



The Woman in White

Book key

- 1 a exclaim, gasp, sigh
b veil, waistcoat
c accomplice, ancestor, angel, gamekeeper, maid
d asylum, veranda, vestry
- 2 a She is a lonely, frightened young woman dressed all in white who Walter Hartright meets one night on a lonely road in London. Her real name is Anne Catherick. She looks very like Laura Fairlie and knows a dangerous secret about Sir Percival Glyde.
b He is famous for writing the first detective novels in English.
c *The Woman in White* (1860) and *The Moonstone* (1868).
d Sir Percival Glyde and his friend, Count Fosco.
- 3 a French > Art
b Hampstead Heath > Limmeridge House
c Cumberland > London
d sister > half-sister
e interested > uninterested
f Marian > Laura
g Marian > Laura
h Gilmore > Glyde
i good > bad/wicked
- 4 a Because he meets her at night on a lonely road. She frightens him by touching him on the shoulder from behind and is dressed all in white. She tells him that she wants to go to London, and he discovers that she lived in a village called Limmeridge, where Walter is going to work.
b Because the Woman in White talked about a village school that she went to as a child in Limmeridge for some months. She said it was run by Mrs Fairlie, who was Marian's mother and her good friend. Marian finds a letter from her mother which describes a little girl who went to the village school one summer. She was called Anne Catherick and always wore white.
c Because she knows that Walter is in love with Laura. But Laura's future husband is arriving in a few days and the couple will marry soon.
d It was arranged two years ago by Laura's father, before he died.
e Because it describes Sir Percival exactly and says that he is an evil man who will harm Laura if she marries him.

5–6 Open answers

- 7 a 5 b 3 c 6 d 4 e 1 f 7 g 2
- 8 a Walter and Marian ask people at the village school if they have seen a strange woman. A little boy tells them this and adds that the ghost was in the churchyard, standing by a grave with a white cross. Marian realizes that the grave is her mother's.
b Walter finds the Woman in White by the grave. She tells him that she is indeed Anne Catherick and that she has run away from an asylum, where she was placed by Sir Percival Glyde.
c Marian says this to Walter. They are not happy about Laura's marriage to Sir Percival and want to know why he put Anne Catherick in an asylum.
d Mr Fairlie writes this in a note to Walter after Walter has told him that he is going to leave Limmeridge House.
e The farmer's wife at Todd's Corner says this to Walter and Marian when they come to talk to Anne Catherick. She says that Anne has left and that she became ill when she was told that Sir Percival Glyde was coming to Limmeridge House.
f The family lawyer, Mr Gilmore, says this to Walter after Marian has told him about the letter to Laura. He says he will send a copy of the letter to Sir Percival and ask for an explanation.
g Marian says this to Walter on the last evening before Walter leaves. Laura has suddenly left the room without saying goodbye to Walter.
h Laura returns when Walter is alone and says these words to him. He realizes then that she loves him.
- 9 a Anne Catherick seems sad, confused and very frightened.
b Marian is a lively, friendly young woman who uses her high intelligence to try and discover the truth about the letter and Anne Catherick.
c Mr Fairlie is a very nervous man, interested in nothing except his own health.

10–11 Open answers

- 12 a ✓ b ✗ c ✗ d ✓ e ✗ f ✓ g ✗ h ✗
i ✗ j ✓
- 13 a ... Anne's mother worked as a loyal servant for Sir Percival several years ago. Anne had had mental problems since she was a child and her problems became so bad that Sir Percival paid for her to be placed in an asylum where she would be well looked after.



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- b** ... she found out that he had placed her in the asylum. She had not understood that he had done this out of kindness. As a result she hated him.
- c** ... to go to Marian.
- d** ... he is selfish and doesn't want to be disturbed.
- e** ... contacting two old friends of her mothers who are able to find Walter work. He is offered a place on an expedition to South America.
- f** ... agreeing that the marriage will take place on 22nd December, which is in four weeks' time, far too soon for Laura.
- g** ... take Laura to Italy for six months. There they will meet Sir Percival's old friend, Count Fosco. In June they will go back to Sir Percival's home and Marian will come and live there.

14–16 Open answers

17 **a** six

- b** Mrs Catherick
- c** rude
- d** lawyer
- e** money
- f** sign
- g** figure
- h** Anne Catherick
- i** destroy

- 18 **a** In the boathouse at Blackwater Park she finds a dog that has been shot. She learns from the housekeeper that the dog belongs to Mrs Catherick, who had come to Blackwater Park in secret, looking for her daughter.
- b** Mrs Catherick had asked the housekeeper not to tell Sir Percival that she had been there. But Sir Percival had said that he and Mrs Catherick knew each other well.
- c** Mr Merriman is Sir Percival's lawyer. He tells Sir Percival that he has debts that he must pay very soon and that he must persuade Laura to sign a document giving him her money so that he can pay these debts.
- d** She says she can't sign anything unless she knows what it is.
- e** Laura thinks she has dropped a little bracelet in the boathouse and goes there to find it. Anne Catherick is there and has found the bracelet.
- f** Because she realizes there is someone out there watching them.
- g** They agree to meet the next day at the same time.

- 19 **a** Laura has changed a lot since she married Sir Percival. She no longer looks innocent and happy and her eyes look sad. She tells Marian that she is very unhappy and that Sir Percival treats her cruelly.
- b** Marian feels guilty because she told Walter to leave Limmeridge House and encouraged him to travel to South America, a very dangerous place. She did this so that Laura could keep her promise to Sir Percival, who treats her cruelly.
- c** Count Fosco is a very fat man of about sixty who wears colourful, expensive clothes. He is very interesting and attractive, particularly to women. He talks well and knows how to listen. He loves small animals and birds and keeps pet mice. Marian thinks he has a strong influence over Sir Percival and sees him as very dangerous.

20–21 Open answers

22 **a** 4 **b** 8 **c** 6 **d** 2 **e** 1 **f** 7 **g** 3 **h** 5

- 23 **a** In her note, Anne Catherick tells Laura that she was seen by a fat old man and had to run away. As Laura reads the note in the boathouse, Sir Percival comes in and is very angry. Marian and Laura realize that Count Fosco saw Anne and told Sir Percival.
- b** In their conversation, the two men discuss the fact that they desperately need money. Count Fosco suggests to Sir Percival that if Laura died soon he would get her money. Sir Percival replies that the problem is Anne Catherick, who knows a terrible secret about him, which is why he shut her up in the asylum. He says he must find her and that she looks like Laura would look after a long illness. Count Fosco says that he now knows what to look for.
- c** Marian becomes ill after listening to the conversation between Sir Percival and Count Fosco in the rain. Sir Percival sends the housekeeper, Mrs Michelson, away for a few days, and when she returns he tells her that Count Fosco has taken Marian to London with him and that Marian will then go north to Limmeridge House. Laura has also been ill for a few days and he tells her to follow Marian to London, which she does.
- d** Walter returns from South America. He is very shocked when he hears of Laura's death and goes to visit her grave. There he sees two veiled women, who lift their veils when they see him. They are Marian and Laura.



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24 This chapter is told by Count Fosco's new cook, Hester Pinhorn. She says that Laura arrives at Count Fosco's house looking very ill and frightened. As soon as she arrives, she faints. A doctor is called and says she has a serious heart disease and will die very soon. Laura dies the next day and the Count seems very upset. Arrangements are made to bury Laura in the same grave as her mother. Sir Percival is abroad and unable to come to the funeral, but Count Fosco goes.

25–26 Open answers

27 a Walter **b** Mr Gilmore **c** Lady Glyde

d Marian **e** Count Fosco **f** Count Fosco

g Mr Fairlie **h** Walter **i** Mrs Catherick

28 a Walter, Marian and Laura have gone to London and are renting rooms in a poor part of the city in order to hide from Sir Percival and Count Fosco. Laura is greatly changed because of the experiences she has had.

b When Marian recovers from her illness at Blackwater Park, the housekeeper, who is the only person still there, tells her that Laura has gone to stay with Count Fosco. Marian then receives a letter from Count Fosco saying that Laura had become ill and died very suddenly.

c Sir Percival writes a letter to Mr Fairlie saying that Anne Catherick is in an asylum and claims she is Lady Glyde. Sir Percival tells Mr Fairlie to ignore her letter, if she writes.

d Marian finds Laura in the asylum and offers a nurse money to help Laura escape. The nurse agrees.

e When Laura arrives at Count Fosco's house, she is given some drugged tea and becomes unconscious. When she wakes up she is in an asylum and is wearing Anne Catherick's clothes.

f When Marian takes Laura back to Limmeridge House, no one recognizes her because her appearance has changed so much. Because of Sir Percival's letter, Mr Fairlie believes Laura is Anne Catherick and threatens to call the police. Marian decides that they must leave Limmeridge House and go to London.

29–32 Open answers

33 a ✓ **b** ✗ **c** ✓ **d** ✗ **e** ✗ **f** ✗ **g** ✗ **h** ✓

34 a Sir Percival dies in a fire in the church. He has come there to destroy the marriage records because Mrs Catherick has warned him that Walter knows his secret. However, he locks himself in the vestry, where the records are kept, and lights a match. This starts a fire but the lock on the door breaks and he cannot get out. He dies in the fire.

b He climbs on to the vestry roof and breaks a small glass window. But flames shoot out and he cannot see Sir Percival. Then he and some men find a long piece of wood and break down the vestry door but they cannot enter because of the flames.

c He sells his house in North London and goes to live abroad. Walter does not pursue him. Years later, it is learnt that he died in Paris.

d Walter and Laura marry. They tell Mr Gilmore the story and he informs Mr Fairlie. They go to Limmeridge House and tell everyone the truth about what happened and then return to London. A year later they have a son called Walter. Mr Fairlie dies and Laura becomes the owner of Limmeridge House.

35–46 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–39 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

1 a a sketch

b a fortune

c to disturb

d a settlement

e a maid

2 a Walter to the Woman in White; when he suddenly met her at Hampstead Heath and she asked him to help her.

b The Woman in White to Walter; when he told her he was going to Limmeridge House the next day.

c Marian to Walter; during their first meeting when she was describing Mr Fairlie.

d Marian to Walter; on reading her mother's letters she found some information which could be relevant to the Woman in White.

e Marian to Walter; when she guessed that Walter had fallen in love with Laura.



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- 3 a ~~a long dark blue coat~~ > white clothes
b ~~to meet Walter Hartright~~ > to visit Mrs Fairlie's grave
c Anne Catherick didn't get on well with her mother and didn't want to visit her.
d Mr Fairlie was upset by Walter's decision to leave and got disappointed in him.
e Mr Gilmore was the Fairlies' family lawyer. He was going to draw up Laura's marriage settlement.
f Mr Gilmore and Marian did most of the talking, Laura and Walter were sad and silent.

- 4 a servant
b hesitation
c drew up
d give in
e containing
f damaged
g jewellery
5 a housekeeper
b ancestor
c gloomy
d gamekeeper
e innocent
f creep (crept)
g to attend to
h relationship
i to work out

6 a F b F c F d T e F f T g T

- 7 a ... have met Count Fosco
b ... wouldn't have run away
c ... wouldn't have heard Sir Percival and Count Fosco's conversation
d ... wouldn't have become ill
e ... would not have seen Laura, Lady Glyde, at her own grave

8 a 4 b 3 c 6 d 2 e 1 f 5

9 a T b F c T d F e T f T g T h F
i F

- 10 a ... because the lock was broken.
b Walter Hartright tried to rescue him.
c Laura's father was Anne Catherick's father too.
d Count Fosco died in Paris.
e Mr Fairlie died of a heart attack.
f Laura inherited Limmeridge House.

11–12 Open answers

Progress test key

1 a 2 b 1 c 1

- 2 a Marian
b The Woman in White/Anne Catherick
c The Woman in White/Anne Catherick
d The farmer's wife
e Frederick Fairlie
f Mr Gilmore

3 a 4 b 2 c 1 d 5 e 3

- 4 a Marian
b cruel and wicked
c dangerous
d guilty
e bracelet
f Anne Catherick
g Glyde

5 a T b T c F d F e T f T g F

- 6 a Laura
b Count Fosco
c Marian
d Count Fosco
e Mrs Catherick
f Walter Hartright
g Mrs Catherick

7 a F b T c T d T e F f F g T