THE BIG SLEEP

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Complete the following chart with some information about RAYMOND CHANDLER.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Born in / died</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some works</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary genre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main character</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra info</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Find out some information about LOS ANGELES (U.S.)

3. Check if the following information about THE GREAT DEPRESSION of the 1930’s is true or false. [http://great-depression-facts.com/](http://great-depression-facts.com/)
   - The GREAT DEPRESSION took place between 1932 and 1933.
   - The vendors tried to sell apples for 5 cents each.
   - People loved President Herbert Hoover.
   - People didn’t use buttons because they were very expensive.
   - Many families went to camp at Central Park because they didn’t have money or houses.
   - A lot of people moved to California.
   - Superman, Flash Gordon and Dick Tracy were children’s comic heroes.
   - John Steinbeck filmed “Of Mice and Men” and “The Grapes of Wrath” about the lives of people during THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

4. GO TO YOUTUBE and watch the following trailer: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjJlBnfylI4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjJlBnfylI4)

5. Check some specific vocabulary and expressions:
   - Private detective, the butler, to giggle, a bootlegger, to blackmail, a greenhouse, to be cute, a crook, to carry a gun, a blackmail racket, to gamble, to catch the big fish, to have a hold over somebody.

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READING


Some activities based on Penguin Active Reading Teacher’s notes. Pearson Education Limited. Teteg13
WHILE - READING ACTIVITIES

Chapter 1 MARLOWE MEETS THE STERNWOOD.

Describe the following characters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marlowe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Sternwood</td>
<td>She was about twenty, small but tough-looking. She had short, golden hair and cold grey eyes. She had sharp white teeth and she was cute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Who was Rusty Regan?
2. What does the General want from Marlow?

Chapter 2 MR. GIEGER’S STORE

1. Describe Mr. Geiger’s store.
2. How did people borrow the books?
3. Explain what “protection money” is.

Chapter 3 A DEAD MAN DISAPPEARS

1. Why does Marlowe say that Geiger’s business was good?
2. What happened at twenty past seven? What did Marlowe see when he entered into Geiger’s house?
3. What did Marlowe do to Carmen? Where did he drive her?
4. Were there any changes in the room when Marlowe came back?

Chapter 4 WHO KILLED OWEN TAYLOR?

1. You work for and you have to write an article about Owen Taylor’s car accident.
   Structure: - Headline
   - Introduction: facts, what, where, when,
   - Body: facts: what does the police know?
   - Conclusion: speculate why and who

1. Why does Marlowe go back to Geiger’s store and what happens there?
2. Who is waiting for Marlow at his office? What does she want?
Chapter 5 MARLOWE MEETS EDIE MARS.
1. Who does Marlowe find when he goes back to Geiger’s house? Why is she there? What do they talk about?
2. Who is Eddie Mars?
3. Mr. Mars owns the Cypress Club at Las Olindas where people can gamble. Write a short opinion essay giving your opinion about: Is gambling a dangerous activity? Find information about gambling first; laws, kinds, places, consequences...

Chapter 6 CARMEN WANTS HER PICTURES.
Write ten sentences explaining what happens at Joe Brody’s apartment.
1. Marlowe went up to Apartment 405 and rang the door.
2. ...
(Check chapter 6 too)

Chapter 7 GIEGER’S FRIED IS A KILLER.
Write a summary of what happened between Marlowe and Owen Taylor.

Chapter 8 MARLOWE HELPS THE POLICE.
1. What does Marlowe tell the police? Does he tell them everything he knows? Justify your answer.
2. Does the newspaper tell the real story? Why / why not?

Chapter 9 MARLOWE’S JOB IS FINISHED OR IS IT?
1. Why does Marlowe go to the Missing Person’s Bureau? What does he find out?
2. Where does he go after? What does he learn there?
   Opinion essay: Is gambling a dangerous activity?

Chapter 10 MARLOWE HAS WOMEN TROUBLE
1. What is strange about Mrs. Reagan’s behavior?
2. Imagine you are Vivian and you keep a diary about your personal life. Write a diary entry telling what happened between you and Marlowe. Write about your feelings.

Chapter 11 I KNOW WHERE MONA MARS IS.
1. Who is Henry Jones? What information does he give Marlowe?
2. What does Lash Canino look like? Who is he?

Chapter 12 THE SMALL MAN SLEEPS THE BIG SLEEP
1. Summarize in 5 sentences the conversation between Henry Jones and Lash Canino and explain how it ends.

2. What did Marlowe stop on his way to Realito? Where did he go?

Chapter 13 MONA MARS HELPS MARLOWE TO ESCAPE

1. Write a full description of Mona Mars.


Chapter 14 ”FIND HIM FOR ME, MARLOWE”

1. What does General Sternwood ask Marlowe to do?

2. What happens between Carmen and Marlowe?

Chapter 15 SLEEPING THE BIG SLEEP

1. Who and why killed Rusty Reagan?

2. What does the expression “sleeping the big sleep mean”?

POST- READING ACTIVITIES

1. Who is who? Write the names to finish the sentences.
   

   a) ................................owns a gambling club and sometimes employed Canino.

   b) ................................worked at the D.A’s office and was good with a gun.

   c) ..............................earned twenty-five dollars a day and didn’t like the rich.

   d) ..............................lived in a house with Chinese and Japanese pictures on the wall.

   e) ..............................sometimes had fits and did some very strange things.

   f) ..............................had some money of his own when he married a very rich person.

   g) ..............................paid another thousand dollars to find an Irishman.

   h) ..............................went to Eddie Mars for help with a problem.

   i) ..............................worked for the Sternwood family as a driver.

   j) ..............................wanted some money from Marlowe for some photos.

2. This is a short summary of the story but in it is not in order:

   What happened first?
- Marlowe follows a truck full of books from Geiger’s store to Joe Brody’s apartment.
- Carmen tries to shoot Marlowe and Marlowe talks to Vivian about Rusty’s murder.
- General Sternwood talks to Marlowe in his greenhouse about a problem of blackmail.
- Marlowe gets some information about Eddie Mars’s wife and he goes to Art Huck’s garage.
- Carmen arrives at Joe Brody’s apartment with a gun and asks for some photos.
- Marlowe visits Geiger’s store for the first time and talks to the blonde woman who works there.
- Marlowe chases and catches the man who has killed Joe Brody.
- Mona Mars frees Marlowe and Marlowe shoots Canino.
- Owen Taylor is found dead in one of the Sternwood’s cars.
- Marlowe goes to the D.A.’s officer with Bernie Ohls and they talk about the murders.

3. Give your opinion about “The big Sleep”.


5. Write about Marlowe