

The Curtain (1936)

By Raymond Chandler

DAY 1

Reading Assignment

Sections I - II (beginning - p. 5)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Example: Carmady (the narrator): What is his career? What is he like?

Answer: Carmady is a private detective. He is a loyal friend and somewhat sentimental (despite a tough-guy exterior).

Complete the rest on your own paper.

Larry Batzel: What is his connection to Carmady?

Mona Mesarvey (blonde woman with Larry Batzel): What is her connection to Larry Batzel? What is her connection to Dud O'Mara? What is her connection to Joe Mesarvey?

Dud O'Mara: What is his connection to Larry Batzel?

Joe Mesarvey: What is his connection to Mona? What is his career?

Lash Yeager: What is his connection to Joe Mesarvey? What is his career?

Art Huck: What is his connection to Mona Mesarvey? What is his career?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 2

Reading Assignment

Sections III - IV (p. 5 - p. 12)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

General Dade Winslow: Why does Carmady visit him? What does he want from Carmady?

Mrs. O'Mara: What is her connection to General Dade Winslow? What does Carmady want from her?

Dade Winslow Trevillyan: What is his connection to Mrs. O'Mara? What is his connection to Dud O'Mara? What does he do with Carmady?

Louie: What is his connection to Carmady? What is his (apparent) career? What does he find on Carmady? What does he not find on Carmady?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 3

Reading Assignment

Section V (p. 12 - p. 17)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Red Eyes: What is his connection to Louie? What does he want from Carmady? What is his career? For whom does he work? What is his connection to Larry Batzel?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 4

Reading Assignment

Sections VI - VII (p. 17 - p. 23)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Art Huck: What is his legitimate career? What is his real career? For whom does he work? What does Carmady say he wants from him? What does Carmady really want from him?

Lash Yeager: What is his connection to Joe Mesarvey? What is his connection to Larry Batzel?

Mona Mesarvey (Silver Wig): What is her connection to Joe Mesarvey? What is her connection to Lash Yeager? What is her connection to Dud O'Mara? What is her connection to Larry Batzel? Why does she cut Carmady free (aside from her statement that she doesn't want to get mixed up in a murder)?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 5

Reading Assignment

Sections VIII - IX (p. 23 - p. 27)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Captain Al Root: What is his career? What is his connection to Carmady? What is his connection to Larry Batzel? How does Carmady know Root will not do what he wants him to do?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 6

Reading Assignment

Sections X - XI (p. 27 - end)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Dade Winslow Trevillyan: What does he do with Carmady? What is his connection to Dud O'Mara (what did he do to him)?

Mrs. O'Mara: What is her connection to Lash Yeager (occasioned by the actions of her son)? What does she offer Carmady and why?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

