

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. Hildegarde 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 Hildegarde 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 chauffeur, 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

