

Vocabulary List

- Archivist (noun) – A person responsible for preserving and organizing historical records and documents.
- Cliff (noun) – A high, steep rock face, usually next to the ocean or sea.
- Estate (noun) – A large area of land in the countryside, usually with one big main house, owned by one person or family.
- Will / Testament (noun) – An official legal document stating who gets a person's money and property after they die.
- Shallow (adjective) – Not deep; taking in very little air (when describing breathing).
- Paramedic (noun) – A healthcare professional trained to respond to emergency medical situations outside a hospital.
- Forensic (adjective) – Related to the scientific methods used to investigate crimes (e.g., collecting fingerprints).
- Hiss (verb) – To speak in a quiet, sharp, angry whisper.
- Hushed (adjective) – Quiet; spoken softly so others cannot hear.
- Greenhouse (noun) – A glass building used for growing and protecting plants.
- Workbench (noun) – A strong heavy table used for practical work, repairs, or gardening tasks.
- Damp (adjective) – Slightly wet, often in an unpleasant or cold way.
- Engraving (noun) – Words or designs carved into a hard surface like metal, wood, or stone.
- Descend (verb) – To move or walk down from a higher place to a lower one.
- Vault (noun) – A secure, locked room (often underground) used to keep valuable things safe.
- Ventilation (noun) – A system or tunnel that allows fresh air to move through an enclosed space.
- Briefcase (noun) – A flat, rectangular bag used for carrying papers, documents, or a laptop.
- Gasp (verb) – To take a sudden, quick breath with an open mouth because of pain or surprise.
- Grate (noun) – A metal frame with parallel bars used to cover an opening or vent.
- Consciousness (noun) – The state of being awake and aware of what is happening around you.

Reading Comprehension

Decide if the following statements are True (T) or False (F) based on the story.

1. Clara moved from London to Cornwall to work as an archivist at Blackwood Manor. _____
2. Lord Blackwood wanted to sell his land to a company that builds luxury hotels. _____
3. Belladonna extract was stolen from the greenhouse to poison Lord Blackwood's tea. _____
4. Julian locked Thomas and Clara in the secret vault under the library. _____
5. Lord Blackwood died in the hospital from the poison. _____
6. Clara decided to quit her job and return to London at the end of the story. _____

Character & Event Matching

Match the person on the left with the correct action or description on the right.

Person	Action / Description
1. Clara Vance	a) Was carrying a briefcase and trying to leave with stolen documents.
2. Lord Blackwood	b) Investigated the crime and discovered the poisoning.
3. Julian Blackwood	c) Left his estate to a local nature conservation trust in his new will.
4. Gregory Vance	d) Found the secret escape route inside the ventilation tunnel.
5. Detective Miller	e) Wanted to buy the coastal land to build a resort.

Vocabulary Practice

Fill in the missing words from the box below to complete the sentences.

estate **cliff** **damp** **vault** **archivist**
consciousness **descents** **gasped** **will** **briefcase**

1. The old stone room underground was cold and _____, with water dripping from the ceiling.
2. After being unconscious for hours, the patient finally regained _____ in the hospital.
3. Lord Blackwood owns a huge _____ in the English countryside.
4. The police placed all the valuable historical documents inside a secure iron _____.
5. Blackwood Manor stands high on a rocky _____ overlooking the ocean.

6. The house hired a professional _____ to organize centuries of old family records.
7. Everyone at the dinner table _____ in shock when Lord Blackwood suddenly collapsed.
8. Lord Blackwood signed a new _____ to make sure his money went to a local nature conservation trust.
9. Julian carried a small leather _____ containing stolen documents when he tried to leave the manor.
10. The narrow staircase _____ deep into the dark stone foundations beneath the library.

Comprehension Questions

Answer the questions using complete sentences based on the text.

1. Why did Clara leave her job in London to move to Blackwood Manor?
2. What did Clara notice in the garden building when she first looked out of her bedroom window?
3. Why was Detective Miller called to Blackwood Manor after Lord Blackwood collapsed?
4. What did Julian and Gregory argue about in the pantry during Chapter 4?
5. What dangerous liquid was stolen from the greenhouse workbench?
6. How did Clara and Thomas enter the secret archive beneath the library?
7. How did Clara and Thomas escape from the locked vault under the library?
8. What was Julian's real motive for putting poison into Lord Blackwood's tea?