



Explained by Forensics

Text Type: Playscript
Suggested finishing time: 25 mins



Listen!

Let's Think!

1. Do you like reading detective stories? Why or why not?
2. How much do you know about criminal investigation?

My Beloved Daisy

Characters

Detective Hunter

Robert

Mrs Nora Hall

Scene 1

In a living room, two men are standing next to a desk and an old lady is weeping.

- 5 Detective Hunter: Mrs Hall, there is no point in crying over what's gone. I need you to tell me everything you know about the accident, clearly and meticulously, without missing a single minor detail, okay?
- Robert: Now, it's what you can recall that matters the most, Mrs Hall. I do hope you understand this.
- 10 Mrs Nora Hall: *(holds back her tears)* I...I'm...sorry, sir. That hit me too...suddenly...and I just couldn't face the truth that Daisy's...I hope she's at peace by my husband's side now. She'd always been his favourite...his little angel...
- Detective Hunter: When was it that you discovered Daisy was breathing her last?
- Mrs Nora Hall: This morning...when I returned from my son's home, I saw Daisy lying in a pool of blood... *(points)* just right there in front of the cabinet. I couldn't find a single wound...She was still faintly breathing then. But it didn't last long... *(sniffles)*
- 15 Detective Hunter: Did you notice any strange behaviour in her, like getting unreasonably violent?
- Mrs Nora Hall: Quite the contrary. She's always like a quiet little angel. I'd only say she's not as active as she was when she first came to us. Sometimes she's even too lazy to eat. Perhaps it's because she's getting old with the approach of what was to be her 5th birthday.
- 20 Detective Hunter: Robert, collect every fingerprint and every strand of hair present near where Daisy's body lay for analysis and identification. Call in the forensics team as well.
- Robert: Yes, Detective Hunter.
- Detective Hunter: *(kneels down on one knee and examines the floor)* Mrs Hall, did you mop the floor?
- 25 Mrs Nora Hall: *(weepy, shakily wipes away her tears with a handkerchief)* I surely did, my dear... The longer my poor Daisy's blood stayed there, the more badly my heart ached!
- Detective Hunter: *(sighs)* Then the case has become a bit trickier now.

More to Take Away

Forensics does not necessarily give a definitive answer to every criminal case. There are still a number of unsolved crimes in the world, with Jack the Ripper's being one of the most notorious.

STEAM

A detective is a police officer who looks into crimes by visiting crime scenes, interviewing witnesses and gathering evidence. However, a private detective, who is not in the police, is paid to discover information about somebody or something.

Scene 2**In Detective Hunter's office, sounds of typing on the keyboard can be heard.**

- 30 Robert: Detective! The forensic department has just finished examining the evidence. Here's the detailed report. *(hands a document to Hunter)*
- Detective Hunter: *(takes the document and starts reading)* No matter how pointless the data might seem, time has its own way of unearthing the truth... *(puts down the document)* Wait, I now have an inkling of what might've happened. All we need to do now is to confirm with Mrs Hall. Let's go.

Scene 3**In a bedroom, Mrs Hall is packing some worn-out socks and rope bones into a plastic bag.**

- Robert: *(looks at the worn-out socks)* What are you doing, Mrs Hall?
- 40 Mrs Nora Hall: *(slowly picks up some ragged socks on the floor, with one hand holding a stick)* These pairs used to be Daisy's toys. My husband used to let Daisy play with his shabby socks, and Daisy held them really dear. Can you see the bite marks here? *(points at one)* Now without Daisy, they're useless, not to mention the fact that one is missing. *(bends down and picks up another sock)* What am I going to do with these valueless antiques? Their presence would only be a poignant reminder of the bygone half-century. That's why I'm throwing them out.
- 45 Detective Hunter: Mrs Hall, I have one question for you. Did your husband pass away last year?
- Mrs Nora Hall: Yes, sir. After a heart attack. How did you know that, Detective?
- Detective Hunter: The forensic team found something in Daisy's stomach that was very likely to be what caused her blood spitting, and I guess that was one of those things closely linked with Mr Hall...
- 50 Mrs Nora Hall: You're right. To Daisy, Jasper is her whole world...
- Robert: To Daisy, being with the sock must have felt like being with Mr Hall.
- Mrs Nora Hall: *(sobs)* If...if I had been more alert, Daisy would have been here with me now... It was all my fault. My fault! No matter how much you miss him, you shouldn't... My dear Daisy, why'd you leave me all alone?

~680 words

Looking into Grammar

'No matter' may be used with *wh*- words, including 'how', to state that something does not or will not affect a situation.

- ✗ No matter how cheap is the new phone, I will not buy it.
- ✓ No matter how cheap the new phone is, I will not buy it.

🔍 Underline a sentence in which 'no matter' is used in the playscript.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the playscript. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. At the beginning of the playscript, Hunter sounds _____ while asking Mrs Hall to _____.
- A. exasperated...stop being so emotional
 - B. solemn...calm down and cooperate
 - C. sorry...explain the situation
 - D. arrogant...be a responsible witness

1 What kind of person does Hunter seem to be?

Q1: Hunter acts straight to the point as a detective who is there only to solve a crime, hence option B.

2. According to lines 14-20, we know that Daisy _____.
- I. lost a lot of blood
 - II. had been savagely assaulted
 - III. used to be Mr Hall's all-time companion
 - IV. encountered difficulty breathing
- A. I and II
 - B. I and IV
 - C. I, II and III
 - D. I, III and IV
3. From Mrs Hall's response, we know that Daisy _____.
- A. has been dead by Mrs Hall's return
 - B. might have died of old age
 - C. is beloved of the couple
 - D. did not have a healthy appetite
4. In line 18, 'Quite the contrary.' can best be replaced by '_____'.
- A. It's nearly the same.
 - B. It's vastly different.
 - C. It's the opposite.
 - D. It's a complete mystery.

5. Which of the following is NOT a reason why Detective Hunter sighs at the end of scene 1?
- A. The case has become more difficult to solve.
 - B. Mrs Hall gets emotional again.
 - C. Some evidence might have disappeared as Mrs Hall has mopped the floor.
 - D. He might need to find other kinds of clues to solve the case.

6. The findings from the forensics team may be _____.
- 6 Pay attention to the plot.
- A. thought-provoking
 - B. highly irrelevant
 - C. concise and precise
 - D. comprehensive

7. In line 42, 'these valueless antiques' refers to _____.
- strategy
- A. Mrs Hall's socks
 - B. useless domestic items
 - C. all of Daisy's toys
 - D. Mr Hall's old clothing

8. Which of the following is NOT true about Mrs Hall?
- strategy
- A. She finds out Daisy's cause of death at last.
 - B. She and her husband have a son.
 - C. She is in her 40s.
 - D. She has a close bond with Daisy.



Self-evaluation
Checklist

Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the playscript. For questions 1, 4 and 6, answer in complete sentences.

1. What exactly is Daisy's cause of death?
 Q1: In scene 1, we know that there is a close bond between Daisy and Mr Hall, and that no wounds can be found on Daisy's body. Second, in scene 3, we know that a sock is found in Daisy's body. As a result, it can be deduced that Daisy dies after eating Mr Hall's sock.
Consuming an inedible object, namely Mr Hall's sock, is Daisy's cause of death.



2. Look at the following pronouns and answer who/what they refer to in the playscript.

Pronoun	Line	Reference
it	line 16	(i) Daisy's (faint) breathing
we	line 33	(ii) Detective Hunter and Robert
one	line 41	(iii) one of Mr Hall's shabby socks
that	line 46	(iv) the fact that Mrs Hall's husband passed away last year

3. Look for a stage direction that hints at Mrs Hall's physical condition. **3** Pay attention to words in brackets.

slowly picks up some ragged socks on the floor, with one hand holding a stick

4. Do you think the findings of the forensic report are 'pointless (line 31)'? Explain your answer.

(Any reasonable answers)

No, I don't think so because the report gives Detective Hunter an important idea of what might have happened. Had it not been for the report, he might not have figured out that Daisy in fact had swallowed a sock.



5. What is the background information about Daisy? Complete the summary table below. Some of the details have been completed to help you.

Name	Daisy
Gender	(i) <u>female</u>
Owner(s)	Nora Hall, (ii) <u>Jasper Hall</u>
Age of death	(iii) <u>4</u>
Death scene	The (iv) <u>living room</u> of (v) <u>(Mrs) Nora (Hall)'s</u> flat

6. Mrs Hall shows regret at the end of scene 3. In your opinion, to what does she wish she had been more alert? Why? Explain your answer. (Any reasonable answers)

I think she wishes she had been more alert to Daisy's emotional needs, because,

6 Think about what led to the incident.

if she had, she might have kept a more watchful eye on Daisy and somehow prevented the incident.

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of different kinds of forensic evidence and forensic examinations from the word box.

microscopy

blood sampling

bite mark

fingerprint

gunshot residue

graphology

shoeprint

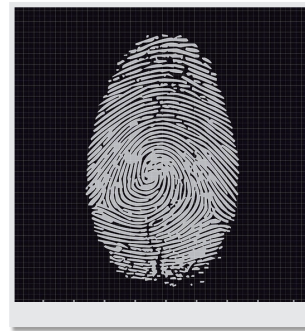
toxicology



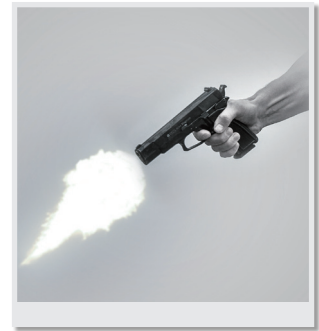
1. bite mark



2. shoeprint



3. fingerprint



4. gunshot residue



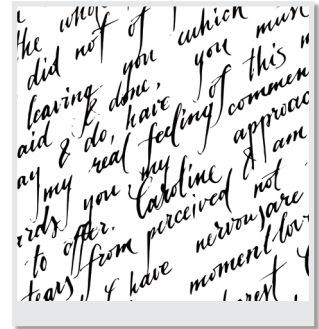
5. microscopy



6. toxicology



7. blood sampling



8. graphology

Word Craft

Graphology (Refer to the same page.)

The suffix **-ology** is used to construct words that refer to the scientific study of a particular subject.

e.g. **biology** (=the scientific study of living things)
bacteriology (=the scientific study of bacteria)
climatology (=the scientific study of climate)

Let's Discuss!

1. What should you do or not do at a crime scene as a detective?
2. In your opinion, what qualities should a detective possess?

