READING UNIT 6

Reading A crime story

Read the crime story. Why did Arnold Budd think he was talking to a murderer?

The Inspiration of Mr Budd

by Dorothy Sayers

It was early evening and people were hurrying home. Arnold Budd was still in his hairdressing salon, reading the newspaper. On the front page, he saw:



Arnold Budd really needed money. All the best clients went to the modern hairdressing salon next door – not to Arnold's salon. Arnold was falling asleep when the door opened.

A large man with red hair was standing there.

"Good evening, do you colour hair?" the man asked.

"Yes, sir. I do," replied Arnold.

"Good," said the man. "My new girlfriend doesn't like red hair. Can you colour my hair dark brown and cut it?"

"Yes, sir," said Arnold.

The hairdresser put a towel around the man's neck. He saw that the man's natural hair colour wasn't red. It was grey. While Arnold was cutting the man's hair, he mentioned the latest football game. Then Arnold spoke about the murder in the newspaper.

"I'm sure the killer is already out of the country," he said. The man laughed. Arnold saw that he had a gold tooth. "That doesn't mean anything," he thought. "Many people have got gold teeth."

"Can I see the article?" the man asked.

Arnold gave the man the newspaper and the man took it with his left hand. Arnold was shocked. The man didn't have a thumb!

"I'm … I'm going to get the hair colour," said the hairdresser.

Arnold was sure this man was the killer. Suddenly he had an idea. He took some bottles of hair colour from the shelf and mixed them. Arnold knew all about mixing hair colours.

"This colour is right for you," he said while he was putting it on the man's hair.

Are the sentences true or false or doesn't the story say? Click T or F or DS.

1. Arnold knew about the murder from TV. — T F DS
2. Arnold Budd was a rich man. — T F DS
3. Arnold saw the man's hair was coloured. — T F DS
4. Arnold loved football. — T F DS
5. Arnold was afraid of the man in his hairdressing salon. — T F DS
6. Arnold was good at colouring hair. — T F DS

LIVEWORKSHEETS