



THE WOMAN IN WHITE

WILKIE COLLINS

STAGE 3
B1
YOUNG ADULT READERS

ACTIVITY

Put these words into the right order to make questions.

1 smart | you | Can't | see | is | a | woman? | Miss Halcombe

2 money | your | you | of | wife's | have | How | got | now? | much

3 Is | wife? | there | more | you | from | get | your | nothing | can

4 died? | would | get | your | What | wife | if | you



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TEST YOURSELF

Who is it? Fill in each gap with the correct name (use the full name, then the first name only).

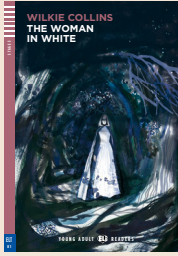
Anne Catherick
Sir Percival Glyde
Frederick Fairlie
Laura Fairlie
Walter Hartwright
Marian Halcombe

A young drawing teacher called 1 _____ meets a strange woman wearing white in the streets of London. The next day he leaves London for a new job. He will teach two young women, 2 _____ and her half-sister, 3 _____. They live in Limmeridge House in Cumberland with 4 _____, who is the uncle of 5 _____, a strange man who thinks he is ill when he is not.

6 _____ and 7 _____ discover that the woman in white is called 8 _____. They also understand that 9 _____ is another half-sister of 10 _____'s because they had the same father.

11 _____ falls in love with 12 _____, so 13 _____ tells him to leave. Her half-sister will marry a much older man, 14 _____.

ANSWERS:
1 Walter Hartwright; 2 Marian Halcombe; 3 Laura Fairlie; 4 Frederick Fairlie; 5 Laura Fairlie; 6 Walter (Hartwright); 7 Marian (Halcombe); 8 Anne Catherick; 9 Anne; 10 Laura; 11 Walter; 12 Laura; 13 Marian; 14 Sir Percival Glyde.



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PET - Speaking

Work in pairs. One of you read this note from Marian to Walter and answer questions about it. The other asks about what Marian has written. Use the prompts to help you.

Dear Walter,

I am very worried about my half-sister Laura. I have not seen her for several weeks. I have asked everyone I know where she is, but no one knows. That terrible man, her husband, is travelling in France. I am sure something bad has happened to her. Please come to London to help me find her.

Yours,
Marian

- what / she / worried about?
- why?
- what / do?
- where / Laura's husband?
- what / think happened?
- what / ask Walter to do?



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FOCUS ON...

The Sensation Novel

The sensation novel, also sensation fiction, was a literary genre of fiction that achieved peak popularity in Great Britain in the 1860s and 1870s. The Victorian sensation novel has been variously defined as a “novel-with-a-secret” and as the sort of novel that combines “romance and realism” in a way that “strains both modes to the limit.” Sensation novelists drew on the influences of melodrama and gothicism to explore themes considered provocative by societal norms and to question the artificiality of identity. In the 1860s, the sensation novels and theatre became closely intertwined; many of the famous sensation novelists wrote as well for the stage. Dickens, Reade, and Collins all wrote and acted for the theatre and for many novelists, the stage helped them to gain recognition as authors. Peter Brooks defines melodrama as an attempt, “to find, to articulate, to demonstrate, to ‘prove’ the existence of a moral universe which, though put into question, masked by villainy and perversions of judgement, does exist and can be made to assert its presence.

