

# Murder on the Orient Express

Complete the text with the correct option.



Hercule Poirot, private detective and retired Belgian police officer, \_\_\_\_\_ the Taurus Express train to Stamboul (Istanbul). On the train there are two other passengers, Mary Debenham and Colonel Arbuthnot. The two act \_\_\_\_\_ they are strangers, but Poirot observes \_\_\_\_\_ that suggests that they are not. **1** ☐. The train arrives in Stamboul and Poirot \_\_\_\_\_ at the Tokatlian Hotel. \_\_\_\_\_ Poirot arrives, he receives a telegram summoning him back to London. While waiting at the hotel for the next train, Poirot \_\_\_\_\_ an old friend, M. Bouc, head of the Wagon Lit. M. Bouc \_\_\_\_\_ a space for Poirot on the Orient Express. In the dining room of the Tokatlian Hotel, Poirot first \_\_\_\_\_ Ratchett and Hector McQueen eating dinner. **2** ☐.

Poirot boards the Orient Express. He is \_\_\_\_\_ to ride in a second-class cabin because the train is unusually full. Ratchett and Hector McQueen are also \_\_\_\_\_ the train. Ratchett approaches Poirot and asks if he will work for him, Ratchett tells Poirot he has been receiving \_\_\_\_\_ letters and that someone is trying to kill him. **3** ☐. M. Bouc has taken the last first-class cabin, but arranges to be moved to a separate \_\_\_\_\_ and gives Poirot his space in first class. **4** ☐. Early in the morning, Poirot is wakened by a cry from Ratchett's \_\_\_\_\_ next to him. The Wagon Lit conductor responds, \_\_\_\_\_ Ratchett's door and a voice from inside responds, "Ce n'est rien. Je me suis trompé" (It is nothing. I am mistaken). Poirot has \_\_\_\_\_ sleeping because there is a peculiar silence on the train. Mrs. Hubbard rings her bell and tells the conductor a man is in her room. Poirot rings his bell for water and is informed by the conductor that the train \_\_\_\_\_ in a snow bank. Poirot hears a loud thump next door.

The next morning, the train still stopped, M. Bouc informs Poirot that Ratchett has been murdered and the murderer is still aboard the train. **5** ☐. Poirot first \_\_\_\_\_ Ratchett's body and compartment. Ratchett has twelve \_\_\_\_\_. The window is left open in Ratchett's



compartment, \_\_\_\_\_ to make the investigators think the murderer escaped out the window, but there are no \_\_\_\_\_ outside the window in the snow. A \_\_\_\_\_ with the initial "H" is found in the compartment, a pipe cleaner, a round match different from the matches Ratchett used and a \_\_\_\_\_ piece of paper with the name "Armstrong" on it.

The piece of paper with the word Armstrong on it helps Poirot figure out who Ratchett really is and why someone would want to murder him. A few years back, a man named Cassetti kidnapped a three-year old girl, Daisy Armstrong. Cassetti collected a \_\_\_\_\_ from the wealthy Armstrong family, but killed the child anyway. 6 ☐.



The interviews start with the Wagon Lit conductor, then Hector McQueen. Poirot knows that McQueen

\_\_\_\_\_ with the case because he knows about the Armstrong note found in Ratchett's compartment. 7 ☐

He interviews Masterman and then Mrs. Hubbard. Mrs.

Hubbard \_\_\_\_\_ that the murderer was in her cabin. All of the passengers give Poirot suitable \_\_\_\_\_ during their interviews, although a few suspicious elements are \_\_\_\_\_:

many passengers observed a woman in a red kimono walking down the \_\_\_\_\_ the night of the murder, but no one \_\_\_\_\_ they have a red kimono. Mrs. Hubbard tells Poirot she had Greta Ohlsson lock the communicating door between her and Ratchett. Hildegard Schmidt bumped into a stranger wearing a Wagon Lit jacket.

8 ☐ During the check he notices a few interesting things: the \_\_\_\_\_ on Countess Andrenyi's luggage is wet, a Wagon Lit uniform is found in Hildegard Schmidt's bag and, lastly, the red kimono is found in Poirot's own luggage.

After the luggage check, Poirot, Dr. Constantine and M. Bouc \_\_\_\_\_ the facts of the case and \_\_\_\_\_ a list of questions. With the evidence and questions in mind, Poirot sits and thinks about the case. When he \_\_\_\_\_ from a somewhat trance-like state, Poirot has discovered the solution to the case.



9 ☐ Poirot discovers Countess Andrenyi is Helena Goldenberg, aunt of Daisy Armstrong. She wet her luggage label and \_\_\_\_\_ her name, in an effort to \_\_\_\_\_ her identity. Also, Mary



Debenham was Daisy's governess, Antonio Foscanelli was the Armstrong's chauffer, Masterman the valet, and Greta Ohlsson was Daisy Armstrong's nurse. Princess Dragomiroff claims her handkerchief from Poirot, the same found in Ratchett's compartment.

Poirot \_\_\_\_\_ all of the passengers into the dining car and propounds two possible solutions...

**Nine sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A – I to complete each gap 1 – 9. Write the letter in the corresponding box.**

- A** Poirot concludes that Ratchett is Cassetti
- B** Poirot refuses the case
- C** Poirot checks every passenger's luggage
- D** Poirot knows that Ratchett is an evil man and he describes him to M. Bouc as an animal
- E** Hector is surprised that Poirot found the note because he thought it had been completely destroyed
- F** The first night Poirot sleeps in first class, he observes some strange occurrences
- G** Before he reveals this solution in full, he calls in several people and reveals their true identities
- H** Poirot is suspicious of the couple
- I** Poirot tells M. Bouc he will investigate the case

