



A GIRL CALLED JUSTICE

THE SPY AT THE WINDOW

ELLY
Griffiths

EXTRACTS AND NOTES FOR KS2

Suitable for: Ages 9+

Explore themes of:

- ✓ The Second World War
 - ✓ The Phony War
 - ✓ Mystery
 - ✓ Friendship
 - ✓ Family bonds
 - ✓ Piecing clues together
 - ✓ Espionage
 - ✓ Subject Checklist:
 - ✓ Literacy
- ✓ History (HISTORICAL FICTION)
 - ✓ PSHE
 - ✓ Art





CONTENTS



Extract 1: Setting the Scene (taken from Chapter 2)

Objectives: Consider the importance of clues to solve a mystery; understand key topic vocabulary related to clues and mysteries; identify negative language references and their meaning.

Extract 2: Is it possible? (taken from Chapter 11)

Objectives: Consider the concept of the Phony War; write a diary entry based on understanding the clues so far.

Extract 3: The Plot Thickens (taken from Chapter 17)

Objectives: Understand the use of words and phrases to describe something strange; analyse all of the facts and write a police report card; draw an image from all of the key clues.

Extract 4: The Verger (taken from Chapter 20)

Objectives: Consider the significance of 'The Verger'; understand the relevance of each detail and clue; write a haiku to show understanding of three key themes from the book.

Extract 5: Miss de Vere (taken from Chapter 22)

Objectives: Understand the scene and expand on it further; consider all the clues in a visual task; write a descriptive summary about the book using the visual clues.



EXTRACT 1: SETTING THE SCENE (CHAPTER 2)



It was a misty, grey afternoon. The marshes seemed to dissolve into nothingness and then, suddenly, the dark shape of Highbury House appeared on the horizon. Even Sarah stopped telling them the plot of her favourite Agatha Christie novel and stared at the apparition. As they got closer they could see the four turrets and the iron gates with stone griffins on either side. The house, never the friendliest-looking place, seemed to have a particularly dour expression that day. When they parked outside, Justice realised that this was because the windows were all covered with black curtains.

'Blackout blinds,' said Herbert. 'It's the law now.'

The blackouts were to stop lights showing and potentially guiding enemy bombers. Justice had read all about it in the

papers. The dark windows were a reminder of war as was the fact that, alongside their trunks, overnight bags and hockey sticks, the girls were all carrying their gas masks.

'Seems so odd to be taking masks to school,' said Sarah.

'It's just a precaution,' said Herbert. 'I'm sure you won't have to use them.'

Stella and Sarah said thank you and goodbye to Herbert. Then they went towards the main entrance where Matron was waiting to tick them off on one of her endless lists.

Justice was left alone with her dad. He gave her a big hug. 'Goodbye, Justice. See you on the half holiday.'

'You will come, won't you?' said Justice, her voice muffled against Dad's tweed jacket.

'I promise.'

'And you won't join the army?'

'They wouldn't have me.' Dad gave Justice a kiss. 'Promise me that you'll be careful this term. Things will be a bit different at school.'

'I'll be OK,' said Justice. 'Nothing ever happens here.'

Dad laughed and gave Justice a final hug. 'Bye, Justice. I love you.'

'I love you too,' said Justice. Dad carried the three trunks to the porch. Hutchins, the handyman, would collect them later.

Discussion Questions

- How many negative word/phrases are used in this extract?
- What was the main reason for the blackout blinds?
- What do 'the dark windows' signify?
- Which item did they take to school that seemed odd? Why was it odd?
- The writer starts the book talking about the weather. What does this add to the mood and context?





ACTIVITY 1



Are you a super- sleuth like Justice?



Task

Use the visual clues on the front of the book to make predictions about what might happen. Then, can you piece all of the clues together and write the blurb for the book?

The Blurb





Now read the actual blurb from the back of the book.

Super-smart by day, super-sleuth by night, Justice Jones is on the case . . .

Beyond the safe walls of Highbury House Boarding School for Girls the Second World War has broken out, and everything has changed.

So when super-sleuth Justice sees a face outside the dormitory window two storeys up, she's relieved that one thing has remained the same: there are still mysteries to solve! Then she and her friends begin hearing voices coming from an empty attic . . .

Could there be an enemy spy in their midst? Justice is about to face her biggest challenge yet . . .

What comparisons can you make between this blurb and your blurb?

Can you work with a partner and make a list of key words you think will be important in the book based on your understanding so far?

Key word prediction task

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When you start reading the book, come back to this list and see how many words you can tick off.



EXTRACT 2: IS IT POSSIBLE? (CHAPTER 11)



Justice produced some rather crumbly biscuits, the last of Dad's tuck box. A couple of the hens, who were allowed to roam freely in the daytime, pecked around their feet.

'It doesn't seem possible that there's a war on,' said Letitia.

'It probably seems possible to Monsieur Pierre's family,' said Stella. This had the effect of silencing them all. Justice knew that Stella's family had relatives in Europe. The phony war was not phony to them.

Justice thought it was time to change the subject. 'So,' she said, 'I've got three mysteries for you.' She told them about seeing the face in the window of the North Turret, about Dorothy hearing voices there, and Mr Hoffman talking on the phone in German. It was the first that caught her friends' imaginations.

'How could that be?' said Stella. 'It's so high off the ground.'

'Maybe he was a parachutist,' giggled Letitia. There had been lots of scare stories in the newspapers about German parachutists – often disguised as nuns, for some reason – descending on the English countryside.

'I did wonder if he was hanging from something,' said Justice, 'but when I looked out of the window, there was nothing.'

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Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Letitia says 'it doesn't seem possible that there's a war on'?
- Can you explain the meaning of this phrase, and who is 'them' referring to?
'The phony war was not phony to them.'
- How could the spy have been able to reach the window two storeys up?

Letitia thought the spy might have been a parachutist.

Discuss with a partner and see how many possibilities you can think of, give a reason for each of your answers.

Maybe he was a

Maybe he was a

Maybe he was a





ACTIVITY 2



Justice tells her friends that she has three mysteries for them.

1. The face in the window of the North Turret
2. Dorothy hearing voices
3. Mr Hoffman talking on the phone in German

Can you work in groups to piece these clues together and solve the mystery? Consider the three mysteries – are they connected? Write your thoughts in your own diary entry

Diary Entry



EXTRACT 3: THE PLOT THICKENS (CHAPTER 17)

'So what?' said Justice. She was feeling sad again. Dorothy's clue had turned out to be just some pub gossip. Would she ever see her dad again?

'Don't you see?' said Dorothy. 'There *are* no strangers round here. All the fishermen know each other. What if one of those men was your dad?'

Dad had disappeared late on Friday afternoon. Had he been taken somewhere by boat that evening?

Justice didn't know if Dorothy's clue made her feel worse or better.

Back in the dormy, Justice wrote in her journal:

*Places to look for Dad
Airports. Headcorn. Are there any others
Places between Highbury House and London. Did he stop on
the way home?
The sea.*

What would Leslie Light say about that? 'Be specific,' he always told Bertram the butler, who sometimes helped on his cases. You couldn't get less specific than a whole ocean.

Justice wrote:

Was Dad on that boat? If so, where were they taking him?

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*All the way to France? And why was Bessie left at Headcorn?
As a red herring?*

Red herrings, a fisherman called Kipper – it was all getting very strange. Fishy, in fact.

She added: *Who drove Bessie? Look out for someone with short legs.*

This last was so ridiculous that Justice almost laughed aloud. But writing the list made her feel slightly better. She'd solved other cases. Surely she could solve this one. What did Leslie Light always say? *Assemble the facts and look for a pattern.*

'Justice!' hissed Rose. 'I can see your torch light. We're meant to have a blackout.'

Justice turned off her torch. She could think just as well in the dark.

Assemble the facts and look for a pattern.

Dad was involved in espionage work. Espionage means spying.

Dad drove to see me for the half holiday on Friday 20 October. He left at approximately 6 p.m.

He never got home. His car was found at Headcorn airport on Saturday 21st.

A boat was seen leaving the harbour on the night of Friday 20th. The two men on board were strangers to the local fishermen.

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*Dad underlined the word 'Kent' in his Shakespeare book.
Who else was involved? Maybe Monsieur Pierre (RIP)?
Maybe someone at Dad's work? See what Miss Lewis says.*

She was trying to think of other facts when someone screamed.

It was Eva. She was sitting up in bed and pointing to the window. 'I saw a man's shadow! There! At the window.'

'Don't be silly, Eva,' came Rose's voice. 'We're two floors up.'

'I saw it! I saw a shape against the blackout blind.'

'That's impossible,' said Rose.

But Justice was thinking of the face at the window in the tower. There was someone in the school who apparently seemed to be able to climb walls and appear and disappear at will. She got out of bed. 'I'm going to have a look,' she said.

'You can't,' said Rose. 'We need to keep the blackout up.'

'There must be a moon, or Eva wouldn't have seen a shadow,' said Justice. She remembered Dorothy saying, 'There was a full moon and fishermen often go out then.' If there was a full moon on Friday, it would still be almost full tonight, Tuesday. She walked over to Letitia's bed, which was closest to the window, and lifted a corner of the blind. Sure enough, there was a lopsided moon rising hazily over

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Discussion Questions

- What is the meaning of the phrase 'a red herring'?
- Justice wrote in her diary: 'it was all getting very strange. Fishy, in fact.' What do you think the word 'fishy' means here? Can you think of any similar words or phrases?
- Why did Rose tell Eva not to be silly?
- What did Eva say she saw against the blackout blind? What do *you* think Eva saw?



ACTIVITY 3A



Assemble the facts and look for a pattern.

Work in pairs or small groups. Look at all the facts so far – can you find a pattern? Can you work together to try and answer Justice's questions?

- Who else was involved?
- Maybe Monsieur Pierre (RIP)?
- Maybe someone at Dad's work?

Write your answers on this report card to help the police solve the case.

Police Report Card





ACTIVITY 3B



The police need your help to try and identify the man at the window. Use these clues to help you draw a picture.

‘I saw a man’s shadow!’

‘At the window.’

‘We’re two floors up.’

‘I saw a shape against the blackout blind.’

‘There was a full moon.’





EXTRACT 4: THE VERGER (CHAPTER 20)



to find out more first. She was sure that she'd heard the man talk before. When and where?

She was still thinking about it when they lined up to walk to church on Sunday. The girls weren't supposed to talk to the boys as they marched along the road but Rose and Carrington exchanged waves and soppy glances. Henry smiled at Justice as she walked between Stella and Eva.

'Church is super, isn't it?' said Eva, linking arms with Justice.

'If you say so,' said Justice. She wanted to be back at school with her journal, assembling the facts and looking for a pattern.

The walk didn't take long at the pace set by the teachers. The church bells were ringing when they arrived at the ancient-looking building, which seemed half sunk in its own graveyard, the tombstones looming up out of the grass.

The vergers handed out hymn books. The girls were directed to the right of the church and the boys to the left. 'Like sheep and goats,' Stella whispered.

'A sheep?' squeaked Eva. 'Where?'

'Shh!' hissed Miss Bathurst from the row in front.

Justice opened her hymn book. She hoped there was something decent to sing today, not just dreary old psalms.

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The numbers of the hymns were on the board. Justice turned to the first, number 205.

A small, handwritten note fell out of her book. There were just three words on it.

Veritas et fortitudo.

Justice couldn't believe her eyes. She gasped and, for a second, the church – pews, pulpit and dusty beams – seemed to spin around her.

'Are you all right?' whispered Stella.

Miss Bathurst turned round again. 'Shh!'

'Justice feels faint,' said Stella.

'Is this true, Justice?' said the teacher.

'A bit,' said Justice. 'Can I sit outside with Stella?'

'Very well,' said Miss Bathurst. 'But be quick. The service is about to start.'

The girls slipped out of the church just as the first hymn, 'Fight the Good Fight', started.

Justice and Stella sat on the low wall beside the graveyard and Justice showed Stella the piece of paper.

'That's Dad's handwriting,' she said. 'It's what he always writes in his letters to me. Truth and courage.'

'But how did it get in your hymn book?' said Stella.

'I don't know,' said Justice. 'The vergers just handed it to me.'

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'The vergers,' said a voice. 'Don't you know who he is?'

It was Henry, walking towards them through the tombstones. 'I said I was about to have an asthma attack,' he said. 'It always works.'

'*Run the straight race, through God's good grace,*' sang the choir inside the church.

'What did you mean about the vergers?' said Justice.

'I recognised him immediately,' said Henry. 'He was the face at the window.'

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Discussion Questions

- How do you think the note got into the hymn book?
- What is the significance of the words 'Veritas et Fortitudo'?
- Why do you think Justice feels faint?
- Who did Henry recognise immediately?
- Make a note of all the ways in which the writer makes references to the Verger in this extract. What does this add to your understanding of the Verger?





ACTIVITY 4A



Consider the clues – can you piece them all together? What is the significance of each clue?

The Hymn Book

A small, handwritten note

Veritas et fortitudo

The Verger

The Church

ACTIVITY 4B: A HAIKU

A haiku is a poem with three lines. You must have 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line and 5 syllables in the third line.

Work in pairs or small groups to write your own haiku about the key themes and characters from the book?

Line 1 – Show your understanding of Justice the super-sleuth (5 syllables)

Line 2 – Show your understanding of the Second World War and the Phony War (7 syllables)

Line 3 – Show your understanding of 'the spy' (5 syllables)

Here is an example:

Justice super sleuth (5 syllables)

War, no war, gas masks, phony (7 syllables)

Mysteries and clues (5 syllables)

Haiku





EXTRACT 5: MISS DE VERE (CHAPTER 22)



bad chap. He agreed to give you the note. No, the worst thing is the boredom. Nothing to do but sit and listen to the organist practising, "For Those in Peril on the Sea". We're right under the church here.'

'Who else is in the gang?' asked Stella.

'That's the frustrating thing,' said Herbert. 'I've never seen their faces. They wear their gas masks. I only saw the woman who pretended to be in trouble by the side of the road. I didn't recognise her.'

'Do you know where the key is?' said Justice, rattling the heavy lock on the door.

'I suspect Francis or another member of the gang has it,' said Herbert. 'You need to get the police.'

'I will,' said Justice. 'Inspector Deacon will come and get you out.' She hated having to leave Dad locked up alone in the dark again. *It won't be for long, she told herself. The police will come and break down the door.*

'Be careful,' said Dad. 'And put the stone back after you. If it's moved, they'll know I've been found.'

'I will,' said Justice. 'See you soon, Dad. I love you.'

'I love you too,' said Herbert.

But Justice and Stella were already sprinting away along the passage.

* * *

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'He's down there,' Justice panted, as she emerged into the graveyard. 'He's locked in. We've got to get help.'

'Can we phone from the village?' said Alicia. 'The pub will have a telephone.'

'It's shut,' said Justice. She remembered Dorothy knocking on the door of The Old Ship. But Dorothy was William Smith's daughter. She didn't think they'd open up for her. 'Everything's shut for Sunday,' she said. 'Let's run back to school. Miss de Vere can phone Inspector Deacon.'

They closed the trapdoor and pulled the stone back over it. Then the cross-country team ran as they had never run before. Afterwards, Justice thought that their feet hadn't even touched the earth, that they had flown over the marshland, so fast that the rain didn't seem to touch them.

As they galloped through the gates, they met Miss de Vere walking with Major Hammond.

'Miss de Vere!' Justice hardly had enough breath to shout.

The headmistress turned, obviously angry at being interrupted. Then she saw Justice's face. 'Justice! Whatever's the matter?'

'Dad,' croaked Justice. 'We've found him.'

The others joined in.

'Tunnel . . .'

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'Under the church . . .'

'Gravestones . . .'

'The verger . . .'

'Calm down, girls,' said Miss de Vere. 'And come with me. Please excuse us, Martin.'

Leaving Major Hammond – Martin! – staring, Miss de Vere led the girls into the school and up the spiral stairs to her study. Then she made Justice tell her the story again.

Even before she'd finished, the headmistress was dialling the number for Inspector Deacon.

Miss de Vere replaced the receiver on its cradle. 'Inspector Deacon and his men are going straight to the church. Now I suggest that you all go to your dormies and change into dry clothes. It will be time for Meal soon.'

Justice hadn't even realised that she was dripping on to Miss de Vere's carpet. They'd left muddy footprints too. 'I can't eat,' she said. 'I'm too excited.'

Miss de Vere sounded kind but firm. 'Nevertheless, you need to change out of those clothes. It won't help anyone if you all go down with influenza.'

Justice hardly knew how she managed to get changed. Her fingers didn't seem to work any more. Stella had to do up her

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Discussion Questions

- Why did Justice hardly have enough breath to shout?
- What do you think Miss de Vere noticed when she saw Justice's face?
- Explain why it was necessary for Miss de Vere to ask the girls to calm down?
- What does 'she was dripping on to Miss de Vere's carpet' make reference to?





ACTIVITY 5A



Justice is out of breath and struggling to give all the necessary details to Miss de Vere.

Justice says:

‘Tunnel . . .’

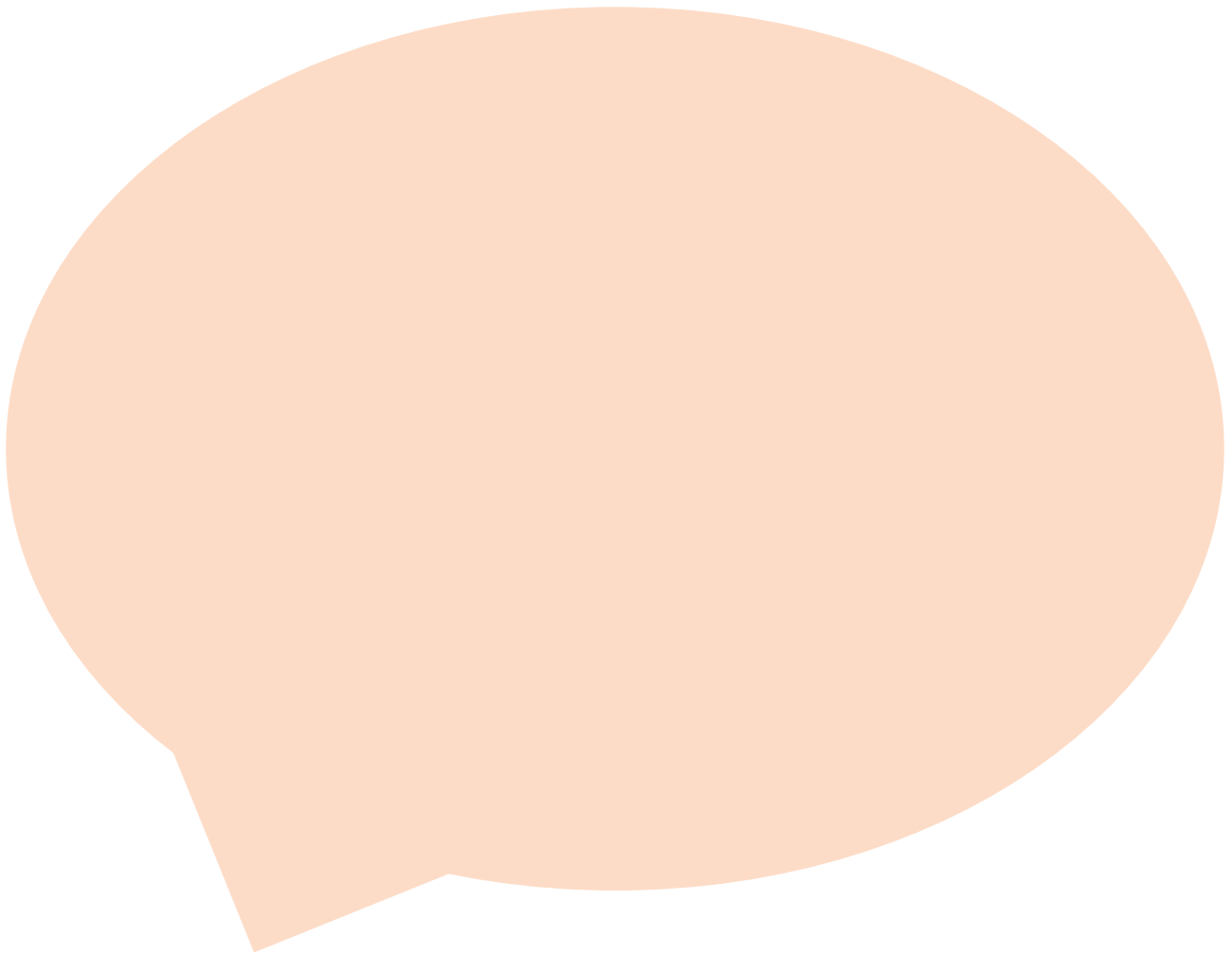
‘Under the church . . .’

‘Gravestones . . .’

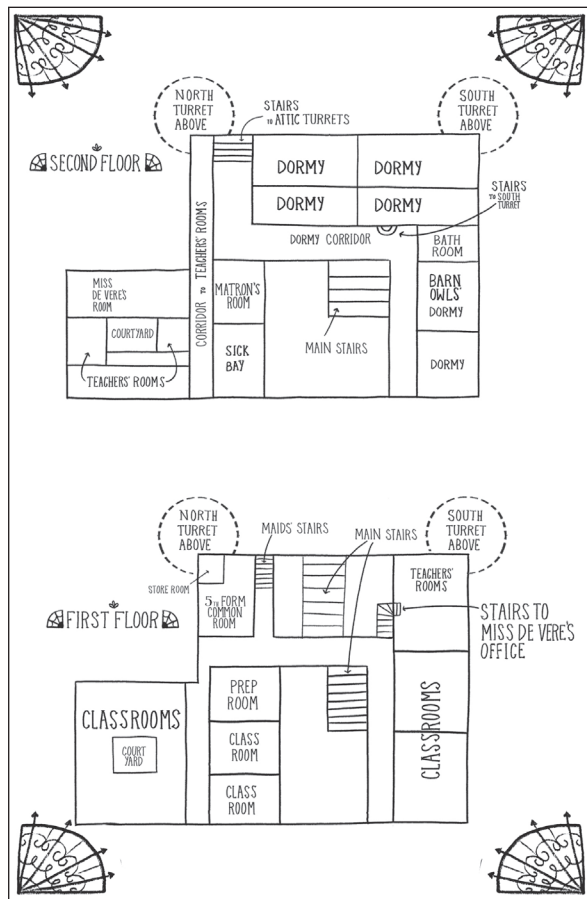
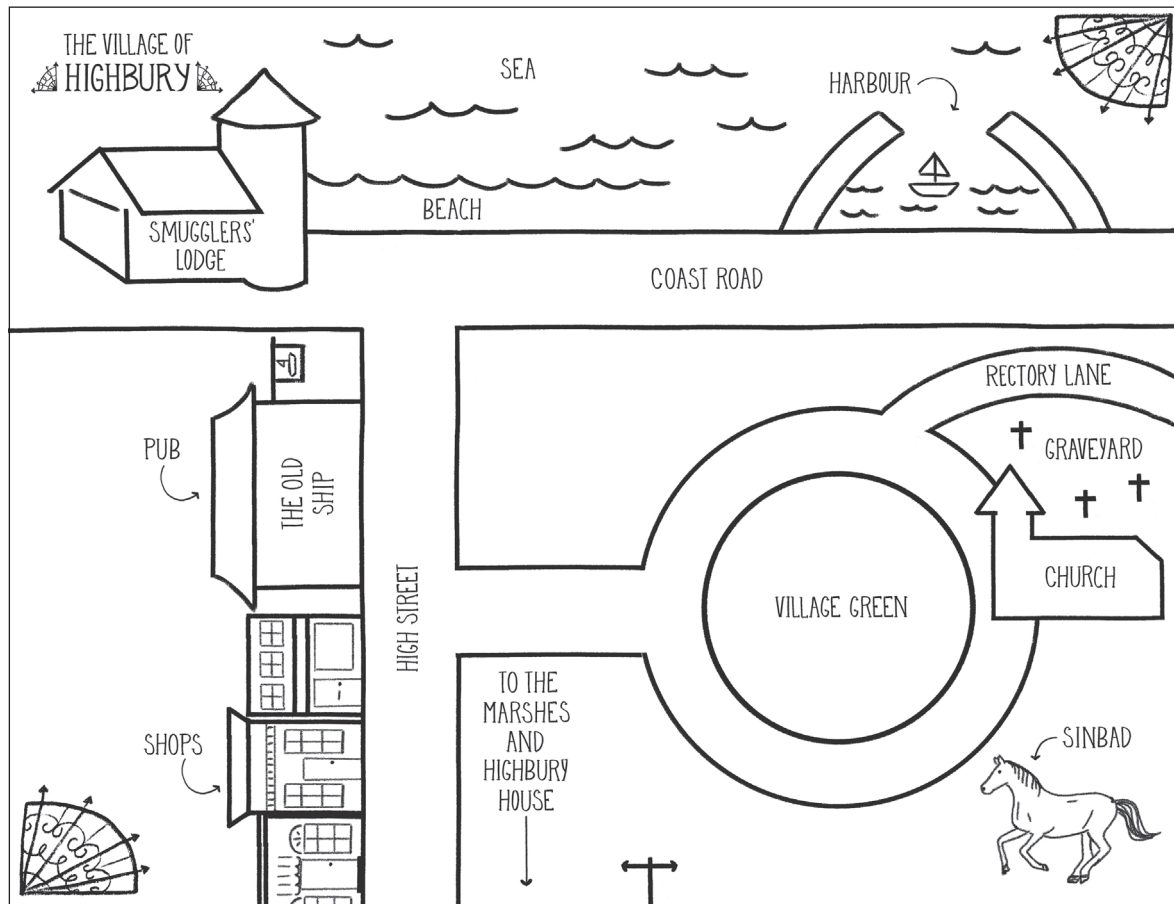
‘The Verger . . .’

These details do not give a clear enough picture to Miss de Vere or the police. Use the words Justice says and turn them into a conversation detailing everything Justice wanted to say in full. The police need all the details to help catch the spy.

Write the more detailed conversation in this speech bubble



ACTIVITY 5B: PROJECT TASK



How much can you remember from the story? Remember, to be a super-sleuth you need to remember all the details and clues to solve the mystery.

Work with a partner or in a small group and share your ideas.

What details, clues and words can you add to each location in the maps? Reflect back on the story and all the clues you can remember.

Now write a short descriptive summary detailing the events from the book. Use the details and clues you wrote on the maps to help you.