

№ 296

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Практикум

№ 296

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РФ

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ АВТОНОМНОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ
ВЫСШЕГО ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ ТЕХНОЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ «МИСиС»

Кафедра русского и иностранного языков и литературы

Английский язык

Практикум

Рекомендовано редакционно-издательским
советом университета



Москва 2012

УДК 811.111
А64

Рецензент
кандидат филологических наук *И.В. Цветкова*

Авторы: М.С. Алехина, Т.А. Булановская, С.Н. Вековищева,
Д.К. Каримова, И.А. Клепальченко

А64 Английский язык: Практикум по домашнему чтению (к рас-
сказам Дж. Арчера и Р. Даля) / М.С. Алехина, Т.А. Булановская,
С.Н. Вековищева и др. – М.: МИСиС, 2012. – 211 с.

Практикум представляет собой сборник упражнений на понимание прочитанного, развитие навыков устной речи, расширение словарного запаса студентов. Часть упражнений направлена на отработку определенных грамматических конструкций, а также на развитие навыков письма.

Предназначен для студентов лингвистического факультета.

CONTENTS

A la carte (by J. Archer)	4
Just good friends (by J. Archer).....	12
The perfect murder (by J. Archer)	19
Clean sweep ignatius (by J. Archer)	31
Not a penny more, not a penny less (by J. Archer).....	37
Parson's pleasure (by R. Dahl)	46
Genesis and catastrophe (by R. Dahl).....	56
Taste (by R. Dahl)	62
Man from the south (by R. Dahl).....	70
Dip in the pool (by R. Dahl)	76
Galloping foxley (by R. Dahl)	85
Skin (by R. Dahl).....	94
The great automatic grammatizator (by R. Dahl).....	101
Appendix	111

A LA CARTE (BY J. ARCHER)

1. Answer the questions:

- 1) What was your childhood ambition?
- 2) When did you overcome a childish phase?
- 3) Did you dream of going in for service? What do you mean by ‘dream job’?
- 4) What and who influenced your choice of careers?
- 5) What did your parents want you to be?
- 6) What was your parents’ attitude to your choice at first?
- 7) Has your parents’ attitude changed?
- 8) Do you think it’s a tough job to be a porter, a cook?

2. Read the following passage. Do you agree or disagree with the author’s point of view?

I am Blake Morrison – a poet, a writer. My father was a practitioner helping with medical problems. I grew up with medical terms. Father wanted me to take over from him as a doctor. Mom wanted me to follow in father’s footsteps. I was a great disappointment to them. I never did biology well. It was obvious to me that I would never become a doctor. My parents forgave me many years later. I graduated from the university with the degree. I became a Doctor, PhD (Doctor of Philosophy – but doctor anyway). You get interested in a subject, meeting a person can be inspiring – it was my teacher of English literature. The main idea is that you should make up your choice voluntarily – when something is not imposed but you choose.

I believe in heart therapy. Poetry can help, cure. Feeling miserable and unhappy – you write for yourself.

3. Why do you think the story is entitled in French? Think of the English variant of the title of the story.

4. Read the story. Which of the meanings of ‘a la carte’ suits the title best of all?

- with each dish charged individually at the price shown on the menu
- or
- (figurative) with the freedom to pick and choose.

5. Recall the situation from the text where the following phrases occurred.

- 1) ...Arthur was demobbed...

- 9) ...'Land fit for heroes' ...
- 10) "That's the ticket."
- 11) ...settled second best.
- 12) ...to screw knobs a hundred times a shift.
- 13) They can't wait to get started.
- 14) He lavished everything he could on the boy (put in hours of overtime to earn money to ensure that the boy could have extra tuition).
- 15) "Go there over my dead body."
- 16) His old comrade-in-arms.
- 17) ...to be in good hands.
- 18) It was more of a bustle than the lobby had been.
- 19) They were edging away from him.
- 20) ... he must be doing something half-right.
- 21) ...but actually muttered his greatest accolade – "*Bon.*"
- 22) ...he would be happy to give you a reference...
- 23) ...who had taken the George Cinq for granted...
- 24) Standards are bound to fall.
- 25) ...yearn for his homeland...

6. Answer the following questions:

- 1) Was Arthur's post-war fate a typical one?
- 26) What did he want his son to become (a solicitor, an accountant, an army officer, a schoolmaster)?
- 27) What prospects attracted Arthur to end up at Triumph? Did it prove to be 'the ticket'?
- 28) What was the routine like (fitting wheels on cars: screw four knobs onto a wheel a hundred times a shift)?

7. Father belongs to the so-called "lost generation" and this influenced his choice of job. Explain why his son also wanted to take up this career. Do you think Mark also belongs to the "lost generation"?

8. Do you think the works' manager at Triumph was right when he was saying:

"The car's no longer a toy for the eccentric rich or even just a necessity for the businessman. In fact, management are preparing for the 'two-car family.'"

9. Discuss the relations in the Hapgoods family. Speak on Mark's mother's role. How did the family influence the boy's future and formation of his personality?

10. Characterize the head porter's personality and his attitude towards Mark.

11. Give your reasons for dress requirements in some jobs.

12. Which of the jobs Mark tried needed a uniform?

13. Read the following information and comment on it.

In the USA you would tip waiters, hairdressers, bellhops (hotel porters), taxi drivers, valets who park your car, wine waiters.

10 or 15% is fine. In New York restaurants 15% is minimum. Tip bellhops, valets, doormen \$1.

In Britain, tipping is less frequent, but it would be normal. 10% is the general rule, in more expensive restaurants tip is 12,5 to 15%. You don't have to tip if the menu says *service included*. Don't tip if the service is bad. Calculate your tip on the price before restaurant adds Value Added Tax (VAT).

Tip hotel porters about 50p per bag.

In Spain – a few coins is enough in most restaurants. In taxis, don't wait for small charge.

The Japanese don't tip.

Why do people pay tips? (overtime job, well-done job, very hard job, very unpleasant job, quickly done job, etc.)

Do you have to tip in Russia?

14. What issues should be taken into consideration if you are training for any job in service?

- personal insults don't worry you;
- you are bored by mundane tasks;
- if you can choose, you do things your way;
- success in your job is very important;
- you like tasks that require a lot of physical and mental energy;
- you like to keep things in order;
- traditional solutions are the best;
- you don't finish tasks on time;
- you like working under pressure;
- you enjoy being challenged by new tasks;
- checking details is not your strong point;
- the beauty often astounds you;
- you prefer doing practical things to creative;

- you are not very inventive;
- unconventional people make you feel uncomfortable;
- thinking up new ideas is easy to you;
- you enjoy organizing things in advance;
- mending things is not your strong point;
- you try to solve problems by intuition;
- your independence is very important.

15. Describe Mark's duties as a junior porter; an apprentice in the kitchen, a trainee chef.

16. Write a letter of recommendation for Mark as if you were Jacques, the maître chef de cuisine.

Use the following phrases:

To whom it may concern

.....has worked in our hotel for ... months

As his supervisor, I have been able to observe him closely. He learns fast and made good progress. He is interested in a career in..., and we regard him very highly.

17. What is important to Mark in a job? Choose the most important factors and arrange them in order of priority.

- A. free meals
- B. flexible working hours
- C. high salary
- D. socially useful
- E. independence
- F. creativity
- G. close to home
- H. job satisfaction
- I. working with other people
- J. promotion prospects
- K. fame

Here are some disadvantages of a job. Add some other...

- dealing with difficult clients
- losing touch with friends and relatives

18. The story is logically and syntactically divided into three parts. The author manages to create certain images in each of them. One of the means used to achieve this purpose is opposition. Find examples in the text and prove your point of view.

19. It is also possible to create the image system by application of descriptions as it is done at the beginning of the second part.

Find examples and explain your point of view or associations caused by these images (e.g. the picture of the Laughing Cavalier; the uniform that didn't fit, etc.).

20. Images may also be created by using comparison, details or metonymy.

Find examples in the text and explain the associations (e.g., like a prisoner; a thin smile, he'll cut your ear off).

21. Find the difference between the following words:

- regular, ordinary, common, usual, average, normal, everyday
- standard, conventional, typical
- mentor, patron, trainer
- profession, job, work, career

22. Fill in the gaps with prepositions

- 1) to be back the place – вернуться на место
- 2) the outskirts ... Coventry – на окраине Ковентри
- 3) to read smb's success – читать о чем-нибудь успехе
- 4) to consist ... carrying cases – состоять в ношении чемоданов
- 5) to hand ... all his tips – отдавать все чаевые
- 6) to dance ... Elvis Presley – танцевать под музыку Э. Пресли
- 7) to sympathize ... problems – сочувствовать проблемам
- 8) is not good his legs – проблемы с ногами
- 9) reserve the table the name – заказать столик на имя

23. Exchange your ideas on some of the following questions in small groups. Prove it with the facts from the text and your personal experience.

- 1) Does the job involve a lot of stress because of the nature of work or because of circumstances?
- 2) Did he get on well with his parents all his life?
- 3) Did Arthur feel well-rewarded with Mark's study achievements?
- 4) Do you think it is important to know how this organization really works?
- 5) What was Mark's responsibility being a porter? a potatoes peeler?
- 6) Were they friendly with the other boys in the hotel, did they cover up for each other?
- 7) Why did Arthur think that Mark shouldn't follow his footsteps?
- 8) Did he inherit the interest in food from his mother?

- 9) Did he miss his home? Give your reason.
- 10) How did people treat him: clients, head porter, trainees in the kitchen?
- 11) Did he use to love going down to kitchen being the bellboy/a porter?
- 12) Who did he pick up a lot of cooking tips from?
- 13) Did he make up his own recipes?
- 14) Did he work for fun?
- 15) Did he introduce his father and mother slowly to the idea?
- 16) How long did he put off telling his father the truth of his idea of future plans?
- 17) When he brought the subject up to his parents were they taken aback?
- 18) Do you think that cooking is an art of creation or a boring mundane job?
- 19) Were his parents proud of him?
- 20) Did his father get over it and they made it up?
- 21) Was his mother delighted that he was doing something he enjoyed?
- 22) How did he make them respect his opinion?
- 23) Do you think he made the right choice? Give your reasons.
- 24) Did it turn out for the best?
- 25) Why did he make up his mind to accept the...offer on the way home?
- 26) Is it socially demanding and challenging job?
- 27) Did he have regular contacts with his parents and enjoy good relationship, was he supportive enough despite their geographic distance?
- 28) Prove the fact that Mark had also managerial and administrative skills, as well as intuition, a sense of enterprising, good luck.

24. Who and why felt like this?

- puzzled
- disappointed
- taken aback
- furious
- contented

25. Some of the following phrasal verbs are from the story. Find them, reproduce the situation and use in sentences of your own.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| • set eyes on smb. | • make up |
| • to set foot in | • pick up |
| • set off in the direction | • take up the career |
| • set about the task | • be taken aback |
| • to be back into (a routine) | • turn out |
| • bring up | • put in hours |

- end up
- get on with
- get over
- go through
- carry out the task
- hand it over to
- turn down (an application)
- come up (with a compromise)
- work out a routine
- bound for

26. Translate the following sentences into English.

- 1) Он не проявляет интереса в этом вопросе.
- 2) Она успешно завершила учебный год
- 3) Они не стали рассматривать это непривлекательное предложение
- 4) Пора было принимать меры – искать выход.
- 5) Бывший армейский друг убеждал его за кружкой пива.
- 6) Он сразу же пожалел о своем решении.
- 7) Вы проходили воинскую службу в 2000 году?
- 8) Они получили одобрение отца.
- 9) Он скажет, что я не сдержал слово.
- 10) Я готов согласиться при условии, что мы поедем туда вдвоем.
- 11) Вы что, с ума сошли?

27. Match the words with characters from the story. Outline the situation.

- 1) ‘Your time will come, lad.’
- 2) ‘Bet they don’t cook as well as you.’
- 3) ‘You must be out of your mind.’
- 4) ‘It’s only a few more months.’
- 5) ‘You realize I have been left with no choice but to sack you.’
- 6) ‘I’m off to home.’
- 7) ‘A wasted talent.’
- 8) ‘I can’t pretend that happens every day.’

28. Reproduce the dialogue between Jacques and his potential protégé, Mark. Keep to the emotions stated below:

- repeated as if he didn’t comprehend the word
- with genuine interest
- looked puzzled
- was mocking him
- in disbelief
- looked uncertain
- enunciating each word
- quietly
- shrugged

29. Observe the use of adverbs and define the state expressed in adverbs.

- warned solemnly
- reminded cheerfully
- continued unwillingly
- set off smartly
- yell hysterically
- move reluctantly

30. Read the following piece of information and answer the questions.

J. Archer's manner of writing is rich in details, grammatically incorrect structures, manner of speaking of illiterate people, usage of expressions in foreign languages. What is the author's intention in these cases? Does it help readers to keep interest?

Does it make his stories true to life? Explain the choice of the place of the action (remember that Savoy means 'royal, expensive, fashionable').

31. Write a biography of Mark, maître chef de cuisine.

Look through the list of possible contents for it:

- name
- profession
- marital status
- current living arrangements
- crucial events in life
- key influences in his life
- regrets and frustrations
- unfulfilled ambitions
- his main hopes for the future
- leisure activities (if any)
- his attitude toward family, relationship, work, other issues
- how do other people see him
- his managerial skills,
- pioneered 'nouvelle cuisine'
- had been awarded the coveted third star, the first English restaurant ever to be so honored.

32. Write a short essay on the topic: "Parents should influence their children's choice of careers."

JUST GOOD FRIENDS (BY J. ARCHER)

1. Comment on the following:

- 1) The only lasting and valuable friendship is between people of a similar nature.
- 2) Making new friends is difficult.
- 3) Keeping in touch with old friends is important.
- 4) Old friends are best.
- 5) We grow up of old friends.
- 6) Good neighbours become good friends.
- 7) Friendship is something people can't live without.

2. Read the quotations. Do you agree or disagree with these points of view?

- 1) What's a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies. (Aristotle)
- 2) Friends are God's apology for relatives. (Hugh Kingsmill)
- 3) True happiness consists not in the multitude of friends but in the worth and choice. (Ben Johnson)

Can you find any sayings about friendship?

3. Read the text and think of a possible ending.

4. What do we know about the main characters? Describe their dreams, duties, responsibilities. Use the words in the box.

honourable, polite, devoted, jealous, taciturn, modest, decent, insistent, well-to-do, lonely, determined, keen
--

- appearance
- age, physical type and shape-weight, built of figure, face, eyes, complexion; clothes
- background: family, education, occupation, religion, financial position, marital status
- likes and dislikes
- with regard to people, tastes, character, disposition, temperament

5. Read the end of the story at the back of the brochure. Who do you think Roger's 'just a friend' was?

6. Which of the statements are right about the main heroes:

- The cat's point of view:

- He was great fun, full of his own importance, an accomplished chief.
- He has one blind spot.
- He has been a driving force.
- There is something about him I don't trust.
- We shared one passion – food.
- We are inseparable. We liked the same place, the same smells, read each other's mind.
- We are made for each other.
- We are exact opposites.
- He is a lonely who likes to dream.
- He lives in harmony with himself.
- He doesn't talk much but thinks a lot.
- I use every bit of knowledge in trying to become a winner – to stay with him.
- I am optimistic and guided in my thoughts and actions by the idea that happiness is within the reach of me.
- I speak to my mind directly.
- We start to open to each other and find true friendship.
- We have different social and cultural background.
- We start to realize we have much in common.
- We shared secrets.
- We are both absent-minded.
- We are forced to question what we believe in and what's worth fighting for.
- Once he went his separate way with Madeleine. I bonded with her and she wasn't a big part of his life, but he no longer regrets breaking it off.

7. Read the following passages and discuss them in a group of two or three:

Attitude to animals reveals inner state of mind.

There are two categories of people: those who love cats and those who despise them and love dogs. Cat-friendly people are considered to be independent, self-reliant, comfort-loving, stylish. Cats are more attached to homes; dogs – to masters. Those who go in for dogs are thought to be sociable, friendly, energetic, forgiving, cheerful. This deals mostly with the traits of character. It's obvious why people buy animals. They do it for entertainment, to escape loneliness, to keep company. There are also special

breeds of animals – spiders, lions, monkeys, snakes, crocodiles – that are kept at homes for no reason.

You are responsible for those whom you have tamed. Pets serve for utilitarian purposes, protecting homes and property, give an emotional outlet for our feelings. They depend on us, especially in the city. For most of them it's impossible to survive without our helping hand. We should remember about responsibility towards them. Domestic animals may occasionally become destructive or a nuisance. **THEY NEED ANIMAL SPECIALIST, TRAINERS.** It's important to get used to each other.

“My ideas of an ideal Master” (pet’s view)

On behalf of my pet: ”My master should be kind and sensible. he should provide me with food, shelter; should take me for a walk and to a vet, if I need it, groom and understand me-my language and respect my wish to be in solitude most of the time.. He shouldn’t impose his presence and tenderness when I am dreaming, it’s important. I need to have a good look at me. He shouldn’t show his superiority, it’s unsettled. He should protect me from the other animals and children, little creatures ready to hug me at no proper time. It my master is an ideal one I’ll be an ideal too. Pets bear a full resemblance to their masters.

On philosophy.

A dog: “He feeds me, loves me, walks out with me, cures me, plays with me – He might be God”.

A cat: “He feeds me, loves me, cures me, plays with me – I might be God”. (Look, mate, if you can’t look after yourself, you’ve had it.)

8. Recall the situation from the text where the following phrases occurred.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• my eyes accustomed themselves to the half light• he wouldn't have that spare tire• to lie still daydreaming• to pretend I am still asleep• public house• a pint of mild• imitation fur coat• I came last in line• one step ahead of the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• susceptible female• merchant steamer• to bring up the girls decently• I'm a light sleeper• her past was murky• to pursue their undetermined course• a sensual look• to be his night on the tiles• authorities caught up with me• ended up at home
---	--

9. Find the difference between the following set of words:

clever – sophisticated – intelligent – wise – smart

10. Find in the text and reproduce the English version of the following sentences:

- 1) Если бы только он физически упражнялся столько же, сколько и я, он бы не уставал так сильно.
- 2) Тот самый взгляд, который он бросил в моем направлении, предполагал, что он не находит меня неадекватной заменой.
- 3) Он наклонился ко мне и дотронулся до щеки удивительно мягкими руками.
- 4) Я бы предпочла, чтобы он знал правду о моей жизни до нашей встречи.
- 5) Теперь – сирота.
- 6) Как бы мне хотелось закопать его.
- 7) Через несколько секунд он будет открывать входную дверь, доставать утренние газеты, любую почту, и обычные пол-литра молока.
- 8) Сначала я слышала, как закипает чайник, а через несколько мгновений наливается молоко.
- 9) Это было сигналом, что мне пора присоединиться к нему.
- 10) Я медленно потянула ноги, замечая, что ногтями надо заняться.

11. Supply the missing prepositions where necessary. Rearrange the following sentences in the order you find them in the text.

- 1) I couldn't be sure that he was ... of mine.
- 2) My affection ... him was unbounded.
- 3) A gentle nimble emanated ... his side of the bed.
- 4) He would put ... the kettle then head ... the pantry.
- 5) The authorities caught me this time and I lost them both.
- 6) My eyes immediately accustomed themselves ... the half light.
- 7) He didn't show any surprise ... her departure and made no attempt to pursue ... her.
- 8) "Good ... you to join me." – he said, a grin spreading ... his face.
- 9) He has learned to accept my mania ... cleanliness.
- 10) Until Madelaine latched ... him I wasn't sure that it was women he preferred

12. How do prepositions 'on' and 'onto' change the meaning of the phrasal verb 'to latch'? Choose the appropriate definition for each of them.

- to understand

- to follow someone and keep trying to talk to them, get their attention etc, especially when they would prefer to be left alone

13. Characterize the atmosphere of the story. Compare it with the relations between the main characters. Say by what means it is created. Make use of the expressions below:

- her words full of devotion;
- the time of the action;
- the choice of the action;
- usage of structures;
- the style of the speech;
- subjective point of view;
- the created images, etc.;
- absence of dialogues.

14. Analyze Roger’s behaviour in the public house beyond the dartboard. Is he a gambler? How does it characterize him as a personality?

15. How did the friends communicate? How did the cat attract Roger’s attention?

16. Many people think of darts as a game played by working class men in pubs and working men’s clubs. Do you know how to play this game?

17. Speak of Roger’s features exposed in the following quotation:
“Just a pint of mild” – I can’t think of a better description.

18. Speak of the impression the story has produced upon you. The questions below may help you.

- 1) Is the story interesting to read?
- 2) Is it interesting from the beginning up to the end?
- 3) Is the end of the story logical or unexpected?
- 4) How many character are there in the story?
- 5) What is the order of their appearance?
- 6) Is there a conflict between the characters?
- 7) Are there problems they have to solve?
- 8) What ideas may be useful for your experience?
- 9) Why do writers now and again create stories devoted to animals?
- 10) What kind of information is missing?
- 11) What sort of things can you “make” in the text?

- 12) How do you feel at the end of the story?
13) If she were a girl, could she become a perfect spouse?

19. The very end of the story may seem unexpected but in fact it comes quite naturally for an observant reader. Show how the author prepares his readers for the end.

20. Did Roger realize he was having a devoted soul nearby? Retell the story as if you were Roger.

21. Analyze the structure of the story. Name every part (e.g., The begins with and ends with).

A piece of prose contains in most cases *introduction* (covers the earlier events, serves to acquaint the readers with the main heroes, attended circumstances), *rising action* (may be introduced by *inciting force* – the beginning of the action), *grand climax* and *resolution*. In some cases the author may purposely omit this or that part of the structure. Try to explain what it is done for.

22. The story is narrated in the first person. What will change if the story is told by the omniscient author: composition; wording; general atmosphere; conceptual information; implied information?

23. How did the cat's feelings change throughout the story?

24. A conference on prevention of cruelty to animals is going to be held. Prepare a speech on one of the following topics.

- 1) How do pets appear into our homes.
- 2) Animals shouldn't be held in captivity!
- 3) You are responsible for those whom you have tamed.
- 4) The most distressing bit about our relationship with animals is.....
- 5) Animals are characters in literary works and films.
- 6) Do animals judge our friends? Do they reveal our inner state of mind, feelings, traits of character?
- 7) We are in some respects inferior to animals.
- 8) "A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself."
- 9) A host should have a dog to worship him and a cat to ignore.

25. Make these adjectives negative by adding one of the given prefixes.

un-

dis-

im-

ir-

in-

- ___resistible look
- ___questioned trust
- ___sympathetically
- ___honest deed
- ___bounded affection
- ___separable friends
- ___acceptable replacement
- ___patient behaviour
- ___determined course

THE PERFECT MURDER (BY J. ARCHER)

1. Read the following text.

Birth of the Jury

Juries first came into being in Norman Britain because of the Church. In medieval Europe trials were usually decided by ordeals in which, it was believed, Gods intervened, revealing the wrong-doer and upholding the righteous. In the ordeal by water, for instance, a priest admonished the water not to accept the liar. The person whose oath was being tested was then thrown in. If he floated, his oath deemed to have been perjured. If he was telling the truth, he might drown but his innocence was clear.

In 1215 the Catholic Church decided that trial by ordeal was superstition and priests were forbidden to take part. As a result a new method of trial was needed and the jury system was introduced.

At first the jury was made up of local people who could be expected to know the defendant. They were only convened to “tell the truth” on the basis of their knowledge of local affairs.

The word “verdict” reflects the jury’s early function: the Latin word from which it is derived means “truly said”. It wasn’t until centuries later that the jury assumed its modern role of deciding facts on the basis of what is heard in the court. Today the jury system has spread to numerous other countries. Every year more than 100,000 jury trials are held in US courts.

2. Match definitions with the words:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Sole | a) To judge, to consider |
| 2. Ordeal | b) To take to or upon oneself |
| 3. Convene | c) To give support, maintain |
| 4. Medieval | d) To become manifest, to rise from an obscure position |
| 5. Defendant | |
| 6. Assume | e) Come together in a body |
| 7. Reveal | f) The only one |
| 8. Emerge | g) Of the Middle Ages |
| 9. Uphold | h) To warn, advise against |
| 10. Superstition | i) Sb. against whom a criminal charge is made |
| 11. Admonish | j) To make known |
| 12. Deem | k) Belief in magic or chance |
| | l) A method of using painful tests |

3. Guess the meaning of the italicised words:

- 1) I will be able to attend the trial without any *hassle*.
- 2) He was a perfect *pillar* of the community.
- 3) I left my door open to be aware of the slightest *intrusion*.
- 4) Mr. Menzies wouldn't be the only person in the courtroom to be in the *dock* today.

4. Read the story.

5. Questions for discussion.

- 1) Do we know the name of the Foreman? Why do you think the author didn't name him?
- 2) When did you realize that the story is told on behalf of the Foreman?
- 3) What kind of personality does he turn out to be?
- 4) Did the jury have any forensic evidence of Menzies' guilt?
- 5) Name the main evidence of Menzies' guilt. Could the case be traced in another direction?
- 6) Was Carla happy to see him at the door?
- 7) Do you think it was a lame excuse when she informed him of her unexpected visit to her sister?
- 8) What Carla's words or deeds drew him into fury?
- 9) What do you think the climax of the story is?
- 10) Prove the fact that the jury tried to be neutral.
- 11) Do you think that if the jury had been allowed more time, the verdict would have been different?
- 12) How does the author feel about journalists?
- 13) Each person has a skeleton in the cupboard. Is this statement true?
- 14) What was in the letter the writer got on August 26? Why did he call it a blow? What was the double impact he mentioned?

6. Have you ever given evidence in the court? What is the most important thing to remember when giving evidence or being under trial or cross examination? What may cause your giving conflicting answers or getting confused? You may provide examples from the text.

7. Reproduce the part of the story with the trial. Mind the emotional state of the main character.