

Hello everybody!

La lettura di questo libricino e gli esercizi contenuti in questo fascicolo sono **FACOLTATIVI**.

Ogni settimana vi metteremo a disposizione 2 capitoli con esercizi di comprensione, la settimana successiva riceverete le soluzioni.

HAPPY READING!

The Secret of the Stones

Black Cat edition

Victoria **Heward**



The Characters



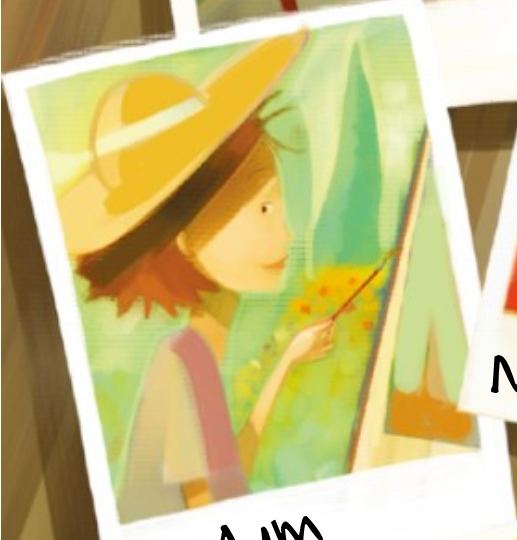
Uncle Stephen



Dad



Max & Laura



Mum



Mrs. Black



Mr. Knight



Barbara

Backrow from left: Stephen, Dad, Mom, Max and Laura, Mrs Black, Mr Knight, Barbara.

CHAPTER ONE

Holiday Time

Pre-Reading Activity — Vocabulary

Match the words to the pictures. (use a dictionary or online translator if it's too difficult).

twins

a cottage

the countryside

a field

to paint

hills

sheep

cows





CHAPTER ONE

Holiday Time

Laura and Max are twins. They live in London with their mum and dad. They always have interesting adventures on holiday. They visit different cities and countries.

This summer they are going to stay in a small cottage in the country. The cottage is in a village called Stonecross, near Salisbury. Max and Laura aren't happy.

'Boring!' says Max. He looks at the map. 'The cottage is in the middle of a field. What can we do in the middle of a field?'

'Why are we going there?' asks Laura.

Their dad is very tired. He says he wants to relax and to sleep a lot. Their mum loves the countryside. She wants to walk and paint.

'It's a very beautiful part of England,' she says. 'Full of culture, tradition, mystery...'

'Mystery?' say Max and Laura together. 'Mystery! Ok, let's go!'

The next day Uncle Stephen arrives with lots of bags. This year they are all going on holiday together.

Mum drives the family car. Dad sleeps... Dad always sleeps! Uncle Stephen follows in his old car.

Two hours later they arrive at Stonecross and find their cottage in the middle of a field. There are green hills, beautiful cottages, flowers, sheep and cows everywhere.

'Its lovely!' say Max and Laura.

'Its perfect!!' says Mum.

Dad says nothing. He is sleeping in the car.

'What do you think Stephen? Do you like it?' Uncle Stephen doesn't answer. He is looking into the distance. His eyes are very black and strange.

'What's the matter, Stephen?' asks Mum. 'Don't you like the cottage?'

'Err... yes. It's wonderful,' he says. 'Come on everyone. Let's take these bags inside. Wake up, Andrew!' Dad wakes up.

'Oh... err... where are we?' 'We're here at Stonecross. Come and help us. We must take the bags into the cottage.'



They take the bags and go inside, but Uncle Stephen waits. He looks around him (*attorno a se*) and his face is very serious. Nobody hears him when he says, 'This place... It's in my book... the old book of mysteries! Finally I am here! Now I can find the answer to the mystery of Stonehenge.' 'Stephen!!?' calls Mum from the cottage. 'I'm coming,' he replies. He takes a last look around him and goes to the cottage,

CHAPTER ONE

Understanding the TEXT

Search the missing words in the word square. Use your dictionary to help you.

1. In the summer children don't go to
2. If you go to a foreign country, don't forget your It's a very important document!
3. Everyone loves in the sea in the summer.
4. Do you prefer visiting old cities or ones? (*nuove*)
5. I love hot, days at the beach. (*soleggiate*)
6. Most people go on holiday in July or

D	S	X	B	R	W	J	C	P	T
B	W	Q	V	R	X	G	F	K	T
O	I	V	Z	X	L	S	C	T	J
G	M	P	A	U	G	U	S	T	H
C	M	H	A	O	D	N	K	B	L
S	I	L	D	Y	T	N	C	K	I
C	N	S	T	J	M	Y	L	I	S
H	G	P	D	H	G	V	N	E	W
O	T	X	B	S	Z	T	H	Y	I
O	H	P	A	S	S	P	O	R	T
L	Y	K	L	J	I	G	G	U	J
S	T	B	V	L	E	J	C	B	S

CHAPTER TWO

Mr Carter and Mrs Black

Pre-Reading Activity — Vocabulary

Match the words to the pictures.

study

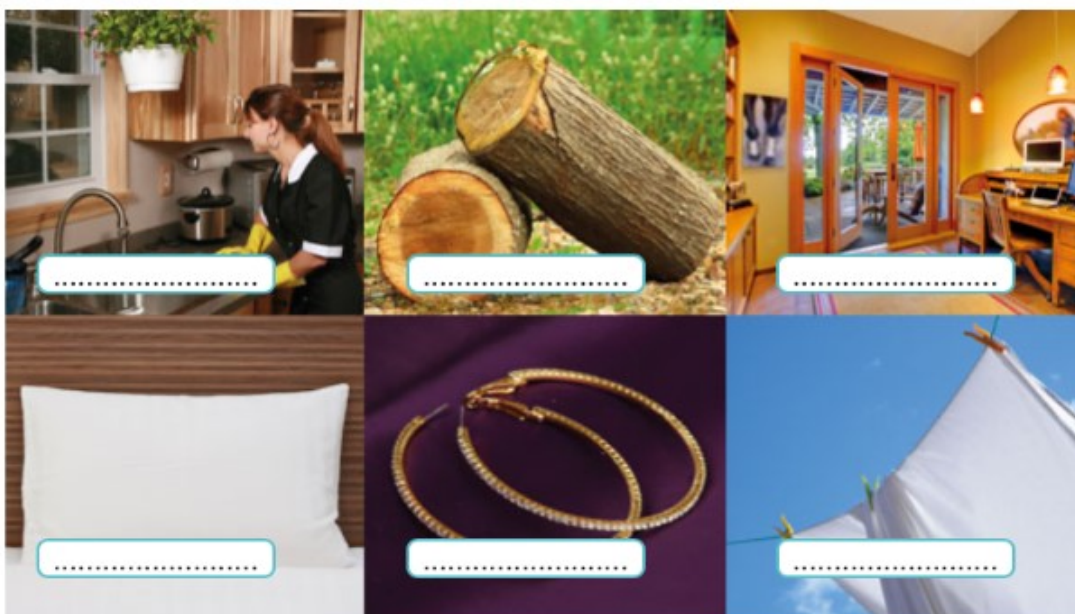
earrings

sheet

pillow

housekeeper

wood

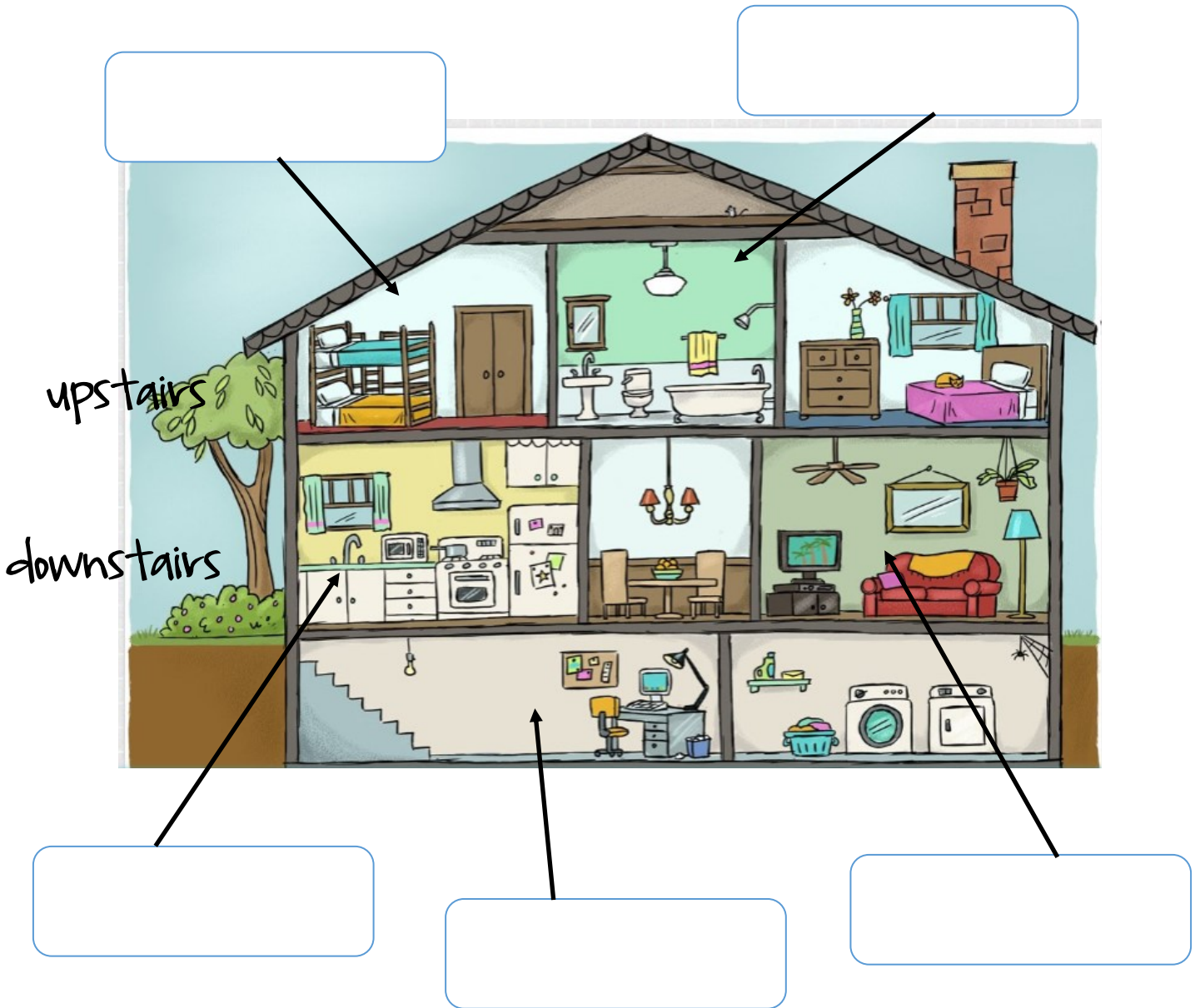


Match the same six words to the definitions.

(→ esercizio un po' più difficile)

1. It comes from trees. You burn it or make furniture with it.
2. You put your head on it when you sleep.
3. It covers your bed.
4. You wear these in your ears.
5. A person who looks after a building.
6. This room is similar to an office in your house.

Can you name the rooms in the house? Use a dictionary or read lines 1 and 2 of CHAPTER TWO.



What about your house?

In my house there are

.....

.....

.....

.....



CHAPTER TWO

Mr Carter and Mrs Black

The cottage is big. There are four bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs. Downstairs there is a big kitchen, a living room and a study. Uncle Stephen wants to use the study. He must finish some work in the holiday. Uncle Stephen is a historian. 'What does Uncle Stephen do exactly?' Laura asks. Her mother replies, 'He studies history.'

Max is confused. 'I study history too... at school... but it's not my job!'

'Yes, but Uncle Stephen writes books about history He wants to understand mysteries.'

'For example?' asks Laura.

'Well,' Mum replies, 'for example, the mystery of Stonehenge.'

'So, what is Stonehenge? What is its mystery?'

'Nobody knows. Ask Uncle Stephen. Tomorrow we can go to see it.'

Suddenly (*improvvisamente*) there is a knock at the door. 'Knock, knock!'

Mum opens it and an old man comes in. He has white hair and an angry face. 'My name's Carter,' he says. 'I'm the caretaker. Is everything OK? There is wood for the fire in the garden. There are sheets and pillows upstairs.'

If you have a problem you must tell me. Have you got any problems?'

Now Mum remembers. Yes, Mr Carter is the caretaker. He looks after the cottage when nobody is staying in it.

'Thank you, Mr Carter. You are very kind but we don't have any problems.'

Mr Carter likes problems so he is not very happy. He goes to the door. Then he stops, turns around and looks at them. 'Mrs Black is coming,' he says. 'Mrs Black is coming soon. Be careful!' He opens the door and goes out.

'What?' asks Mum.

'Who is Mrs Black?' asks Max.

'And why "be careful!"? Is she dangerous?' asks Dad.

'Probably a witch from Stonehenge,' says Laura. Everyone laughs (*ridono*).

Suddenly (*improvvisamente*) there is another knock at the door. They all stop. There is silence in the room.

Max opens the door. Nobody speaks.

'Hello, everyone,' says a happy voice. A woman comes into the cottage. She is quite old, fat and pretty. She has blue eyes, silver earrings and a big pink face.

'Hello! My name's Mrs Black.'

Mrs Black is a housekeeper: she helps to cook, to clean and to organise. When a family comes for a holiday in the cottage she helps them. She lives in a different cottage in the village with her son. Mrs Black is very nice and they start to relax. Later, they eat a big dinner and then say goodbye to their new friend, the housekeeper. They are very tired and soon everyone is sleeping. But not Uncle Stephen! He can't sleep because he is thinking (*sta pensando*) about his book. It's a very old book, full of strange symbols, codes and information. If you understand the book you can understand the mystery of Stonehenge.

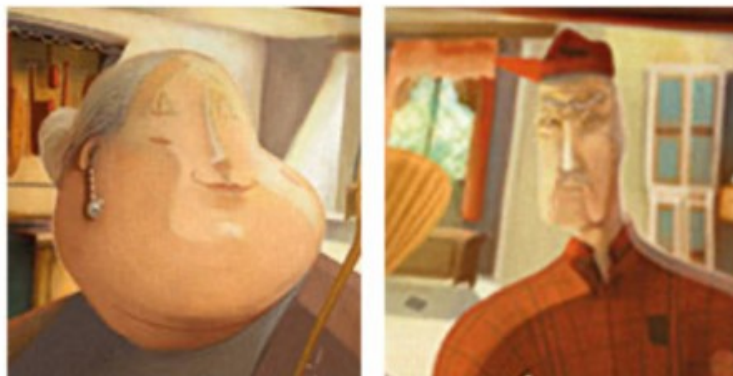


CHAPTER TWO

Understanding the TEXT

A. Match each word or expression to the correct character.

	Mrs Black	Mr Carter
1. very kind	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. quite old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. nice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. white hair	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. pink face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. blue eyes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. angry voice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. not happy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



B. Here are some words to describe appearances. Choose the correct column for each word.

		Face	Body	Character	Hair
1.	old	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.	tall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.	nice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.	freckles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5.	straight	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.	happy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7.	curly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8.	blonde	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9.	angry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10.	kind	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11.	young	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

C. Look at the pictures of the characters and answer these questions.

1. Who has glasses and a beard?
2. Who has curly hair?
3. Who is very young?

D. Write a description of someone in the class. (se vuoi puoi mandare la descrizione alla tua docente per la correzione)



Next week: CHAPTER THREE and CHAPTER FOUR