

1. The Mysterious Affair at Styles

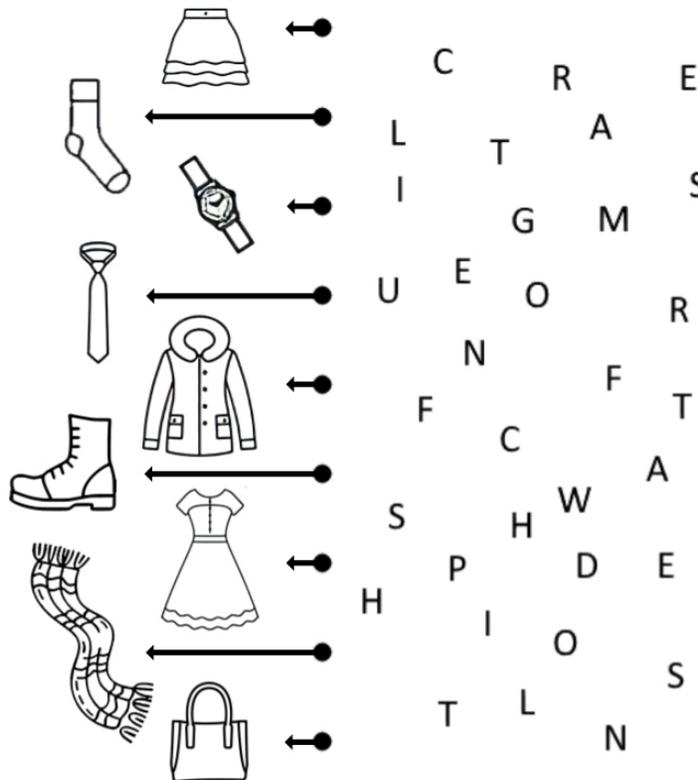


“M. Hercule Poirot and Captain Arthur Hastings,” the butler announced as the two men walked into the library.

“M. Poirot! How did you know to come? You're just the man I need,” exclaimed a dazed Mr. Taylor. He made a vague gesture towards the fireplace. “You must be here about Mother. The butler found her like this a few minutes ago. The police have not yet arrived.”

Mrs. Taylor's body lay on the hearthrug, surrounded by a curious assortment of clothing and accessories. Poirot bent to examine each item. When he arose, his eyes gleamed with excitement. “I have solved the case,” he declared. “We must interview all the members of the household to hear their alibis, but it is only to **eliminate** other possibilities. I know what has occurred here: it was a

_____.”



- I was **tethering** my boat at the lake.
- I was **gobbling** some bread in the dining room.
- I was **smacking** a punching bag in the gym.
- I was **glazing** a cake with icing in the kitchen.
- I was **evicting** a trespasser from the grounds.
- I was **avoiding** the family in my study.
- I was **bandaging** a cut on my finger in my bedroom.
- I was **puckering** my lips in disapproval in my sitting room.
- I was **observing** the scenery in the garden.