

End of Module Project - Mystery Game

Chapter 1 – Read the chapter and answer the questions that follow.

a **U-Pick Farm is where people harvest food themselves and pay for what they take usually measured by weight. In Canada, this is a popular way to sell fruit especially strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries.*

Read the following like a story. It's UP1 so you don't have to go super slow. You could do it as a voice recording on your phone to use as an MP3/4 or do it in Panopto – you should be able to get to it in your usask account.

Two years ago, Robert Smith, a retired solicitor, bought a small farm property just outside Saskatoon. With his spouse Betty, Robert cultivated his fields and planted strawberries. The Smiths wanted to run a small U-Pick enterprise and use their product to make jams and jellies for the local farmer's market.

A short time ago, Robert died suddenly in strange circumstances leaving his wife to preside over the property alone. The police are investigating.

Although Betty tried to keep the farm going, it was too much for her, and she is being forced to sell the tract. Additionally, a wet spring caused the river to flood which destroyed the delicate strawberry plants. With no crop and the farm quickly falling into disrepair, the property has not attracted many interested buyers.

Betty's real estate agent suggested holding an open house where buyers could come to the property to look around freely. One humid August day, six people came to inspect the farm:

- 1) Michael Mason works for a real estate developer. He was sent to buy the property at the lowest possible price for his employer who plans to build exclusive country estates for Saskatoon's most wealthy.
- 2) Dr. Barbara Bones wrote a very efficacious self-help book and then promptly had a mental breakdown. She and her husband, who travels a great deal, have been living next door to the Smiths these past two years, but they rarely have reason to speak.
- 3) George Gordon is young and handsome although he does not talk much about where he came from or his past. George was hired to do odd jobs on the Smith farm and continued to help Betty after Robert's death.
- 4) Kitty Karson is Betty's sister. They haven't spoken in the last year except at Robert's funeral. Kitty claims that she and her husband, Ken, were just passing through

Saskatoon on their way to Banff, Alberta for a vacation when they decided to drop in for an unexpected visit.

- 5) Ken Karson is Kitty's husband and a real estate agent from Winnipeg. At work, Ken is incompetent and lazy. Ken's debts far exceed his income. He is hoping this vacation will improve both situations.
- 6) Lauren Lewis is Betty's best friend and neighbour. Lauren lives alone with her five cats and works at the local library. She considers herself an authority on everything.

No need to read the questions.

Questions – Discuss the following questions with your group. Upload one copy of your final answers. Remember to put everyone's name on the document.

- 1) Use the context clues to help define the underlined words. Remember that an exact definition may not be necessary as long as you can understand the general idea.

Ex. Solicitor = job

Cultivate	Enterprise	Preside	Tract
Delicate	Disrepair	Humid	Exclusive
Efficacious	Unexpected	Incompetent	Authority

- 2) Most of the six people attending the open house, and even Betty herself, benefit from Robert's death. List the suspects and use your imagination to explain how each person could benefit.

Ex. Betty = Betty can sell the farm and take all the money for herself. Maybe she has been having an affair with George and they can run off together with Robert gone.

Michael Mason	Dr. Barbara Bones	George Gordon
Kitty Karson	Ken Karson	Lauren Lewis

Chapter 2 – Listen to the conversations of the people at the open house. Note any details that might explain Robert's "accident". The comprehension questions that follow each conversation will help you organize your notes.

Can you recruit a male to read the boy part with you? Just do one. Ed and I will do one. I'll get Eric and Lisa to do the last one. It needs different voices.

- 1) Lauren & Michael

Lauren: What are you doing here? You were supposed to meet me in town hours ago.

Michael: Hello to you too Aunt Lauren.

Lauren: Shhh with the 'Aunt' stuff. I told you to act like we have never met.

Michael: Oh yeah, sorry I forgot. There was an accident on the highway. Traffic was backed up for several kilometres and it took forever to get past it. Are you sure this is the property that you want? It doesn't look like much.

Lauren: Yes, of course it has to be this one. What I wanted to show you was at the library. I found an old land claims book in the collection. I looked up my property just for fun, and it showed there was a claim made for gold mining back in the 1800s. The ownership was disputed between an old guy and his partner, and a big court battle resulted. By the time the courts settled the case, both miners had died of old age. As far as I can tell, no one ever went after the gold.

Michael: So what does all that have to do with this old place you want me to buy?

Lauren: The vein of gold is only partially on my property. It looks like it runs over onto Betty's land. If I can get this place at a good price, I can get the rights to the whole claim and make a million.

Michael: So why get me involved, just buy the place.

Lauren: Betty knows I don't have any interest in farming. It would look strange for me to suddenly be interested in buying her place and she'd want to know why. I'd never get it for the price I want. You on the other hand can be the disinterested developer. Make it seem like there's lots of other properties where you could build, and you don't much care. Now get back out there and pretend we don't know each other.

- a) What is the relationship between Michael and Lauren?
- b) Does Lauren benefit from Robert's death? How?
- c) Does Michael benefit from Robert's death? How?
- d) Do you think Lauren or Michael killed Robert?

2) Barbara & George

George: Dr. Barbara so good to see you. Perhaps you have a few moments to talk about the plans for the rose garden you wanted me to put in.

Dr. Barbara: Yes, George that would be marvelous. We really need to get the new plants rooted before fall.

Hushed whispers follow

George: So should I come over tonight? I think your husband is off again on one of his long business trips.

Dr. Barbara: No, you should not come over tonight or any other night for that matter. I told you it's over between us.

George: What's over? Nothing is over. You had that little fling with Robert to make me jealous. Now he is gone. Your husband is gone. And I am still here. We start again and everything is fine.

Dr. Barbara: No and no – go away. I never want to see you again.

George: Don't think I'm that easy to get rid of my dear.

- a) What is the relationship between George and Barbara?

- b) Does George benefit from Robert's death? How?
- c) Does Barbara benefit from Robert's death? How?
- d) Do you think George or Barbara killed Robert?

3) Kitty & Ken

Ken: When are you going to ask Betty for the money?

Kitty: We just got here. I've barely talked to Betty in a year, and you expect me to walk up to her and just ask for \$20,000?

Ken: We don't have a lot of time. The month end report at the office is going to show that money is missing if I don't put it back.

Kitty: I still can't believe you took it in the first place. Of all the stupid things to do!

Ken: What was I supposed to do? You spend money like it grows on trees. The salon, the spa, the clothes, and the shoes. For a woman who never walks anywhere I can't understand why you possibly need so many pairs of shoes! Betty never spent money like you do.

Kitty: Oh here we go...you want to tell me again how my sister was the perfect woman? If she was soooo wonderful why did she turn you down and marry Robert?

Ken: Let's not get into all that now. Just go talk to her and see if she'll give you the money. I'm in real trouble here. Robert would have thrown us out, but there's a good chance Betty will help.

- a) What is the relationship between Ken and Kitty?
- b) Does Ken benefit from Robert's death? How?
- c) Does Kitty benefit from Robert's death? How?
- d) Do you think Ken or Kitty killed Robert?

Question – Discuss this final question with your group. Upload one copy of your final answer. Remember to put everyone's name on the document.

Could one of these people be responsible for Robert's death? Why? Make a prediction and upload your idea. Remember to write your answer in paragraph form giving proof for your idea.

Chapter 3 – Read the chapter and answer the question that follows.

As the open house continues, the potential buyers walk through the house. A newspaper on the kitchen table is open to this article:

Case Closed on Local Investigation

After a long investigation, the Saskatoon police have officially closed the case on the death of local farmer Robert Smith.

Smith's body was found floating in Moon Lake in early June. The body was discovered by golfers playing an early round at the Moon Lake Golf and

Country Club on the morning of June 3. Smith had been reported missing by his wife, Betty Smith, the week before. Moon Lake is the property

boundary between the golf course and the back of the Smith farm.

Smith was identified through dental records. An autopsy determined he died of a sharp blow to the head.

While foul play was initially suspected, no evidence of criminal activity was found. Smith had been making repairs to an irrigation system on the day he disappeared. It is believed that Smith tripped and fell on the water pipes hitting his

head. Thinking the injury was not serious or perhaps being disoriented by the blow, he later collapsed in the lake where he died.

No further investigation into this case is expected.

Dr. Barbara is in the living room admiring the view of Moon Lake in the distance when she notices a single candlestick on the mantle over the fireplace. The color drains from her face and she looks around to find the owner, “Betty, that candlestick on the mantle...”

“Yes, they are lovely, aren’t they?” replies Betty disinterested.

“But there’s only one. Don’t they usually come in pairs?”, asks Dr. Barbara.

“Only one? What do you mean? There’s two there. There’s always been two.” says Betty turning toward the mantle. Betty sees there is only one candlestick and she turns back to Dr. Barbara confused.

Question – Discuss this final question with your group. Upload one copy of your final answer. Remember to put everyone’s name on the document.

Robert’s death was no accident. It was murder!

Together with the people in your group, discuss the clues. Create a theory that explains who killed Robert Smith, how, and why.

Remember to write your response in paragraph form supporting your ideas with proofs. Use appropriate modals to communicate certainty, possibility, etc.

Answer:

George Gordon killed Robert Smith. George was having an affair with Dr. Barbara Bones, but Barbara’s attentions turned to Robert. In a jealous rage, George attacked Robert with the candlestick he had stolen from the house. With Robert missing, Barbara again returned her affections and financial favors to George. In return, George gave Barbara the missing candlestick as a gift to symbolize her being the “light in his life”. Slightly dented and a perfect match for Betty’s lone candlestick, Barbara realizes the gift was the murder weapon and George the killer.