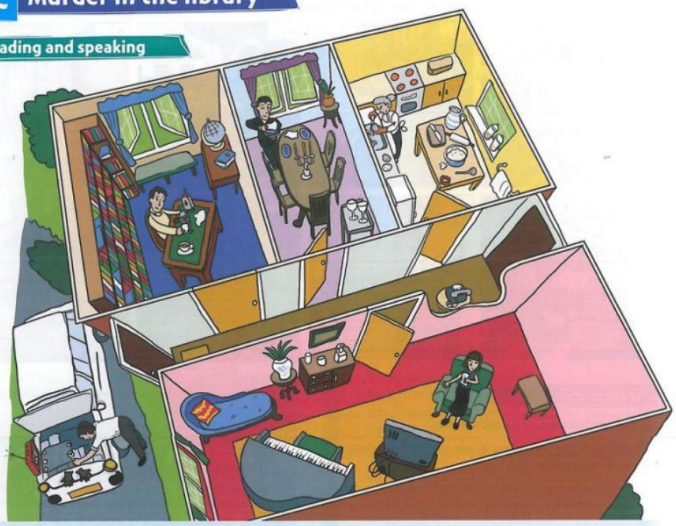
# 3C Murder in the library

## Reading and speaking



John Ross, the film star, died yesterday. At ten past two in the afternoon there was a shot and John Ross was dead. Was it an accident, or did somebody kill him?

When I arrived, John Ross was in the library. He was lying on the floor and he was dead. There was a gun next to him.

The gun was clean and there were no fingerprints on it. I checked the room. The windows were open. There was an empty cup on the desk. There were fingerprints on the window, the cup and the handle of the library door. They were the fingerprints of John Ross and Wilson, the butler.

I checked the other rooms. There was some oil on the handle of the front door. In the living room, the television was on. In the dining room, there was a broken plate on the floor. In the kitchen, there were some potatoes in the sink. There was a white handkerchief on the floor in the hall.

There were four other people in the house that afternoon: Wilson, the butler; Mrs Clare, the cook; Adams, the chauffeur and Mr Ross's stepdaughter, Donna. Adams was outside. He was repairing the car. Mrs Clare was in the kitchen. She was peeling potatoes to make a cottage pie, and Donna Ross was watching television in the living room. At two o'clock, Wilson took Mr Ross a cup of tea in the library. Mr Ross was sitting at his desk and he was cleaning his gun. Wilson put the cup of tea on the desk, then he opened the windows and he left the room. At ten past two, Wilson was setting the table in the dining room. When he heard the shot, he dropped one of the plates and ran to the library.

**1** 2.7 **Read and listen to Smart Alec's report. Answer the questions.**

1 Who was John Ross?
2 When did he die?
3 Where was he when he died?
4 Who else was at the house at the time?
5 What was each person doing?





**2 a** **Look at the picture in exercise 1. Label the rooms and the people.**

**b** **Where were these things?**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| the oil | the cup | the butler's fingerprints |
| the potatoes | the plate | the handkerchief |

**3** **Work with a partner. What do you think happened to John Ross? Use these expressions.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I think he … | I don't think he … | Perhaps he … |

## Listening

**4 a** 2.8 **Smart Alec is interviewing Donna. Listen. Which of these things do they mention?**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| the armchair | some jewels | a kitchen knife |
| plates | the handkerchief | the window |
| the back door | the telephone | the door handle |
| money | gloves | cottage pie |
| the radio | | |

**b** 2.8 **Listen again. Write down any new information about each person.**

Donna: She was watching a sad film.

Wilson:

Adams:

Mrs Clare:

**5 a** **You have now got all the information. Who killed John Ross? How?**

**b** 2.9 **Smart Alec knows the killer. Listen and find out if you were right, too.**

## Vocabulary

### Houses

**6 a** **Work with a partner. Look at the picture in exercise 1. How many items can you add to the chart?**

| | |
|---|---|
| rooms in the house | *kitchen, …* |
| things in the house | *table, …* |

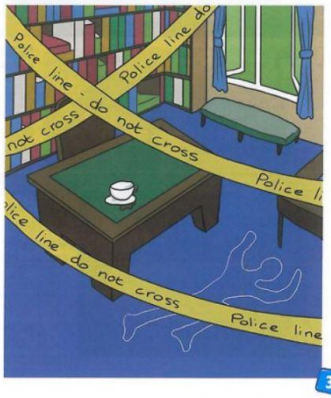
**b** **What rooms are not shown in the picture?**

**c** **Write down three things that you normally find in each room in a house.**

## Writing and speaking

**7 a** **Work in a group. Make a new story about the murder in the library. Choose another character (or characters) to be the murderer. Draw a plan of the house and put the characters in it. Decide:**

- Who did it?
- Why?
- How?
- Where was each person at the time of the murder? What were they doing?






LIVEWORKSHEETS