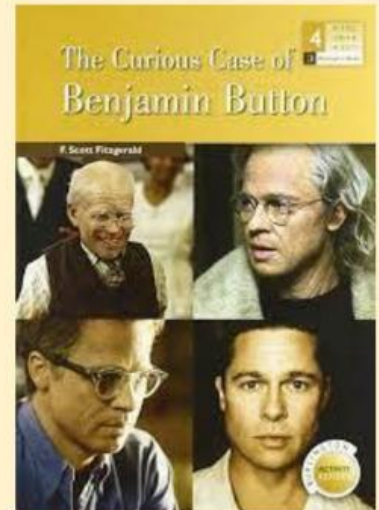


THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON



1 PLOT: Choose the correct answer.

Benjamin Button was (1. discovered / born) in 1860. He was not (2. an ordinary / a polite) baby. Mr and Mrs Button (3. tried / have tried) to help people forget Benjamin's age. They cut his (4. Suit / beard) and dyed his hair black. Benjamin was confused about his (5. Unusual / sweet) condition and he looked in (6. much / many) medical books, but he didn't find an answer. When he was 20 years old, Benjamin looked like a man of 50, and Hildegard Moncrief wanted to (7. destroy / marry) him. Hildegard (8. has wanted / wanted) to marry a 50 year old man because he could (9. introduce / appreciate) a woman. At first the (10. couple / blanket) were happy, but Benjamin continued to look younger and younger and he wanted more adventure. One day in 1898, Benjamin read the (11. hammers / headlines) in the newspaper. The US was at (12. war / habit) with Spain and he decided to join the army. When he returned, he began to go to dances (13. Scared / alone) and enjoy life. His wife became angry. She thought Benjamin (14. may / should) look his age like everybody else. Benjamin (15. was giving / gave) the family hardware business to his son and registered at Harvard University. Hildegard moved to Italy.

2 Choose the correct answer.

1. Five year-old Benjamin

- a. was an excellent companion for his grandfather.
- b. liked toys and was never bored in kindergarten.
- c. didn't care about his father.

2. More than anything else, Benjamin wanted to

- a. have a cigar every evening.
- b. have his father's love.
- c. become a doctor.

3. At twelve years old, Benjamin realised he was

- a. popular with women.
- b. ready for kindergarten.
- c. growing younger.

4. Benjamin won General Moncrief's respect because

- a. he and Hildegarde had an enormous house and a car.
- b. Benjamin's father lived with him.
- c. Benjamin published his book.

5. Benjamin joined the army because

- a. Hildegarde thought it was a good idea.
- b. he wanted adventure.
- c. he wanted to write a book about the war.

6. Benjamin did not go to the St Midas preparatory school because

- a. he had already studied at Yale College.
- b. it was too far from Hildegarde's house.
- c. Roscoe didn't like the idea.

3 Match. Who are they?

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1 Hildegarde | pushed Benjamin in his pram in the park. |
| 2 Roscoe | Hildegarde's father. |
| 3 Nana | Benjamin's father. |
| 4 General Moncrief | Benjamin's son. |
| 5 Roger | Ben's wife |
| 6 tailor | made a brigadier general's uniform for Benjamin. |

4 Match the word with its correct meaning.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 freshman | the male servant of a household. |
| 2 hardware | a building or group of buildings in which soldiers can live. |
| 3 butler | a judge having functions fixed by the rules of the game or sport. |
| 4 registrar | a student in the first year at a university or college. |
| 5 barracks | a set of clothes and other items worn together as an ensemble. |
| 6 stretcher | a shop selling tools and other items used in home life. |
| 7 cane | an official at school or college who maintains students' personal academic records, issues reports of grades, etc |
| 8 wholesale | a stick or short staff used to assist one in walking. |
| 9 referee | a device for transporting the ill, wounded or dead people. |
| 10 outfit | the business of selling goods in large quantities. |