the table.
2. Dwight has a record \_\_\_\_\_ his hand.
3. There is an empty chair \_\_\_\_\_ one end \_\_\_\_\_ the table.
4. The nuns are holding their fingers \_\_\_\_\_ their mouths.
5. There is a record player \_\_\_\_\_ the middle \_\_\_\_\_ the table.



*It was the quiet hour.*

B. Directions: Look at the photo and answer the questions.

1. Where is Dwight standing?
2. Where are the two pictures?
3. Where are the curtains?
4. What are the chairs made of?
5. How are the nuns dressed?
6. Describe the room in the picture.

### Prepositions at the End of Adjective Clauses

A. Directions: Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with one of the following prepositions. More than one answer may be correct.

about	with
from	in
to	on
for	

1. The woman you gave the book \_\_\_\_\_ is my aunt.
2. The novel which we talked \_\_\_\_\_ is being made into a movie.
3. The company I work \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't believe in pay raises.
4. The team I play soccer \_\_\_\_\_ is practicing this afternoon.
5. Please don't lock the classroom I want to teach \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We just bought the couch you're sitting \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I am going to meet the woman I practice French \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I have a list of people I should write \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The teacher I borrowed the book \_\_\_\_\_ wants it back.
10. The couple you went out \_\_\_\_\_ last night called today.

B. Directions: Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition. More than one answer may be correct.

1. The town he comes \_\_\_\_\_ is very small.
2. Here are the books we just looked \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The music you wanted to listen \_\_\_\_\_ is on the record player.
4. The highway you had to drive \_\_\_\_\_ is full of potholes.
5. A movie is being made from the book we talked \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday.
6. You should try to remember the names of people you are introduced \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The stairs you came \_\_\_\_\_ need to be repaired.
8. The parking space we drove \_\_\_\_\_ is reserved for the handicapped.
9. What kind of fuel do you heat your house \_\_\_\_\_?
10. He's the one you should feel sorry \_\_\_\_\_.
11. What college do you want to go \_\_\_\_\_?
12. The man you work \_\_\_\_\_ has been in the business for years.
13. The tools you work \_\_\_\_\_ must be in good condition.
14. The door you came \_\_\_\_\_ is only for use during a fire.
15. The woman this book was written \_\_\_\_\_ died a long time ago.
16. The books they were interested \_\_\_\_\_ were lost in the fire.

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## CHAPTER TEN

### The Garden in the Valley

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Directions: Read the passage and note the prepositions.

#### *Mrs. Munsing's Missing*

I thought that when quiet hour was over someone might come and speak to me. I walked out to the garden and read the names of the plants written on labels stuck in the earth. The garden was arranged in the same manner as the one at the Fitch house. It was full of medicinal plants. I could easily see where Sonia had learned so much.

The young nun I had seen earlier came out of a back door and walked into the garden with a basket. She tried not to look at me. I tried to start a conversation, but she would not respond.

"There's no use talking to her. The nuns at this convent are not allowed to speak."

I turned and saw the woman in the straw hat.

"In fact there's no use talking to anyone here, Mr. Smith. I suggest you go back to the main house."

She turned and disappeared from sight. The young nun had also gone. It seemed I had no choice but to leave. Who is that woman? Why can she speak? How does she know my name? Is she a nun? Why does she have a plane?

I hoped Mrs. Munsing would be able to give me the answers. I also wanted to find out who the 'she' was that Mrs. Munsing mentioned last night in the kitchen.

I returned to the main house, changed into my own clothes and found Mr. Fitch and Ms. Ryan together in the library. They seemed barely aware that I had come into the room.

"Has something happened?"

They both looked at me sharply. "I'm sorry, Mr. Smith," Mr. Fitch answered. "It seems Mrs. Munsing has gone. She took all her clothes and goods and left in the middle of the night. We don't seem to..."

"You don't seem to. You don't seem to. Everything will be ruined now," Ms. Ryan yelled. "It's all his fault." She pointed at me. "If you hadn't brought him up here we could have gone on just as before. But now..." Too angry to continue, Ms. Ryan stormed from the room.

"You will have to excuse her, Mr. Smith. She thinks Mrs. Munsing is mentally ill and might do something foolish on the outside. Ms. Ryan even thinks Mrs. Munsing might have had a hand in the death of my last two wives because she was jealous of their relationship with Sonia. Now, if you'll excuse me, I must make sure Ms. Ryan is all right."

I didn't need one more suspect at this time. Mrs. Munsing could have killed the other two women as easily as the others could have. Jealousy is as strong a motive as money.

#### **Questions about the Story**

1. How did Dwight know the names of the plants in the convent garden?
2. How was the convent garden the same as Sonia's?
3. Where did Dwight find Ms. Ryan and Mr. Fitch?
4. When did Mrs. Munsing leave?
5. What did Ms. Ryan suspect Mrs. Munsing of?

Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.)

### *The Woman with the Straw Hat*

I went \_\_\_\_\_ the back \_\_\_\_\_ the house where I could sit \_\_\_\_\_ a bench and look \_\_\_\_\_ the property. Down in the valley I could see the main building \_\_\_\_\_ the convent. I got out my binoculars and focused them \_\_\_\_\_ the garden. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ the straw hat was cutting plants.

“You won’t see many birds \_\_\_\_\_ that direction.”

I turned around and saw Darjo staring \_\_\_\_\_ me. His rifle hung loosely \_\_\_\_\_ his hand. “Nothing flies \_\_\_\_\_ this time of year.”

“That nun \_\_\_\_\_ there does,” I said.

“She ain’t no nun: She’s just living \_\_\_\_\_ them. She never leaves this valley unless she goes up \_\_\_\_\_ the air \_\_\_\_\_ her plane. She never goes \_\_\_\_\_ town \_\_\_\_\_ the rest \_\_\_\_\_ them. She does come \_\_\_\_\_ here and take care \_\_\_\_\_ Sonia; she’s been taking care \_\_\_\_\_ Sonia ever since that army sergeant Ms. Ryan decided that she hated kids. No one ever trusted crazy old Munsing to do it.”

“I heard she’s gone.”

“Yeah, she’s gone.” With that, he left me and walked \_\_\_\_\_ the woods.

I stared \_\_\_\_\_ him and wondered why he had bothered to talk \_\_\_\_\_ me. But I turned my attention back \_\_\_\_\_ the garden below. I followed the woman \_\_\_\_\_ the straw hat as she walked \_\_\_\_\_ the garden, \_\_\_\_\_ the gate, and \_\_\_\_\_ the main house.

Behind me I heard the Adagio coming \_\_\_\_\_ Sonia’s room. I watched the woman \_\_\_\_\_ the straw hat come \_\_\_\_\_ the hill. As she approached the top, she refused to look \_\_\_\_\_ my direction. She concentrated \_\_\_\_\_ a piece \_\_\_\_\_ paper she was holding \_\_\_\_\_ both hands.

As she passed I said hello. She ignored me. I stood up and followed her.

“Have you come to give Sonia her lesson \_\_\_\_\_ plants?” She still did not respond.

“It was a pleasure meeting you...Amelia.”

She stopped \_\_\_\_\_ an instant and then continued \_\_\_\_\_ the house \_\_\_\_\_ looking back.

### **Questions about the Story**

1. Where did Dwight look with his binoculars?
2. Where was Darjo’s rifle?
3. How does the woman with the straw hat leave the valley?
4. How was the woman holding the paper?
5. Who did Dwight think this woman might be?





Picture I *"It seems Mrs. Munsing has gone."*

### Questions about Picture I

A. Directions: Look at the photo and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition. More than one answer may be correct.

1. The trophies are \_\_\_\_\_ the fireplace mantle.
2. Mr. Fitch has his fingers \_\_\_\_\_ his mouth.
3. There is a statue \_\_\_\_\_ the bookshelf \_\_\_\_\_ the books.
4. There is a light \_\_\_\_\_ the painting.
5. The window is \_\_\_\_\_ Dwight.

B. Directions: Look at the photo and answer the questions.

1. Where is Ms. Ryan?
2. Where is the painting?
3. How is Dwight dressed?
4. Where is Mr. Fitch's watch?
5. Where are the books?



Picture II *"She ignored me. I stood up and followed her."*

### Questions about Picture II

A. Directions: Look at the photo and fill in the blanks with an appropriate preposition. More than one answer may be correct.

1. The woman has a ribbon tied \_\_\_\_\_ her chin.
2. There are wrinkles \_\_\_\_\_ the woman's face.
3. The hat is made \_\_\_\_\_ straw.
4. They are standing \_\_\_\_\_ trees.
5. There is a drawing \_\_\_\_\_ the piece of paper.

B. Directions: Look at the photo and answer the questions.

1. Where is the piece of paper?
2. Where is the woman standing?
3. Where is Dwight standing?
4. How are the two dressed?
5. What is Dwight trying to do?

## Prepositions and Prepositional Adverbs as Idioms

1. **inside out**  
She turned this place inside out looking for her keys.
2. **betwixt and between**  
He couldn't decide whether to read or study; he was betwixt and between.
3. **up and out**  
Why are you still sleeping? You'll be late. Up and out of bed now.
4. **on and off**  
The light kept flashing on and off all night long.
5. **by and by**  
He'll come by and by; we don't have to watch for him.
6. **on and on**  
That record plays on and on. I wish they would change it.
7. **in and out**  
We won't stay long at the party; just a quick in and out.
8. **back and forth**  
You skate with a back and forth motion.
9. **to and fro**  
The dog ran to and fro across the lawn.
10. **for and against**  
Give me the arguments for and against this case.
11. **'round about**  
I dropped my keys in the sand 'round about here somewhere, but I don't know exactly where.
12. **to and from**  
He spends a lot of time going to and from work.
13. **over and out**  
The air controller signaled the end of his conversation with "over and out."
14. **up and away**  
The plane is about to take off; there it goes, up and away.
15. **down and out**  
Nobody loves you when you haven't got any money and you're down and out.
16. **above and beyond**  
He won the award for bravery above and beyond the call of duty.
17. **up and at...**  
Let's get some work done around here. Off your chairs. Up and at 'em.

Directions: Read each sentence and fill in the blanks with an appropriate expression. More than one answer may be correct.

1. The wind blew the trees \_\_\_\_\_.
2. You must decide whether you are \_\_\_\_\_ her candidacy.
3. Does he come from the East or from \_\_\_\_\_ here?
4. The bus will go \_\_\_\_\_ the school until everyone is taken home.
5. When I use my radio transmitter, I say "10-4" to mean "I understand," and I say \_\_\_\_\_ to mean "I've finished talking."

6. The little girl accidentally let go of the balloon string and the balloon floated \_\_\_\_\_.
7. We have searched every drawer for my pen; we've looked \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When he started university, he didn't know whether to study to be a teacher or a lawyer; he was \_\_\_\_\_.
9. I don't want anyone in their chairs when they hear the fire alarm. When the bell sounds, get \_\_\_\_\_.
10. This morning he said he wanted to go to the movies tonight. Now he's changed his mind. His plans are \_\_\_\_\_ again.
11. Yes, we'll come see you \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The politician talked \_\_\_\_\_.
13. That child is \_\_\_\_\_ of the house all day.
14. When you paint, you should go in a straight line, not \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The beggar thought people would be more generous if they had ever been \_\_\_\_\_.
16. I only asked you to clean the floors, not the walls and windows. I'm sorry I can't pay you for what you did \_\_\_\_\_ what I asked.
17. Hey, sleepy head. \_\_\_\_\_ 'em.

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# CHAPTER ELEVEN

## The End of the Case

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Directions: Read the passage and fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition. (Not all of the prepositions have been deleted.) Some blanks may use more than one word.

### *A Letter from A.F.*

I left the Fitch house without saying thank you \_\_\_\_\_ my hosts. I ran down the hill and stopped a passing car. I had a lot to tell the chief. I wondered how much he already knew.

The car that picked me up stopped \_\_\_\_\_ front of the police station; inside I was told the chief was away for a few days. My tale would have to wait. I spent the afternoon \_\_\_\_\_ my desk trying to piece the story together. At five o'clock, I had finished my report and returned \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Johnson's house.

She said she had been worried \_\_\_\_\_ me since I had been away and hadn't told her where I was. It was just like being home with my mother again. She handed me a letter that had been delivered \_\_\_\_\_ hand \_\_\_\_\_ the afternoon. The address was written \_\_\_\_\_ a large, clear hand.

Dear Mr. Smith,

We always had such a quiet life \_\_\_\_\_ the hill. When my father was alive, he never allowed visitors. Darjo was the only person my father had confidence \_\_\_\_\_; he never had any \_\_\_\_\_ me. Nor \_\_\_\_\_ my choice \_\_\_\_\_ a husband. When he died \_\_\_\_\_ a heart attack \_\_\_\_\_ my marriage, I blamed myself and was overcome \_\_\_\_\_ guilt. I would have killed myself, but I had a little daughter to take care of and a husband I loved. To keep the land and the money, my husband and I were prohibited \_\_\_\_\_ my father's will \_\_\_\_\_ living together. It seemed that the only way to provide for my daughter and husband and still stay close \_\_\_\_\_ the land I loved was to "disappear." Small plane crashes are very convenient.

It was a very difficult life \_\_\_\_\_ both my husband and me.

Fortunately I had the comfort \_\_\_\_\_ the good Sisters \_\_\_\_\_ the Valley who sheltered me. I never had to worry \_\_\_\_\_ their talking to someone \_\_\_\_\_ me.

My husband was not a good businessman, as my father had suspected. He began to lose our fortune, and we were faced \_\_\_\_\_ selling the land I loved and perhaps separation. I reluctantly agreed \_\_\_\_\_ his plan to marry a wealthy woman. That plan was helped along \_\_\_\_\_ the efforts \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Ryan, a very capable woman who was my best friend \_\_\_\_\_ school.

One wife led to another, and you know the rest. What you don't know is: how did those women die? and why did we call the police \_\_\_\_\_?

Mrs. Musing was letting her suspicions run \_\_\_\_\_ unpleasant directions, and we could never take such a crazy person into our confidence. We thought we could appease her \_\_\_\_\_ a police investigation. We felt safe leaving the investigation \_\_\_\_\_ our local police; we had

not counted \_\_\_\_\_ your cleverness, however. The chief \_\_\_\_\_ police is a kind soul, but not very intelligent. He was more concerned \_\_\_\_\_ keeping my husband's goodwill than \_\_\_\_\_ doing his duty. Besides the deaths were accidental \_\_\_\_\_ a manner \_\_\_\_\_ speaking.

Mrs. Munsing herself killed the second Mrs. Fitch, but only \_\_\_\_\_ her own stupidity. She mistakenly used the leaves \_\_\_\_\_ a poisonous plant \_\_\_\_\_ mint \_\_\_\_\_ the lemonade she gave the second Mrs. Fitch. But was that her fault really? I grew the plant and Sonia picked the leaves and gave them \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Munsing. The rest was fate.

The death \_\_\_\_\_ the third Mrs. Fitch was fate as well. She became frightened when she saw all five \_\_\_\_\_ us coming toward her \_\_\_\_\_ the narrow cliff path. She took an unfortunate step backwards and fell off the cliff. Could we really be to blame?

I'm sorry we won't be able to answer any more \_\_\_\_\_ your questions. You got more information than you need, anyway. We had hoped to frighten you off \_\_\_\_\_ putting the parsley \_\_\_\_\_ your bed. But you seemed not to be fooled \_\_\_\_\_ our theatrics. We did give a good performance. Don't you think so?

The five \_\_\_\_\_ us have flown \_\_\_\_\_ a spot we had prepared \_\_\_\_\_ such an emergency as this. And we have no intention of returning to Arizona.

Should you ever see Mrs. Munsing, please give her our regards. I imagine she returned \_\_\_\_\_ her family \_\_\_\_\_ Keokuk. We wish you every possible success \_\_\_\_\_ Flagstaff.

Warmly,  
Amelia Fitch

I waited \_\_\_\_\_ the sound \_\_\_\_\_ a plane overhead, but it never came. Mrs. Johnson called me \_\_\_\_\_ dinner, which reminded me I hadn't called home \_\_\_\_\_ over a week.

### Questions about the Story

1. Where did the car stop?
2. How long would the chief be away?
3. Where did Dwight spend the afternoon?
4. What time did Dwight finish his report?
5. How and when was the letter delivered?
6. How did Amelia's father die?
7. Why was Amelia upset?
8. What did Amelia not have to worry about?
9. Where did Ms. Ryan meet Amelia?
10. What was the chief concerned about?

### Discussion Questions

1. Write another letter from Amelia to Mr. Smith. Make one or more of the characters responsible for the murders. In your letter give an explanation for the crime.
2. Give an objective and subjective evaluation of each character. For the objective evaluation, look at the pictures and describe the character's appearance. For the subjective evaluation, you will have to interpret a character's personality from the action described in the story.

3. What do people in Flagstaff think about people from New York? Why? Is there any parallel you can draw in your own country?
4. What do you think about the justification that Amelia Fitch gave for her disappearance? Was it valid?
5. If you were a judge and you heard this case, how would you find the defendants (Amelia, Mr. Fitch, Darjo, Sonia, and Ms. Ryan), guilty or not guilty of murdering two people? Was the only crime committed bigamy, or was it murder?
6. What do you think the Fitch family will do now?
7. What do you think made Dwight realize that the woman in the straw hat was Amelia Fitch?

## Prepositions in Action

A. Directions: Draw each figure as directed.

Examples: Put a dot in a square.



Draw a circle in a rectangle.



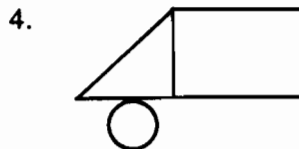
1. Put a triangle next to a circle.
2. Draw a dot below a rectangle.
3. Put a square between two circles.
4. Draw a circle with a dot in the center.
5. Put an X on the middle of a line.
6. Draw six circles around a square.
7. Put a circle with a dot in the center of a triangle.

B. Directions: Give directions for the following figures.

Examples:



Put a triangle in the middle of a rectangle.  
Draw a rectangle around a triangle.



C. Directions: Draw each figure as directed.

1. Draw five triangles.

Put a half circle between two of the triangles.

Draw short lines from the half circle.

2. Draw a tall narrow rectangle.

To the left of the rectangle put a triangle.

Put a small circle between the rectangle and the triangle.

Draw a square around the triangle.

Draw a half circle on top of the tall rectangle.

Put a star under the square.

3. Draw a square and put a rectangular door in the left-hand corner.

Put a dot on the left-hand side of the door.

Draw a square window next to the door on the right side.

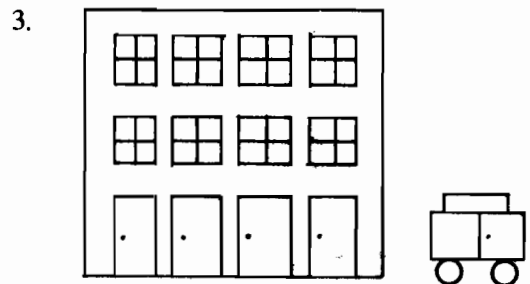
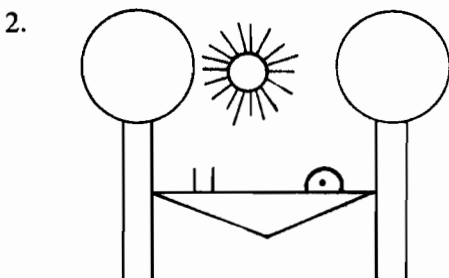
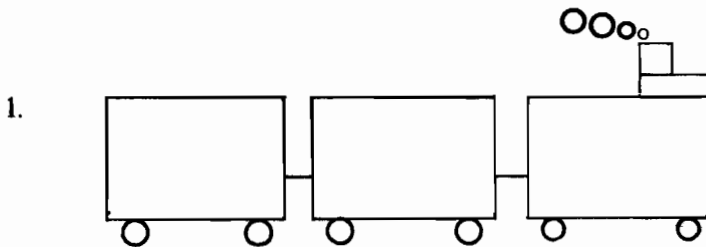
Draw a window above the door and a window above the first window.

Draw a triangle on top of the square.

To the right of the square, draw a rectangle that is as tall as the square and as wide as one of the windows.

Put a large circle on top of the rectangle.

D. Directions: Give directions to your classmates so they can draw the following figures. Be careful in describing size and location.





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**ANSWER KEY**

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# CHAPTER ONE

## On the Road

### *Waiting for Sara*

I looked **around** the apartment where I had spent most of my life. The window was open and sounds **from** the street mixed **with** the talk show **from** the radio that my mother always kept on. It seemed that she had even turned the volume up to get her mind **off** the fact that I was leaving. She sat **in** her favorite chair, the one I had had to fix **at** least twice a year **for** as long as I remember. Who would fix it now? I wondered absently.

The doorbell rang and my sister entered **without** waiting for someone to let her in.

"You sure picked a good day **for** going south," she yelled **over** her shoulder **at** me as she put the sack **of** groceries she was carrying **on** the table. "Arizona couldn't be any hotter than New York today."

Nobody replied. The heat and the occasion had made us quiet. Eleanor continued her monologue. "Where's Sara? When is she coming? She should be here **by** now. Did she talk **to** you this morning, Mama?"

The direct question forced Mama to look **at** my sister. At first she just nodded her head, but then added, "She said she'd be here **about** now."

"Well, I hope she comes soon. We need some life **in** this place. You two are carrying on as if it were the end **of** the world. Look **at** both **of** you sitting **in** your chairs waiting **for** doomsday." She reached out and put her hand **on** Mama's shoulder. "Come on now, Mama. He's only going **to** Flagstaff. That's not far away. You can still talk **to** him **on** the phone. And he'll come back here and visit, won't you, Dwight?"

She threw a quick sharp look **in** my direction. I got up **from** my chair and came over and sat **next to** Mama. "**Of** course I will. You'll be seeing me every holiday."

"And weekends he'll call you when the rates go down." She put her hand **on** my elbow and gave it a squeeze.

"Mama, I'll call you even if the rates are up."

"Now don't you go wasting your money **like** that. You've got to learn to save." The idea **of** encouraging me **toward** thrift aroused my mother **from** her state. She had a purpose again: looking after me.

### Questions about the Story

1. Dwight had spent most of his life in an apartment in New York.
2. Dwight's mother sat in her favorite chair.
3. He had to fix the chair at least twice a year.
4. Dwight is going to work in Flagstaff, Arizona.
5. Dwight will keep in touch with his mother by telephone.

## Sara Arrives

I have always been well taken care of. Since my father died of a heart attack, my two older sisters and my mother have been taking care of me, their little boy. When my sisters got married and moved out of the apartment, it was just Mama and I sitting alone at night listening to the neighbors fight next door. When I finished college and went to the Police Academy, Mama was really proud. She thought that I would get a job in the city and be able to stay next to/near/by her. But when recruiters came from Arizona, I was offered a job in Flagstaff.

"Where is that girl?" Eleanor was looking out the window for Sara. "She ought to have been here by now."

"Give her time. You're always after your sister. Let her alone." Mama got up from her chair and moved over to the sink and began putting away the dishes she had washed earlier. "She'll come when she can. She has that new baby at home, you know. You can't just up and leave a new baby, you know."

"She can get a babysitter." My sister walked over to my mother to help put the dishes in the cabinet. "They make enough money to get a babysitter."

"You can't trust just anyone to stay with your children. You'll find that out." Mama returned to her chair and began rearranging the things on the table. She avoided looking at me.

"Dwight, come here and help me. Your mother's getting lazy in her old age."

"Nothing lazy about me. There's just no need to put those dishes away now. I'll have plenty of time when I'm alone."

My mother's lack of humor was matched by her capability to produce guilt. It was sad to see an independent woman like my mother with a dependent image of herself.

"Mama, how can you say you're going to be all alone? Why, every child on this street is in and out of your apartment all day long looking for treats from your cookie jar. And in the evening you play cards and bingo with the ladies on the street. How can you say you're going to be alone? You should be happy that you don't have to pick up after this boy here."

"Who are you calling 'boy'?"

"You think just because you're going off to be a police detective in Arizona that you aren't our little boy. Just don't you forget who looked after you..."

"Stop your picking on him; let him have a little peace his last few minutes here."

The teasing was interrupted by Sara's coming into the room with her little daughter Jeannie asleep in her arms. The entrance of the grandchild shifted the focus from me to her, and my mother immediately took charge of the child's welfare. "Sara, what do you mean by dressing that child in that light outfit? Why, she'll catch a draft and get sick in that..."

"Mama, she's all right. I'll just put her in the bedroom where she can sleep." The child shifted in her mother's arms, but did not wake up.

I followed Sara into the bedroom and watched her lay my niece in the middle of the old bed. I knew that the next time I saw my niece she would be walking and talking. My sister put a lightweight sheet over her and holding her fingers to her lips, she motioned for me to follow her back into the kitchen.

## Questions about the Story

1. Dwight's father died of a heart attack.
2. Mama thinks Sara is late because she doesn't have a babysitter to stay with her child.
3. The people who live on her street will keep Mama company.
4. Sara's daughter was dressed in a light outfit.
5. Sara put her baby in the bedroom in the middle of the old bed.

## *Off to Arizona*

In the kitchen she threw her arms **around** me and gave me a sisterly squeeze. "I'm going to miss you. Who's going to come and look after Jeannie when you go away?" She kissed me and then slipped an envelope **into** my pocket. I felt the outline of the envelope and knew she had put money **in** it. I was embarrassed and happy **at** the same time. It had taken a lot of money to study **at** the Police Academy, and I knew I would need a lot more to start **in** Flagstaff.

"Well, you two are sure quiet. Is that how you want Dwight to remember his family when he's off **on** the other side of the world?." Holding me **by** my arm she brought me over **to** the kitchen table where my mother and other sister sat staring **into** their coffee cups. "Let's have a little laughter. Our boy is going off to be a famous detective." She turned to me suddenly and looked **at** me as if she were trying to figure something out. She went over **to** her handbag and pulled out a newspaper **with** the headline ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL. "This will probably be your first case, Dwight."

"Deaths **from** falls are all routine police work; it's not work for a detective, and besides it will be all over **by** the time I arrive."

"When do you leave?"

"What time is it? 5:15?! I'm going to miss my bus. It leaves **at** 6:00."

My mother started to cry and held me tightly **by** the hand. Promising again to call when I arrived **in** Flagstaff, I headed **out** the door and **down** the stairs. I ran **to** the subway but still had to wait **for** the train. The man **on** the platform **next to** me was reading the paper. I looked **over** his shoulder and read the headline ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL. The train came before I could read more. But my curiosity was aroused.

## Questions about the Story

1. Sara put an envelope with money in his pocket.
2. Mama took a newspaper from her handbag.
3. The Arizona heiress was killed in a fall.
4. The bus to Flagstaff leaves at 6:00.
5. Dwight waited for the train on the platform in the subway.

## Questions about the Picture

- A.
1. at/next to
  2. around
  3. in, of
  4. next to/by/beside/near
  5. between/next to/by

6. behind/near/next to/by
7. from
8. on/against
9. in
10. on

- B.
1. Dwight is standing behind (next to/by) his mother (his mother's chair).
  2. The empty chair is behind (next to/by) Eleanor.
  3. Dwight is dressed in a long-sleeved shirt and pants.
  4. The refrigerator is behind Sara. The refrigerator is next to (to the right of) the window.
  5. Dwight's mother is sitting at (next to/by) the table.  
Dwight's mother is sitting in a chair.
  6. Mama's handbag is on the table.

### **Prepositions that Identify People and Things**

- A.
1. at/next to
  2. on
  3. next to
  4. in
  5. of
  6. on
  7. behind
  8. on
  9. of
  10. at/next to
  11. next to
  12. of
- B.
1. with
  2. under/below
  3. at
  4. in
  5. between
  6. over/above
  7. at
  8. in
  9. next to/beside
  10. above/over
  11. of

# CHAPTER TWO

## New Man in Town

### *A Place to Live*

It was a hundred and ten **in** the shade when I arrived **in** Flagstaff. The dust was thick **around** your ankles and the sun was blinding. I got **off** the bus and stood **in** the middle of the street trying to decide which way to go. A taxi driver stuck his head out **of** his window and asked, “Where **to**, Mister?”

I had no answer **for** him, so he offered to take me **to** Mrs. Johnson’s, a small house **in** the old part of the city. Mrs. Johnson’s husband had died **in** the war and her children had moved off **to** other cities. She rented rooms **to** single men and was very particular **about** whom she let stay **in** her house. Being a graduate of the Police Academy and a new employee **on** the police force **in** Flagstaff, I had no trouble getting a room. Mrs. Johnson was pleased to have me “protecting her **from** them,” as she said. She seemed to define ‘them’ as any unsavory element **with** designs **on** her property or life. Termites fell **into** this category, and I would spend the first weekend spraying **under** the house **with** insecticide.

Luck was **with** me: I had been **in** town only an afternoon, and I had already found a place to live. When I went to work the next morning, I knew my luck had changed. The other officers were all suspicious **of** the outsider **from** New York. They thought that their own honor was **at** stake. They thought I was going to come in and show them how to run a police station. They had to make sure that I understood that they already knew how to run a police station. I had no argument **with** that. I was new, very new, **to** the profession. I had everything to learn.

### Questions about the Story

1. The temperature was a hundred and ten in the shade.
2. The taxi driver took Dwight to Mrs. Johnson’s, a small house in the old part of the city.
3. Mrs. Johnson’s husband had died in the war.
4. Mrs. Johnson rented Dwight a room because he was a graduate of the Police Academy and a new employee on the police force.
5. The other officers were suspicious of Dwight.

### *The Chief*

My chief was very old-fashioned. He dressed in a uniform rather than in plainclothes as we did during our training. But at least he let me wear what I wanted to wear. He was very conservative and did not like the officers on his force to have opinions that differed from his.

As I was waiting to meet him for the first time, I could hear the voice of a hysterical woman coming through the thin walls:

“But, Chief Hutch, I know it was no accident...none of them were, sir.”

“Well, we have no proof, Mrs. Munsing, and we don’t work here on suppositions and guesses,

you know. We have to have facts in order to act.”

“Yes, I know, sir, but I think that if you would just ask some questions...”

“Thank you, Mrs. Munsing, we’ll get someone on it for you. Thank you very much for coming in here today and sharing your concerns with us.” He showed her to the door, and as he passed me, he stopped and looked at my white shirt and tie. A smile crossed his face. “We’re in Flagstaff, Detective Smith, not on Fifth Avenue. You’re going to get pretty hot with/in that neck choker.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Now, Mrs. Munsing, you just go on back to Mr. Fitch’s house, and my advice to you is not to mention that you came down here to see me.”

“Oh, I wouldn’t, sir. I wouldn’t. And I don’t want you to tell anyone that I came here. I might lose my job.”

After she left he stared at the door for a few minutes before turning to/towards me. “Crazy old woman,” he muttered under his breath. “Come with me.”

He led me down a long corridor that had pictures of criminals pasted on the walls. We passed office after office and finally emerged at/in a long room without windows that had five desks. One of the desks was empty. He pointed at/to it. “That’s yours.” He then turned and walked out of the room.

I opened all my desk drawers and found them full of bits and pieces of paper and ends of pencils. There was dust on top of the desk which stood in the very middle of the room. I could hear everything that anyone said on all sides of me. Which wasn’t much since everyone was trying hard to ignore me. I laughed to myself when I considered the reason for their coldness. In New York people looked down on me because I came from a poor area in/of the city. Here they look down on me because I come from the richest city in the world.

I opened the *Manual for Officers* that I found in the desk drawer but before I could start it a sergeant came in and told me the chief wanted to see me in his office on the double.

The chief was just as taciturn as the rest of the force. He sat behind a very small desk which made him look much bigger than he was. He didn’t invite me to sit down nor did I ask if I could. I stood in front of/near/next to/by/beside his desk while he began to yell the rules of the office. The cardinal rule was DON’T MAKE TROUBLE. Don’t look for trouble. Don’t make waves.

## Questions about the Story

1. The police chief was dressed in a uniform.
2. Dwight heard the voice of a hysterical woman through the walls.
3. The office the chief assigned to Dwight was a long room without windows. It had five desks. One of the desks was empty.
4. Dwight found the *Manual for Officers* in the desk drawer.
5. The cardinal rule of the office was “don’t make trouble.”

## *Poor Mrs. Munsing*

I was glad to get back to Mrs. Johnson's house that night. I wondered if she would be glad to have me, knowing that I was a low man **on** the totem pole **at** the station. I sat **on** the porch and watched the traffic **in** the street. It was a side street, so only a few cars would pass. More people walked here than drove. One **of** the pedestrians was the woman I had seen **in** the police station that afternoon. She was carrying a huge sack **of** groceries.

"Hello!" I yelled to her **from** the porch.

She dropped her sack and looked around. She saw me and nervously bent over to pick up the groceries that had fallen all **over** the sidewalk. I raced to her side to help her. "I'm so clumsy," she offered **as** an excuse.

"I'm sorry I frightened you."

"Oh, my nerves have been **on** edge ever since Mrs. Fitch was killed. I mean, ever since she had the accident."

I stopped picking up oranges and looked **at** her. She met my eyes.

"I shouldn't have said that. I have no right to say that. Excuse me. I must be going."

She had not remembered me **from** the police station that afternoon; she was too concerned **about** her job and the possibility **of** being seen talking to a total stranger. She gathered her bags and hurried **down** the street. I returned to the porch and began thinking **about** the newspaper article that my sister had shown me before I left New York: ARIZONA HEIRESS KILLED IN FALL.

My thoughts were interrupted **by** my landlady's coming **onto** the porch. "I saw you talking to that Mrs. Munsing; she's really crazy. The whole town knows it. She lost her sons **in** the war and her daughter was struck **by** lightning and killed. Sad, isn't it? But the whole thing left her a bit crazy. She drinks, you know. They say when she gets up **in** the morning, she hits the bottle right away. And it lasts until she goes to bed **at** night. But she's an excellent cook. I was up there **for** dinner one night. **On** Christmas eve, it was. The invitations were **for** seven o'clock, but we had a surprise snow storm that closed the mountain roads, and we had to walk the last five miles to the main house. What a night! I was frozen. I would have turned around and gone back to my own bed, but I wanted to take a good look **inside** the house. I hadn't been there since the first Mrs. Fitch passed away. It was dangerous **on** those trails. They're very narrow, I'll let you know. It's no wonder that the third Mrs. Fitch fell **off** the road. And leaving that poor girl all **by** herself. Lucky she didn't fall herself."

I didn't understand what she was talking **about**. What poor girl? I was very confused. I wished I had read the newspaper article **on** the death.

### Questions about the Story

1. Dwight sat on the porch and watched the traffic in the street.
2. Dwight saw the woman he had seen that day in the police station.
3. She lost her sons in the war and her daughter was struck by lightning.
4. Mrs. Johnson thinks Mrs. Munsing is a little crazy and she drinks but she is an excellent cook.
5. Dwight didn't understand what Mrs. Johnson was talking about because he had not read the newspaper article on the death of Mrs. Fitch.



## Prepositions of Place

- A.
1. between
  2. on
  3. in front of
  4. opposite/in front of
  5. next to
  6. under
  7. behind
  8. in
  9. in front of/next to
  10. above
  11. under
  12. on
  13. between
  14. in
- B.
1. The man is standing between the parked cars (the buildings).
  2. The parking lot is beside Sax Brothers.
  3. There is a sale at Sax Brothers.
  4. The door to Sax Brothers is to the right of the store window.
  5. The black car is parked next to the building (sidewalk).
  6. The white car is parked on the opposite side of the parking lot.
  7. The parking lot sign is above the cars (parking lot).
  8. The shop window is below the store sign.
  9. Sax Brothers is located on the corner.
  10. The tall buildings are behind the parking lot.

# CHAPTER THREE

## The Fitches of Flagstaff

### *From Rags to Riches*

The next day **after** work I went to the local newspaper office and asked if I could look **at** their old newspapers. I said since I was new **in** town, I wanted to get a sense **of** its history **by** reading the news **of** the past few years. This article caught my eye:

Mrs. James B. Fitch fell to her death today when walking **with** her stepdaughter **on** the family property. The funeral services will be held **at** the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Valley **at** 10:00 A.M. **on** Wednesday, the 12th of April. Expressions of sympathy should be **in** the form of contributions to the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Valley. The deceased is survived **by** her husband, Mr. James Fitch, and her stepdaughter, Sonia Fitch.

That evening **at** dinner I casually asked Mrs. Johnson **about** the Fitches. I especially wanted to know **about** the stepdaughter and the three wives.

"Yes, indeed, Mr. Fitch had three wives all richer than Rockefeller, they say. When he married his first wife, he didn't have a penny. Her father was dead set **against** her marrying that no-good Fitch. He tried to keep them apart. He even sent her **to** a girl's school **in** Switzerland or some place **like** that. But when she became twenty-one, she inherited her grandfather's money; and when she came back **to** Flagstaff, she married Fitch. She also came back **from** Switzerland **with** a daughter. It almost killed the old man. He was **in** the hospital **for** weeks. He was going to have his lawyers annul the marriage or disinherit the daughter. But he died **in** his sleep one night...and you know, she, the first Mrs. Fitch, died shortly thereafter, too. She was flying a plane that disappeared **in** the mountains. It was never found again. Would you like some more gravy **on** your potatoes?"

I hated to interrupt her story **with** my eating, so I encouraged her to go on.

"Well," she obliged, "Fitch got this woman in to look after the girl, but I think she spent more time looking **at** Fitch than after the daughter. The girl is blind, you know. She just sits all day **in** the house listening **to** music. And people who have been up **at** the house say it's always the same song. It would drive you crazy. No wonder poor Mrs. Munsing is crazy. That girl is strange. I have never seen her myself. She didn't come **to** the Christmas dinner the night I was there. She always takes her meals alone. Poor child; it must be a terrible strain not being able to see."

### Questions about the Story

1. Dwight went to the local newspaper office.
2. The funeral services were held at the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Valley at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, the 12th of April.
3. The father sent her away to a girl's school.
4. The father was almost killed by the marriage and he was in the hospital for weeks.
5. The girl is blind. According to Mrs. Johnson, the girl is strange.

## *All of Them Dead*

I was still curious about the Fitches. "Did Fitch marry the woman who was looking after his daughter?"

Mrs. Johnson laughed as if I had asked her if there really was a man in the moon.

"Well, not married as you mean 'married'. Nothing official in the church or city hall, you understand. But I don't know. I only know what they tell me. And they don't know much what goes on at/in that big house on the mountain."

"Well, who was the second Mrs. Fitch?"

"She was a wonderful woman; she loved children and took them for rides on her horses into the hills. It was just after one of those rides that she died. Yes, she was really thirsty and Mrs. Munsing brought her out some nice lemonade. Well, she drank that lemonade and never got up from her chair. I tell you, no one felt like having lemonade for a while."

"Did no one think that the drink may have been poison?"

"Well, of course we did. But Mr. Fitch and the police chief determined it was some food poisoning from the little sandwiches that she had taken on the trip with her. You know they get really bad from/in the heat."

"And Fitch inherited her money, too?"

"Yes, indeed. She had lots of money. She owned practically the whole town. There wasn't anyone growing up who wasn't paying rent to her family. And since she was the only child, her husband got it all. The same thing with the third wife who fell to her death.

"Clever, isn't he? Always marrying these rich women who have no other relations. Seems kind of strange that they all died, but I guess stranger things have happened. Well, you sit for a spell; I'm going in to watch TV. Come in when you want."

The next day before/at noon, I went back to the newspaper office and asked to see the newspapers from the time of the deaths of the three Fitch wives. That afternoon I was called into the chief's office.

### Questions about the Story

1. The second Mrs. Fitch died of food poisoning.
2. Fitch inherited all her money.
3. The third Mrs. Fitch died from a fall.
4. Dwight went back to the newspaper office.

### Prepositions of Direction

- A. One hot summer morning, we decided to take a trip in our car from the city to the ocean. We got into the car and drove along the highway. We went up one side of Mt. Washington and down the other side. The highway went around the lake and across the bridge. Then we drove through the forest and past the big water tower. We arrived at the beach and climbed out of the car.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## Looking for Clues

### *Rule Number One*

When I walked **into** the chief's office, I saw **from** the look **on** his face that he was not going to give me good news.

"You like working here?" he asked **without** expecting an answer. "Well, you got to learn the rules. We all have rules and maybe here we have more rules than you did **in** New York. Rules keep us honest, you know what I mean?"

I said I didn't.

"Don't get smart **with** me. You know what I mean. Our rules keep us **from** getting **in** one another's way. You know what I mean."

I still didn't understand his point, but I nodded my head.

"That's good. Now, Rule Number One is we don't bother **with** the Fitch family." He looked straight **into** my eyes and I stared back **into** his. I didn't understand how the rule **of** avoiding someone would keep us honest. He slowed down his speech and raised his voice to make sure I would understand. "The Fitch family has been good **to** this town. They built this building we are sitting **in** and they built the courthouse. They built the school we all send our children **to** and they have given almost all **of** the police officers loans to buy homes. So we don't like to bother them unnecessarily. You know what I mean?"

I was beginning to understand. "**Of** course, Chief. There's no need to bother any citizen unnecessarily."

"Then why **in** heaven's name were you reading old newspapers **about** the *accidental* deaths **of** the Fitch women?" He stressed accidental to make sure that I knew that there was no doubt **about** the cause **of** the deaths. I wondered **about** how he knew I had been reading the old clippings. He answered my unvoiced question.

"My brother told me you have been in twice asking **for** stories **on** the Fitches. You want to tell me why?"

I replied that a new person **in** town must be familiar **with** all the major happenings **of** the town that formed the town's history.

"I'll tell you all you need to know. And what you need to know is that the deaths were accidental. The first Mrs. Fitch was flying her own small plane which got lost and was never found again. The second woman died **of** food poisoning."

"What kind **of** food poisoning?"

"**FOOD! FOOD! FOOD** poisoning. What more do you need to know?"

Nothing. I knew the third and last Mrs. Fitch had fallen **off** a cliff while walking **with** her step-daughter. There didn't seem to be any pattern **to** the deaths except that they all happened **to** wives **of** Mr. Fitch.

"Now, if I hear you're messing around **in** the Fitches business again, you'll be **on** the first bus back **to** that city you came **from**."

## Questions about the Story

1. He knew from the look on the chief's face.
2. He didn't understand what the chief was talking about.
3. The Fitches had built some of the town buildings and given loans to some of the police officers.
4. Dwight told the chief that he wanted to learn about the town's major happenings.
5. The chief threatened to send Dwight back to New York.

### *On the Case*

At that moment the intercom buzzed and the chief answered it. "Yeah? Sure, put him on. Good morning, Mr. Fitch...How are you this morning? Well, we couldn't be better down here...nothing more serious than a few parking violations.... Yes, she was down/in here, but you know how old people get at times...yes, I didn't pay much attention to her story, you know what an imagination your cook has...everyone knows her family and her father being crazy and all; well, they just say she takes after her father... You DO?"

The chief turned to me with a look of astonishment on his face. "Well, if you want, but I don't really see the need. Yes, sir. I'll be glad to help you settle the issue once and for all. I'll send up Rodriguez to check on it immediately... Who, sir? Why, sir? But he's just new, sir. He doesn't know anything about the town, sir. Oh, I see. OK, sir. Yes, he's right here, if you would like to talk to/with him."

The chief put his hand over the receiver and said, "It's Fitch; he wants you to come and investigate the death of his last wife."

Fitch seemed very concerned when I talked to him on the phone. He said he had heard his cook was worried that there was some mystery connected with/to the death of his wife, and he would like the air cleared once and for all. He thought I would be a good one to be put on the case, because I would bring a fresh approach to the problem. I think what he wanted to say was that he didn't trust any of these small-town cops to do an efficient job. But I thanked him for his confidence and told him I would be out to his house soon.

I handed the telephone back to the chief. "Is there anything else you wanted to say to me, Chief?"

## Questions about the Story

1. The chief didn't want Dwight to visit the Fitches because he was new.
2. The chief and Fitch were talking about the cook.
3. The cook was worried that there was some mystery connected to the death of Fitch's wife.
4. Fitch wanted Dwight to come and investigate the death of the third Mrs. Fitch.
5. Fitch said he thought Dwight would bring a fresh approach to the problem. Dwight thought Fitch didn't trust any of the smalltown police to do an efficient job.

## Questions about the Picture

- A. 1. to  
2. on  
3. on, behind  
4. on  
5. on, next to
- B. 1. Dwight is in front of the window.  
Dwight is next to (near) the telephone (desk).  
2. The phone receiver is in Dwight's hand.  
3. The chief is looking at Dwight.  
4. Dwight is dressed in a long-sleeved, white shirt, a tie and pants.  
5. The chief is sitting at (behind) his desk.  
6. The window is behind Dwight.  
The window is to the left of the wall with the calendar.

## Prepositions of Time

- A. 1. at, on, since  
2. on, of  
3. in/during, on  
4. during  
5. in, for  
6. in, at  
7. from, to/until, before, after  
8. on, until

# CHAPTER FIVE

## At the Scene of the Crime

### *A View of the House*

The Fitch house was thirty miles outside of Flagstaff. It was set back **into** the mountains **with** a steep, narrow road as the only access **to** the property. The chief said that all the police cars had been assigned **to** senior officers, so I would have to take a bus. The bus turned **off** the main road before we reached the road **to** the Fitch home, so I had to walk the last two miles. The air was cool **in** the mountains, **unlike** the still heat **of** the city. But I was hot from the walk, and I stopped **at** the gate **to** the private road leading up **to** the Fitch home. I sat **on** a rock and surveyed the peaceful surroundings and knew that the Fitch cook must be wrong. This place was too quiet, too peaceful, to be the site **of** a murder, let alone three murders. **On** the other hand, the motive was classic: husband marries rich women, kills them and inherits their fortunes. But that would be too obvious. Nothing **like** that happens now **in** the twentieth century.

My watch told me it was time to get along. I turned **up** the drive and slowly climbed what I hoped would be the last mile **to** the house. I kept telling myself it would be easier returning.

As I turned a corner, I saw a figure move quickly **through** the trees and out **of** my sight. The forest was dark, so I couldn't really see if the figure was a man or a woman. It seemed to be a large figure, and he or she wore a straw hat that covered the head. Usually I would have called out **to** the stranger, but there was something **about** the forest that made me timid. I hurried **to** the house and kept looking **to** the right and left **for** another glimpse **of** the figure. I came **into** a clearing and could see the house **across** a broad expanse **of** lawn. It was an unusual house **for** the area. **Instead of** being one story high and spread out **across** the lawn, this one was compact and rose **like** a tower **on** the hill. **From** the windows you must have a view **of** the entire valley.

### Questions about the Story

1. The weather was cool in the mountains unlike the heat of the city.
2. Dwight rode on the bus and then walked the last two miles.
3. The figure was dressed in a straw hat that covered the head.
4. Dwight saw the figure through the trees.
5. From the windows of the house you could see the entire valley.

### *An Inhospitable Welcome*

I started toward the house but stopped when I heard a noise behind me. I turned around and saw a man dressed in a straw hat and a long cape like those worn by the Navaho shepherds of/in the region. He also had a rifle in his left hand.

"State your business, stranger."

"I'm with/from the police. I..."

"Police don't walk; they drive," he said, raising the rifle level with his shoulder. "Doesn't seem right you being on this land. Looking at things you ain't supposed to be seeing."

"I'm here at the invitation of Mr. Fitch. He called the police station and asked someone to come up."

"He didn't tell me nothing about it."

"Couldn't we just go up to the main house and ask if Mr. Fitch is expecting me?"

"Visitors come on Sunday...Today ain't but Thursday. I don't like changes. It's not good." He motioned for me to precede him up/on/down/along the path.

At least he had lowered his rifle. I'm glad he didn't check me and find the small pistol I keep in my shoulder holster. By the time we reached the porch of the house, the whole household had assembled. They were obviously curious about who was being led to their house at gunpoint.

"Darjo, is that any way to treat a guest?" said an older man with a face that tried to look friendly and welcoming, but somehow did not succeed.

"He didn't come in a car," replied Darjo as if that was a suitable reason to question someone at gunpoint. I began to wonder if Darjo wasn't a retired member of the Flagstaff Police Force. Darjo moved to the other end of the porch and sat on a step wiping the barrel of his rifle with a rag he had pulled from his pocket.

"My apologies again for your inhospitable welcome. We are very glad you were able to come on such short notice. I presume you will be able to spend the evening with us here. That might facilitate your investigation. Let me introduce you to the household. This is Ms. Ryan, my personal secretary; she has been with the family for 15 years ever since my first wife was killed in the airplane accident. But we will talk of that later. Mrs. Munsing, please show our guest to his room." He took me by the elbow and led me toward this woman, white with fear. It was the same woman who had dropped her groceries in front of my house last week.

"We will talk when you are settled. Just ask if we can do anything to make your stay more comfortable. We should even have some casual clothes your size. You needn't dress so formally in the mountains."

I had no chance to express my gratitude or regret. It seemed I had no choice in the matter. Mr. Fitch's businesslike manner had seen to everything and I was led away to my room without having properly accepted this unexpected invitation.

Mrs. Munsing did not say a word as she led me down the long hallway and up the narrow flight of stairs to my room.

"Here you are, sir," she said, opening the door onto a small, clean room with a balcony.

## Questions about the Story

1. Darjo was dressed in a straw hat and long cape like those worn by Navaho shepherds.
2. Darjo was inhospitable and very suspicious of Dwight.
3. Dwight keeps his pistol in his shoulder holster.
4. Ms. Ryan has been with Mr. Fitch for 15 years.
5. Dwight's room was down a long hallway and up the stairs.



## **Prepositions of Time and Place**

- A.
1. The traveler leaves for Rome on Sunday the 23rd.
  2. She arrives in Moscow at 7:25 pm (7:25 in the evening).
  3. The Hotel Mary is on St. Anne.
  4. The traveller can find the Hotel Geneva on Place Ali (in Algiers).
  5. She gets to Rome at 8:48 am (8:48 in the morning).
  6. She leaves Algiers at 6:34 am (6:34 in the morning) on Sunday the 23rd.
  7. In Marseilles, she will stay at the Hotel Niva on Quai des Anglais.
  8. She flies on Air France from Paris to Marseilles.

# CHAPTER SIX

## Introduction to Sonia

### *Like Weeds in a Garden*

I looked **at** the room briefly and turned to ask her if most visitors usually spent the night, but she had disappeared. Maybe they were right. Maybe she was just a crazy old woman. I walked **to** the balcony and looked out **over** the garden. Darjo had left the porch and was moving back **into** the woods. I wondered if it had been he that I had seen **in** the woods. The sun was beginning to set. It was just as well that I was staying the night. I don't think I would have found a bus back **to** town **at** this late hour. The sky was clear, and **in** the distance I heard the sound **of** a small plane. How could a murder happen **in** this tranquil setting? Mrs. Munsing must have a very active imagination.

My balcony looked directly **into** the garden, and I saw a young woman I hadn't seen before **on** the porch. She was tending the plants and carefully and slowly touching each one. That must be the daughter, I thought; **at** the same time, I made my decision to start my investigation **with** her.

The house was quiet as I passed **through** the halls and found the door that opened **onto** the garden. As I approached the garden, the girl looked up quickly and said **in** a frightened voice, "Who's there? Who's there?"

She looked right **at** me, or I should say right **through** me.

"My name is Dwight. Dwight Smith. I'm a guest **of** your father."

"You must be **from** the police," she said. "My father said someone was coming to investigate." She turned back **to** her plants. "I didn't recognize your step and you frightened me. But now I will know it, and you won't be able to surprise me anymore. Nothing surprises me here **on** the hill. Nothing changes here **without** my sensing it immediately." She said this directly **at** me, like a challenge, then she moved **to** another plant and began feeling the soil **at** the base **of** the plant. "You may ask me questions if you want. I know all **about** police investigations. I have listened **to** a lot **of** stories **about** famous detectives. Dwight Smith is such a common name though. It won't sound very romantic **in** the newspapers when they write **about** all the famous crimes that you solve."

I laughed and said I didn't expect to find many crimes **in** Flagstaff.

"Then why are you here? You don't believe that these women whom my father married really died an accidental death, do you?" She didn't wait **for** an answer. I think she had already lost any faith she had **in** me.

"Nothing **on** earth is an accident. My blindness is not an accident. These plants are not an accident. Those women my father married were not part **of** this hill. They were not part **of** the scheme **of** things; it was obvious they had to be taken away, **like** weeds **in** a garden."

### Questions about the Story

1. Dwight was glad he was staying the night because he didn't think he could find a bus back to town at such a late hour.
2. Dwight could see the woods and the garden from his balcony.
3. Dwight wanted to talk to Sonia to start his investigation.
4. Dwight talked to Sonia in the garden.

## Pretty Poison

I was startled by the bitterness in her voice.

"Look at this garden. To you it may not look beautiful. Other people tell me the colors of the flowers do not go well together, but they have only one sense. People trust their eyes too much. We must use other senses to appreciate a garden. Feel this."

I walked over to/next to/by/beside her and felt the soft leaf of a plant.

"That's lamb's ears. I have never felt a lamb's ear, but I'm sure it would be as soft and woolly as this leaf."

I looked at the garden. She was right. I did not think it was beautiful. There was another plan of organization that was meant for a blind person, not a sighted person. The color of the flowers and the arrangement of the plants would not have been done in that manner by a gardener with sight.

"This has a beautiful flower," I said, hoping to express my interest in the garden when I really wanted to hear more about this blind girl's hatred of the two intruders, her stepmothers.

"Where? Let me feel. Yes, it may be beautiful. It has a very delicate smell. But it's very poisonous, you know. It's called Black Hellebore; the Christmas Rose. The ancient Greeks thought it cured madness, and in a way I guess it does; death is always a cure of sorts."

"Why do you have poisonous plants in your garden?"

"Oh, I have lots of them. Sometimes the most beautiful, innocent flower is deadly. Can you see the foxglove there?" She pointed toward some tall plants with purple flowers. "The leaves make a salad look too good to eat, and actually you shouldn't. If you want to live, that is. And, of course, I also have monkshood." She pointed to a plant near/next to/beside/by her feet and bent over to pick it up. "The juice from/of this plant is tasteless, but when added to tea or any drink, it becomes deadly."

I began to think about/of the second wife, who died from/of food poisoning. I looked around the garden to see if there were any other dangerous plants I could recognize.

"Nature is frightening, isn't it? But if you understand her, you can use her. She always gives warning to us."

From the porch, Ms. Ryan was calling for us to come to tea. Sonia reached her hand into her basket and held out some parsley she had just cut. "You are not afraid of parsley, are you?" She handed me a bit to eat. As I chewed, she explained that parsley first grew from the blood of the child Opheltis who had been killed by a snake. Seeing parsley then became known as seeing one's death.

"You go have your tea with Ms. Ryan. And enjoy it."

She then went back to the house. I followed slowly behind and reached the porch where Ms. Ryan was waiting for me.

### Questions about the Story

1. Dwight noticed the bitterness in her voice.
2. Sonia sensed her flowers by feeling and smelling them.
3. The garden contained a lot of poisonous plants.
4. Ms. Ryan called Dwight to come to tea.

## **Prepositions of Cause and Purpose**

- A.
1. of/from
  2. of
  3. in
  4. from
  5. on
  6. for
  7. of
  8. to
  9. for
  10. of
  11. from
  12. to
  13. for
  14. of

- B.
1. in an accident/because of the accident
  2. of a flood
  3. because of the broken window/because of the damage done to the store
  4. from exertion
  5. for money
  6. in the fall/from the fall/due to the fall/because of the fall
  7. from the operation

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### *Care for a Sandwich?*

Ms. Ryan took one step forward to meet me. "Have you been getting a lesson **on** plants?" The question was not an idle one.

"Yes. Where did she learn so much **about** plants?"

"**One of the nuns from the convent on** our estate comes over regularly to give lessons **to** Sonia. I was hired to be her governess fifteen years ago when her mother died, but I soon discovered that I have no patience **with** children. Fortunately, Mr. Fitch needed someone to manage the house and his life. I am very good **at** managing things."

I could not disagree **with** her. She moved **with** a manner that implied directness and precision. She pointed me **to** a chair **at** the end of the patio. We both sat **around** a table piled **with** small cakes and sandwiches.

"Mrs. Munsing is a very good cook, but I am afraid we will have to let her go. All this talk **of** hers **about** murders. She gets all those ideas **from** reading those mystery stories **to** Sonia. Poison **in** the food! What a silly idea. Care **for** a sandwich?"

"How long has she been **with** the family?" I asked, taking a sandwich **but** not eating it.

"Oh, she has been here **for**... well, she was here before I came. Mr. Fitch hired her when his wife Amelia died. I've told Mr. Fitch that I thought he should let her go, but he is a very kind person and hates to send anyone **on** her way."

"And when did Darjo begin working here?"

"He was here even before Mr. Fitch came. Actually, he used to work **for** Amelia Fitch when her father owned this property. Darjo was a famous pilot **in** World War II, but he was shot down and held prisoner. He evidently hasn't been the same **since**. He used to take care **of** the planes that Amelia flew. She was a good pilot herself, I am told, and had several planes.

"Amelia's father had even built a small airport **in** the valley **beyond** the house. The land has been given over **to** the convent now. Occasionally I hear a plane, so I think it's still in use. But I never walk **over** there. I don't like the woods; they are too dark."

I looked **at** the woods which surrounded the house and understood what she meant. I remembered how uncomfortable I had been when I was **in** the forest. "What does Darjo do now?"

"Not much. He's getting too old. He hated the other two wives and he doesn't like me much either. If there were a murderer, it would probably be him. He doesn't like anything to disturb the life he has known. Mr. Fitch once tried to get some dogs to guard the property. The next morning we found them **with** their throats cut. It was horrible. We were sure Darjo had done it, but there was no real proof. We just know he doesn't like anything new coming and staying. More tea?"

"Why doesn't Mr. Fitch get rid **of** him?"

"**Out of** loyalty **to** his first wife. It was **in** her will that Darjo would be taken care of until he died. And that he could live here **on** this land." She sat forward **in** her chair and put a sweater **around** her shoulders. "It's getting cold out here. Why don't you go on down **to** the kitchen and talk **to** Mrs. Munsing? It's warm **down** there, and after all, she's the one who started this investigation. I'm sure she'll have much to say."

## Questions about the Story

1. The convent is on the Fitch estate.
2. Dwight sat in a chair at the end of the patio.
3. Mrs. Munsing has been with the Fitches since Amelia died.
4. The dogs were found with their throats cut.
5. Mr. Fitch keeps him out of loyalty to his first wife.

### *Down in the Kitchen*

Ms. Ryan led me down/along/up/through the dark hall and down the steps into/to a large kitchen that was warm from the oven. "Mrs. Munsing, Detective Smith would like to talk with you before dinner. I hope he won't be in your way."

The old woman shot a nervous look in my direction and gave a slight nod in the direction of Ms. Ryan. Ms. Ryan turned to me and said she would see me at dinner and left. Mrs. Munsing made herself busy with preparing the food. I saw on the table the basket of leaves and herbs that Sonia had collected. The parsley was spread out on the table. I had never associated death with that innocent plant. But the more I was in this house, the more everything began to be associated with death. First appearances can be deceiving.

Mrs. Munsing had still not turned around. I started the conversation by asking, "What do you think about/of Ms. Ryan?" It proved to be a good opener.

"Oh, Mr. Smith, sir. She's an evil woman, that one. She acts all sweet and nice, but she's hard as nails. Don't trust her, Mr. Smith. Don't trust her." She grabbed the knife from the table top and began to chop the tops of the carrots. Pointing with her knife, she continued, "There has been nothing but trouble ever since she came to this house. He got her to take care of poor little Sonia, but she began to act as if she owned the house. You'd think she was the wife or something. Later, when Mr. Fitch married, she acted all sweet to the new wives, but here in the kitchen she would complain about them getting in the way. And none of them had anything to do with poor little Sonia. If it hadn't been for the nun who comes in the morning to give her lessons, no one would pay any attention to her, except me and Darjo. Why, that little girl would be sitting in here at that table eating, and those women would come in here and ignore her. They would think because she was blind, they didn't have to notice her."

## Questions about the Story

1. The kitchen is down (along/up/through) a dark hall and down some steps.
2. Ms. Ryan expected to see Dwight at dinner.
3. Mrs. Munsing didn't like Ms. Ryan because she thought she was evil and had brought trouble to the house.
4. The new wives ignored Sonia.

## Prepositions Plus Noun Clauses

- A.
1. on
  2. for
  3. to
  4. by
  5. of/about
  6. about
  7. to
  8. of/about
  9. of
  10. on/about

- B.
1. with/by
  2. to
  3. about
  4. in
  5. for
  6. on/about
  7. for
  8. of/about
  9. to
  10. about
  11. of
  12. to
  13. by

# CHAPTER EIGHT

## Parsley by the Bed

### *Sitting in the Dark*

I wanted to find out why Mrs. Munsing had come to see the police. “Mrs. Munsing, why did you come **to** the police station?”

“Because **of** her, because **of** her...something has to be done **about** her before she does it again, before she kills someone else.”

“Who, Mrs. Munsing? Who do you suspect **of**...?”

“Is dinner ready yet, Mrs. Munsing?” Ms. Ryan had entered the kitchen again. She no longer had the pleasant smile **on** her face. Her eyes were set hard and her shoulders squared.

“Why do you come asking? You know what time dinner is. It’s always **at** 6 P.M.” The old woman was defiant.

**To** me it was obvious why Ms. Ryan had come asking. She must have been listening **at** the door. I excused myself and went to find Mr. Fitch.

Mr. Fitch was sitting **in** the dark **in** one **of** the rooms **off** the dining room. He was staring **out** the window. I approached **from** behind his chair and followed his gaze **out** the window. I saw the same figure **with** the hat disappear **into** the shadows **of** the forest.

“Who’s that?”

“What? Oh, Mr. Smith. You gave me a start. I didn’t see anyone come in.”

“What was that **in** the distance?”

“Where? I don’t see anything.”

“It’s gone now. But when I came this afternoon, I saw a figure **with** a straw hat disappear **into** the forest. And I thought I just saw it again.”

“You must have seen one **of** the famous Indian ghosts that the people are always talking **about**. Don’t trust your eyes, Mr. Smith. This mountain light will always fool you.” He turned on a lamp **on** the table **beside** him and motioned **for** me to bring a chair **next** to him.

“Mr. Smith, I’m glad you’ve come. There has been a lot **of** uneasiness **up** here lately. This used to be a very quiet place. No problems, everyone got along very well. But lately, everyone is full **of** suspicions. I know what some **of** the town rumors are, and I guess you do, too. That’s probably why you were doing that investigative work **in** the town newsroom. Surprised I know that, eh? Well, Mr. Smith, very little happens **in** this town that I don’t know **about**. But I can tell you that I loved all three **of** my wives; I did not marry them **for** their money, nor did I kill them **for** their money.”

### Questions about the Story

1. Ms. Ryan must have been just outside of the kitchen door.
2. Dwight found Mr. Fitch sitting in the dark in one of the rooms off the dining room.
3. Mr. Fitch was staring out the window.
4. Mr. Fitch said there had been a lot of uneasiness on the estate and that everyone was full of suspicions.
5. Mr. Fitch married for love.



## *For Money or Love?*

“Money doesn’t mean that much to me. It never means much to someone who has always had enough to get by. The only people who like money are those with a lot of it and those with none of it. My wives always had a lot of it, and they were always worried that someone was going to take it away from them. I shouldn’t say that about my first wife though. She was going to give up everything for our marriage. Her father thought I was just a fortune hunter. He was only reconciled with her when the baby was born. He loved his grandchild. He left everything to her, this land and all the holdings in town, on the condition that Amelia and I would never live together. Shortly after her father died, Amelia died in an airplane crash. Or at least we assume she died, she was never seen again.

“The little girl was only three. I couldn’t raise a child myself, especially a blind child. I found Ms. Ryan and Mrs. Munsing to help out with the child. As it turned out, Ms. Ryan actually dislikes children and Mrs. Munsing is far too possessive of the child. Fortunately there is a nun who lives in/at the convent on this property who comes and gives Sonia her school lessons. She is a very normal child in spite of the fact that she has never been off this land and has never played with children her own age.”

From the next room I could hear classical music coming from a record player. I recognized it as Albinoni’s Adagio in G Minor.

“Your daughter is fond of music?”

“Yes. When you can’t see, you tend to listen. The nun has taught her much about music. I know nothing about it.”

Suddenly the music stopped, and I heard the unpleasant sounds of two women arguing next door. Then I heard running and a door slam in the distant part of the house.

The next instant the door opened, and Ms. Ryan came in and announced dinner. She explained that Sonia wasn’t feeling well; she had a headache.

Mrs. Munsing also must have had a headache since she stayed in the kitchen and did not serve dinner. Conversation at the dinner table was kept to/on safe topics like the difference between life in Flagstaff and New York City. After dinner we all headed for/to our rooms. My room was on the top floor. Below me was Ms. Ryan. Across the hall was Sonia’s room. Mr. Fitch slept on the second floor under Sonia’s room.

The first thing I saw when I came into the room was a bouquet of parsley on the bedside table.

### **Questions about the Story**

1. Amelia died shortly after her father.
2. Amelia died in an airplane crash.
3. Sonia may not be a normal child because she has never been off the estate and has never played with children her own age.
4. Dwight heard the unpleasant sounds of two women arguing next door.
5. Dwight found a bouquet of parsley on the bedside table.

## **Prepositions Plus Gerunds**

- A.
1. for
  2. by
  3. instead of
  4. about/or
  5. by
  6. about/by
  7. of
  8. Besides
  9. by/for
  10. without
  11. of
  12. for

- B.
1. by/from
  2. about
  3. at
  4. in
  5. to
  6. instead of
  7. By
  8. of
  9. of
  10. for
  11. without/instead of
  12. about
  13. about/at
  14. besides
  15. by
  16. on
  17. to
  18. instead of
  19. about/of
  20. without

# CHAPTER NINE

## Lost in Thought

### *A Review of the Case*

I did not sleep well that night. I listened to every sound. And there were lots of them. I decided I would not spend another night in that house. I planned to finish my investigation and leave that morning. I would let the chief figure out who killed the wives. But I knew he didn't really want to know. Nobody wanted to know. And maybe they weren't murdered. It all could have been accidental: a missing plane, food poisoning, a fall. But what if someone fixed the motor in the plane so it would malfunction at a certain point; what if someone put some poisonous leaves in the food; what if the third wife was pushed from the cliff rather than fell? Did the same person kill all three? Or was the first an accident and the second two murders? Were the last two wives killed by one person or by two different people?

I tried to summarize what I knew.

Darjo: He hated change. He hated the fact that these other two women were taking the attention away from the memory of Amelia Fitch. Maybe he had another motive, though, for getting rid of Amelia Fitch. Maybe she knew something about his past that she planned to reveal and he would lose the security of his job. That doesn't seem likely considering they were both flyers. But yet maybe he was jealous of her since she could fly and he no longer could. I will have to find out more about him, even though he doesn't like talking to people ... especially to me.

Sonia Fitch: Who would suspect a lovely fifteen-year-old capable of murder, especially a lovely, blind girl? She does know an incredible amount about poisonous plants, and she could easily have arranged to put some poisonous substance in the second Mrs. Fitch's food. And she was the one walking with the third Mrs. Fitch when she fell to her death. Her motive was like Darjo's: She didn't like change...especially when change meant a new mother. It could be the typical difficulties between stepmother and stepdaughter carried to an extreme.

Ms. Ryan: Here again competition is the motive. She is a very powerful woman, very determined in her manner. She effectively controls the house, the business, and Mr. Fitch. She obviously wasn't pleased at the prospect of sharing her power with another woman. She could have easily arranged for some poisonous substance to be put in the food of Mrs. Fitch, Number Two, and could as easily have pushed Number Three over the cliff. Yet, Sonia would have been there to hear the struggle, the scream, and the extra footsteps. With her sensitive ears she could have detected the person from their footsteps. Unless of course she wanted to protect the murderer. But why would she want to protect Ms. Ryan? The fight between them last night seemed a continuation of a long struggle.

Mr. Fitch: Yes, finally Mr. Fitch. The man who has the most to profit from the deaths of three rich wives. Of course he would give lots of money to the town. It helps to have friends at city hall if you plan to murder your wives and do not want an investigation. But why would he call up the police chief and ask that an investigation be carried out? Did he think that people would listen to the crazy Mrs. Munsing?...She is probably not crazy, but overcome by fear. Does she think she will be the next one on the list?...or will it be me? Why was the parsley put by my bed last night? Did he call me here to get rid of a curious police detective that he has no financial control over? Did he suspect that the police chief would not do an investigation into the mysterious death of the young detective from New York? In that he would probably be right.

## Questions about the Story

1. Dwight decided not to spend another night in the house.
2. Darjo believed the two wives were taking attention away from the memory of Amelia Fitch.
3. Sonia could have killed her stepmothers by poisoning the second Mrs. Fitch and pushing the third Mrs. Fitch from the cliff.
4. Sonia could have detected someone near her with her sensitive ears.
5. Mr. Fitch might have given money to the town to win friends at city hall and prevent an investigation into the deaths.

### *All's Quiet at the Convent*

The sound of a small plane above/over my head interrupted my thoughts. The plane was very close to the earth over/near/by/next to/above the airstrip in the valley. I took my binoculars from their case and focused on the plane below. It rolled to a stop by/at/next to/near/in front of one of the buildings near/behind/next to/in front of/etc. the convent. To my surprise a woman got out dressed in a long black dress with a straw hat on her head.

She tied the plane down and headed into the convent. I decided to pay a visit to the convent.

As I approached the convent, I found a young nun working in the garden of/next to/in front of/etc. the main house. She looked at me with suspicion. I greeted her and explained I was a guest of Mr. Fitch. Her manner changed, and, without speaking, she invited me into the house.

There was a group of nuns sitting around a table waiting for someone or something. It looked very strange: five nuns sitting around/at a table with nothing on it but a record player.

They looked up, and the young nun gestured toward the Fitch home to explain without words where I had come from. The nuns nodded but no one spoke. The young nun took a seat at the table. There was one empty chair, but no one invited me to sit in it. I stood in awkward silence and they sat in thoughtful calm.

I noticed some records on a shelf; all were religious songs, but one had no label. I picked it up out of curiosity. The second I picked it up, every nun lifted her finger to her lips to warn me to be silent. I imitated the gesture and put the record on the table. Now I was really curious to know what the record was.

I wondered if this was a group of nuns that never spoke. If that was so, how did they teach Sonia? How could the mute teach the blind? In the distance a bell began to ring; all the nuns rose from their chairs and left the room and me. No one made a motion for me to follow them so I stayed at/near/by the table.

The record player in the middle of the table in this room with no other furnishings seemed out of place. I picked up the record without a label again. I placed it on the machine and started it. I heard the familiar sounds of the Adagio that I had heard in the Fitch home coming from Sonia's record player. Someone else heard it too. A door quickly opened and a woman walked directly to the record player; she lifted the record from the machine. She turned to me and said, "This is the quiet hour," and then left the room. The woman in the black dress with the straw hat had spoken.

## Questions about the Story

1. The plane was very close to the earth over (near/by/next to) the airstrip in the valley.
2. The pilot was dressed in a long black dress with a straw hat on her head.
3. The nuns were sitting around (at) the table.
4. Dwight stood in awkward silence.
5. The woman in the black dress with the straw hat spoke to Dwight.

## Questions about the Picture

- A.
1. at/around
  2. in
  3. at, of
  4. to
  5. in, of
- B.
1. Dwight is standing near (by/next to) the table.
  2. The two pictures are on the wall.  
The two pictures are behind the nuns.
  3. The curtains are over (in front of) the window.
  4. The chairs are made of wood.
  5. The nuns are dressed in black dresses with some white around their foreheads and on their chests.
  6. There is a table in the middle of the room. It is covered with a table cloth. There is one window with a curtain over it. There is a light over the table. A record player is sitting in the middle of the table. There are two pictures hanging on the wall. There is one empty chair at one end of the table.

## Prepositions at the End of Adjective Clauses

- |     |                          |     |                       |
|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| A.  | 1. to                    | B.  | 1. from               |
|     | 2. about                 |     | 2. at                 |
|     | 3. to                    |     | 3. to                 |
|     | 4. along/up/down/over/on |     | 4. along/up/down/over |
|     | 5. in                    |     | 5. about              |
|     | 6. on                    |     | 6. to                 |
|     | 7. with                  |     | 7. up/down            |
|     | 8. to                    |     | 8. into               |
|     | 9. from                  |     | 9. with               |
| 10. | with                     | 10. | for/about             |
|     |                          | 11. | to                    |
|     |                          | 12. | for/with              |
|     |                          | 13. | with                  |
|     |                          | 14. | in/out/through        |
|     |                          | 15. | by/about              |
|     |                          | 16. | in                    |

# CHAPTER TEN

## The Garden in the Valley

### *Mrs. Munsing's Missing*

I thought that when quiet hour was over someone might come and speak to me. I walked out to the garden and read the names of the plants written on labels stuck in the earth. The garden was arranged in the same manner as the one at the Fitch house. It was full of medicinal plants. I could easily see where Sonia had learned so much.

The young nun I had seen earlier came out of a back door and walked into the garden with a basket. She tried not to look at me. I tried to start a conversation, but she would not respond.

"There's no use talking to her. The nuns at this convent are not allowed to speak."

I turned and saw the woman in the straw hat.

"In fact there's no use talking to anyone here, Mr. Smith. I suggest you go back to the main house."

She turned and disappeared from sight. The young nun had also gone. It seemed I had no choice but to leave. Who is that woman? Why can she speak? How does she know my name? Is she a nun? Why does she have a plane?

I hoped Mrs. Munsing would be able to give me the answers. I also wanted to find out who the 'she' was that Mrs. Munsing mentioned last night in the kitchen.

I returned to the main house, changed into my own clothes and found Mr. Fitch and Ms. Ryan together in the library. They seemed barely aware that I had come into the room.

"Has something happened?"

They both looked at me sharply. "I'm sorry, Mr. Smith," Mr. Fitch answered. "It seems Mrs. Munsing has gone. She took all her clothes and goods and left in the middle of the night. We don't seem to..."

"You don't seem to. You don't seem to. Everything will be ruined now," Ms. Ryan yelled. "It's all his fault." She pointed at me. "If you hadn't brought him up here we could have gone on just as before. But now..." Too angry to continue, Ms. Ryan stormed from the room.

"You will have to excuse her, Mr. Smith. She thinks Mrs. Munsing is mentally ill and might do something foolish on the outside. Ms. Ryan even thinks Mrs. Munsing might have had a hand in the death of my last two wives because she was jealous of their relationship with Sonia. Now, if you'll excuse me, I must make sure Ms. Ryan is all right."

I didn't need one more suspect at this time. Mrs. Munsing could have killed the other two women as easily as the others could have. Jealousy is as strong a motive as money.

### Questions about the Story

1. The names of the plants were written on labels stuck in the earth.
2. The garden was arranged in the same manner as Sonia's.
3. Dwight found Ms. Ryan and Mr. Fitch in the library.
4. Mrs. Munsing left in the middle of the night.
5. Ms. Ryan suspected Mrs. Munsing of having had a hand in the death of Mr. Fitch's last two wives.

## *The Woman with the Straw Hat*

I went to the back of the house where I could sit on a bench and look over the property. Down in the valley I could see the main building of the convent. I got out my binoculars and focused them on the garden. The woman with the straw hat was cutting plants.

"You won't see many birds in that direction."

I turned around and saw Darjo staring at me. His rifle hung loosely from his hand. "Nothing flies at this time of year."

"That nun down there does," I said.

"She ain't no nun: She's just living with them. She never leaves this valley unless she goes up in the air in her plane. She never goes to/into town like the rest of them. She does come up here and take care of Sonia; she's been taking care of Sonia ever since that army sergeant Ms. Ryan decided that she hated kids. No one ever trusted crazy old Munsing to do it."

"I heard she's gone."

"Yeah, she's gone." With that, he left me and walked into/to/towards the woods.

I stared after him and wondered why he had bothered to talk to me. But I turned my attention back to the garden below. I followed the woman with the straw hat as she walked around the garden, through the gate, and towards the main house.

Behind me I heard the Adagio coming from Sonia's room. I watched the woman with the straw hat come up the hill. As she approached the top, she refused to look in my direction. She concentrated on a piece of paper she was holding with both hands.

As she passed I said hello. She ignored me. I stood up and followed her.

"Have you come to give Sonia her lesson on plants?" She still did not respond.

"It was a pleasure meeting you...Amelia."

She stopped for an instant and then continued into the house without looking back.

### Questions about the Story

1. Dwight looked into the garden.
2. Darjo's rifle was in his hand.
3. She leaves the valley only in her plane.
4. She was holding the paper with both hands.
5. Dwight thought the woman might be Amelia.

### Questions about Picture I

- A.
1. on
  2. on
  3. on, near/between/next to/by
  4. over/above
  5. behind
- B.
1. Ms. Ryan is behind (near/next to/by) Mr. Fitch.  
Ms. Ryan is in front of (next to/by) the bookshelf.

2. The painting is on the wall.  
The painting is over the fireplace (fireplace mantle).
3. Dwight is dressed in a suit and tie.
4. Mr. Fitch's watch is on (around) his wrist.
5. The books are on the bookshelf.  
The books are behind Ms. Ryan.

### Questions about Picture II

- A.
1. under
  2. on
  3. of
  4. in front of/near
  5. on
- B.
1. The piece of paper is in the woman's hands.
  2. The woman is standing in front of (near) Dwight.
  3. Dwight is standing behind (near) the woman.
  4. Dwight is dressed in a light jacket. The woman is dressed in a dark dress and straw hat.
  5. Dwight is trying to talk to the woman.

### Prepositions and Prepositional Adverbs as Idioms

1. back and forth/to and fro
2. for or against
3. 'round about
4. to and from
5. over and out
6. up and away
7. inside out
8. betwixt and between
9. up and out
10. on and off
11. by and by
12. on and on
13. in and out
14. back and forth
15. down and out
16. above and beyond
17. Up and at



# CHAPTER ELEVEN

## The End of the Case

### *A Letter from A.F.*

I left the Fitch house without saying thank you to my hosts. I ran down the hill and stopped a passing car. I had a lot to tell the chief. I wondered how much he already knew.

The car that picked me up stopped in front of the police station; inside I was told the chief was away for a few days. My tale would have to wait. I spent the afternoon at my desk trying to piece the story together. At five o'clock, I had finished my report and returned to Mrs. Johnson's house.

She said she had been worried about me since I had been away and hadn't told her where I was. It was just like being home with my mother again. She handed me a letter that had been delivered by hand in/during the afternoon. The address was written in a large, clear hand.

Dear Mr. Smith,

We always had such a quiet life on the hill. When my father was alive, he never allowed visitors. Darjo was the only person my father had confidence in; he never had any in me. Nor in my choice of a husband. When he died of a heart attack after my marriage, I blamed myself and was overcome with guilt. I would have killed myself, but I had a little daughter to take care of and a husband I loved. To keep the land and the money, my husband and I were prohibited by my father's will from living together. It seemed that the only way to provide for my daughter and husband and still stay close to the land I loved was to "disappear." Small plane crashes are very convenient.

It was a very difficult life for both my husband and me.

Fortunately I had the comfort of the good Sisters of the Valley who sheltered me. I never had to worry about their talking to someone about me.

My husband was not a good businessman, as my father had suspected. He began to lose our fortune, and we were faced with selling the land I loved and perhaps separation. I reluctantly agreed to his plan to marry a wealthy woman. That plan was helped along by the efforts of Ms. Ryan, a very capable woman who was my best friend in/at school.

One wife led to another, and you know the rest. What you don't know is: how did those women die? and why did we call the police in ?

Mrs. Munsing was letting her suspicions run in unpleasant directions, and we could never take such a crazy person into our confidence. We thought we could appease her with a police investigation. We felt safe leaving the investigation to our local police; we had not counted on your cleverness, however. The chief of police is a kind soul, but not very intelligent. He was more concerned with/about keeping my husband's goodwill than in doing his duty. Besides the deaths were accidental in a manner of speaking.

Mrs. Munsing herself killed the second Mrs. Fitch, but only by her own stupidity. She mistakenly used the leaves of/from a poisonous plant instead of mint in the lemonade she gave the second Mrs. Fitch. But was that her fault really? I grew the plant and Sonia picked the leaves and gave them to Mrs. Munsing. The rest was fate.

The death of the third Mrs. Fitch was fate as well. She became frightened when she saw all five of us coming toward her down/up/on/along the narrow cliff path. She took an unfortunate step backwards and fell off the cliff. Could we really be to blame?

I'm sorry we won't be able to answer any more of your questions. You got more information than you need, anyway. We had hoped to frighten you off by putting the parsley by/next to/near/beside your bed. But you seemed not to be fooled by our theatrics. We did give a good performance. Don't you think so?

The five of us have flown to a spot we had prepared for such an emergency as this. And we have no intention of returning to Arizona.

Should you ever see Mrs. Munsing, please give her our regards. I imagine she returned to her family in Keokuk. We wish you every possible success in Flagstaff.

Warmly,  
Amelia Fitch

I waited for the sound of a plane overhead, but it never came. Mrs. Johnson called me to dinner, which reminded me I hadn't called home in over a week.

### Questions about the Story

1. The car stopped near the estate.
2. The chief would be away for a few days.
3. Dwight spent the afternoon at his desk in the police station.
4. Dwight finished his report about 5 o'clock.
5. The letter was delivered by hand in the afternoon.
6. Amelia's father died of a heart attack.
7. Amelia was upset about her father's death because she blamed herself.
8. Amelia did not have to worry about the Sisters of the Valley talking to someone about her.
9. Ms. Ryan met Amelia at school.
10. The chief was concerned about keeping Mr. Fitch's goodwill.

## NOTES

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