

# UPAAN

## 2025

### The Midnight Visitor

(Footprints Without Feet)

English - B

Lecture - 03

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# Topics

*to be covered*

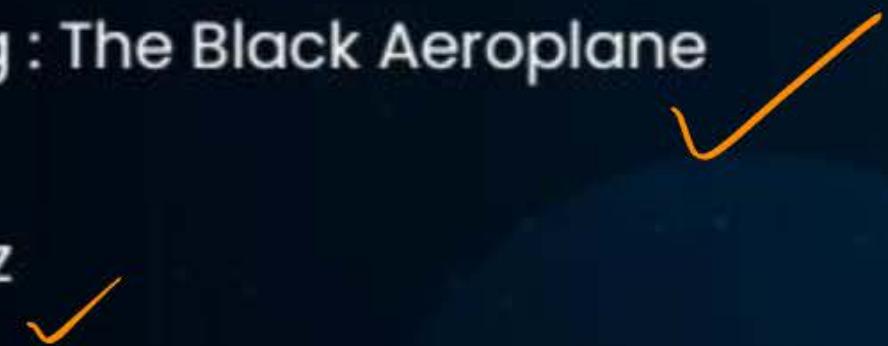
- 1 Warm-up Game ✓
- 2 Footprints without Feet: The Midnight Visitor ✓
- 3 NCERT Exercise and Quiz ✓



# Recap

of previous Lecture

- 1 Warm-up Game
- 2 Two Stories About Flying : The Black Aeroplane
- 3 NCERT Exercise and Quiz





**Game time!**

**POLICE STATION**

**POLICE**



## Can you solve this mystery?

A man reported a robbery to the police. When they arrived at his house where he lived alone, they saw a broken window with its glass scattered on the lawn outside.

The man told the police that the robber must have entered the house from the window. There were footsteps leading to the living room from the window. The living room was a complete mess, with everything thrown on the floor.

After inspecting the scene, the police did not look for the robber. Instead, they asked the man to stop lying.

Why would they do that?



## Topic : The Midnight Visitor



**By - 'Robert Arthur'**

- It is an interesting story that illustrates the thrill and excitement involved in the field of spying.
- It elaborates how the key to survival in difficult situations is quick thinking and perfect planning.



Ausable

रुक्मिणी

Fowler

Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the hardly exciting happening sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.

place



Ausable was, for one thing, fat. Very fat. And

EST

then there was his accent. Though he spoke French

just well enough

completely

and German passably, he had never altogether lost

the American accent he had brought to Paris from

France

Boston twenty years ago.

VS



निराशा

rough noise while speaking

"You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily

over his shoulder. "You were told that I was a secret

जासूस

जासूसी

agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You

wished to meet me because you are a writer, young

imagined enigmatic ; रहस्यमूर्ति

and romantic. You envisioned mysterious figures in

the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine."





boring  
badly dressed  
Instead, you have spent a dull evening in a French music hall with a sloppy  
given

fat man who, instead of having messages slipped into his hand by dark-eyed  
a beautiful woman with dark eyes

beauties, gets only a prosaic telephone call making an appointment in his room.

Ordinary      laugh quietly with opening mouth  
You have been bored!" The fat man chuckled to himself as he unlocked the door

one side      annoyed; upset  
of his room and stood aside to let his frustrated guest enter.

disappointed get happy  
"You are disillusioned," Ausable told him. "But take cheer,  
my young friend. Presently <sup>Now</sup> you will see a paper, a quite  
important paper for which several <sup>many</sup> men and women have  
risked their lives, come to me. Some day soon that paper  
may well affect <sup>influence</sup> the course of history. In that thought is  
drama, is there not?"

As he spoke, Ausable closed the door behind him. Then  
he switched on the light.

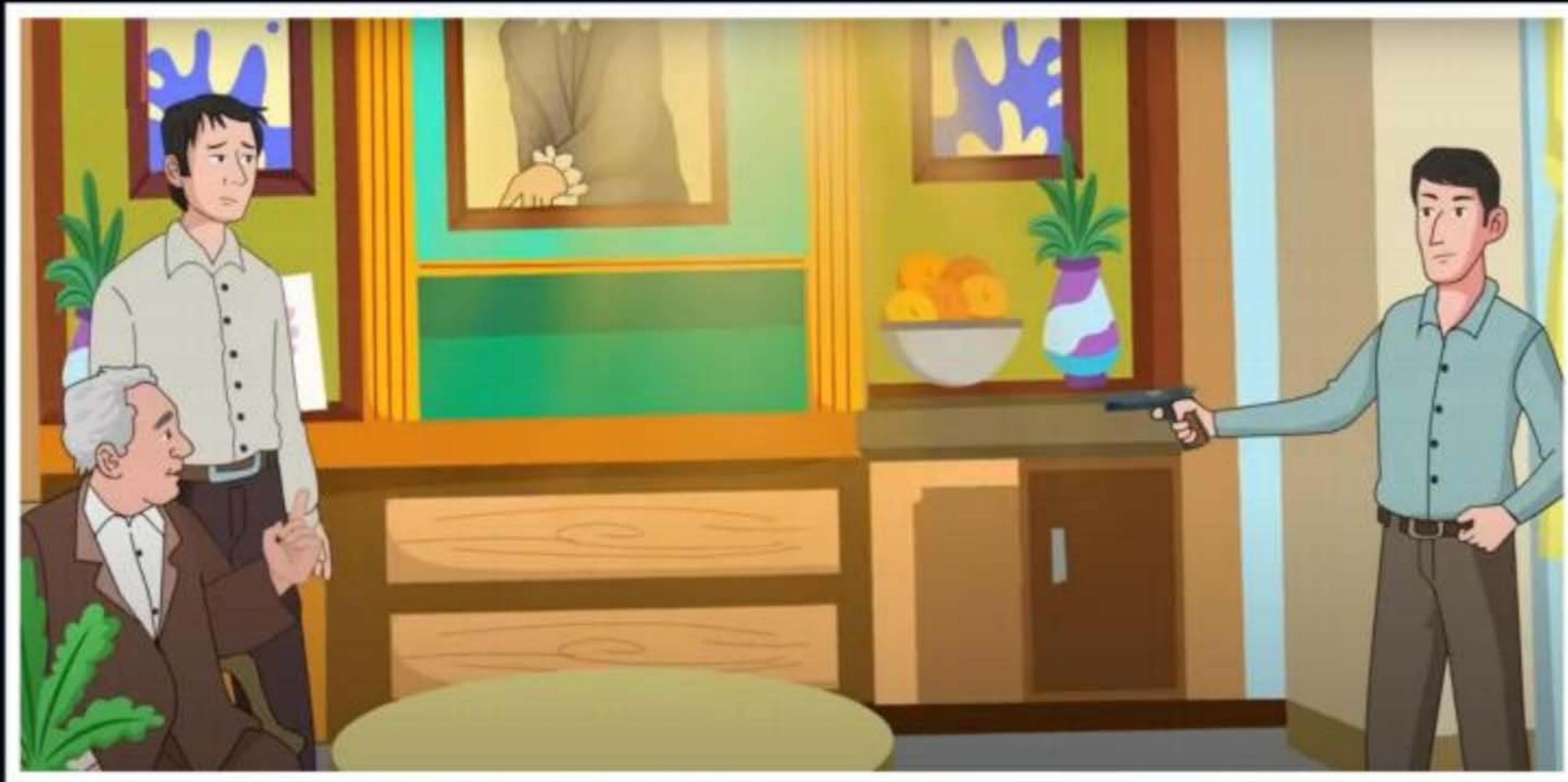


lit up

original रोमान्य

And as the light came on, Fowler had his first authentic thrill of the day.

For halfway across the room, a small automatic pistol in his hand, stood a man.





4/10 5/14 01-11

Ausable blinked a few times.

"Max," he speaking noisily, "you gave me quite a start. I thought you were in Berlin." shock

What are you doing here in my room?"

Max was slender, a little less than tall, with features that suggested slightly the cunning; clever little

crafty, pointed countenance of a fox. There was about him - aside from the gun -

nothing especially menacing.

Scary; dangerous

appearance; facial expression

having



Speak slowly, ਤੁਸ੍ਤੂਸਾਨਾ

"The report," he murmured. "The report that is being brought to you tonight concerning some new missiles. I thought I would take it from you. It will be safer in my hands than in yours."

bring; ਲਾਈ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ

Ausable moved to an armchair and sat down heavily.

*Complain loudly*

"I'm going to raise the devil with the management this time,

*रटि*

*Seriously*

and you can bet on it," he said grimly. "This is the second

time in a month that somebody has got into my room

*annoying*

through that nuisance of a balcony!" Fowler's eyes went to

the single window of the room. It was an ordinary window,

*darkness behind the window*

against which now the night was pressing blackly.

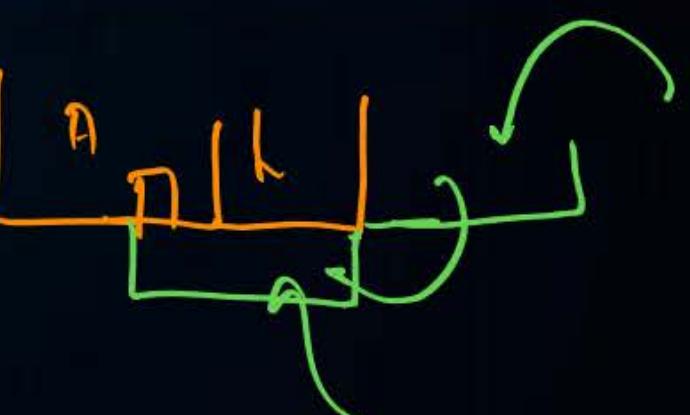




*change in tone*  
“Balcony?” Max said, with a rising inflection. “No, a passkey. I did not  
know about the balcony. It might have saved me some trouble had I  
*masterkey*  
known.”  
*problem*

"It's not my balcony," Ausable said with extreme irritation. "It belongs to the next apartment." He glanced <sup>to see for a short time</sup> explanatorily at Fowler. "You see," he said, "this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room - through that door there - used to be the living room.

It had the balcony, which <sup>Stretches</sup> extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors <sup>front</sup> down - and somebody did, last month. The management promised to <sup>try</sup> block it off. But they haven't."



Max glanced at Fowler, who was standing stiffly not far

*rigid; tensed manner*

from Ausable, and waved the gun with a commanding

gesture

*to order someone*

gesture. "Please sit down," he said. "We have a wait of half an

hour, I think."





"Thirty-one minutes," Ausable said moodily. "The

appointment was for twelve-thirty. I wish I knew how you learned about the report, Max."

The little spy smiled evilly. "And we wish we knew how

your people got the report. But no harm has been done. I will get it back tonight. What is that? Who is at the door?"



E o h G H      Q a c R a d I A I

Fowler jumped at the sudden knocking at the door.

Ausable just smiled. "That will be the police," he said. "I

thought that such an important paper as the one we are

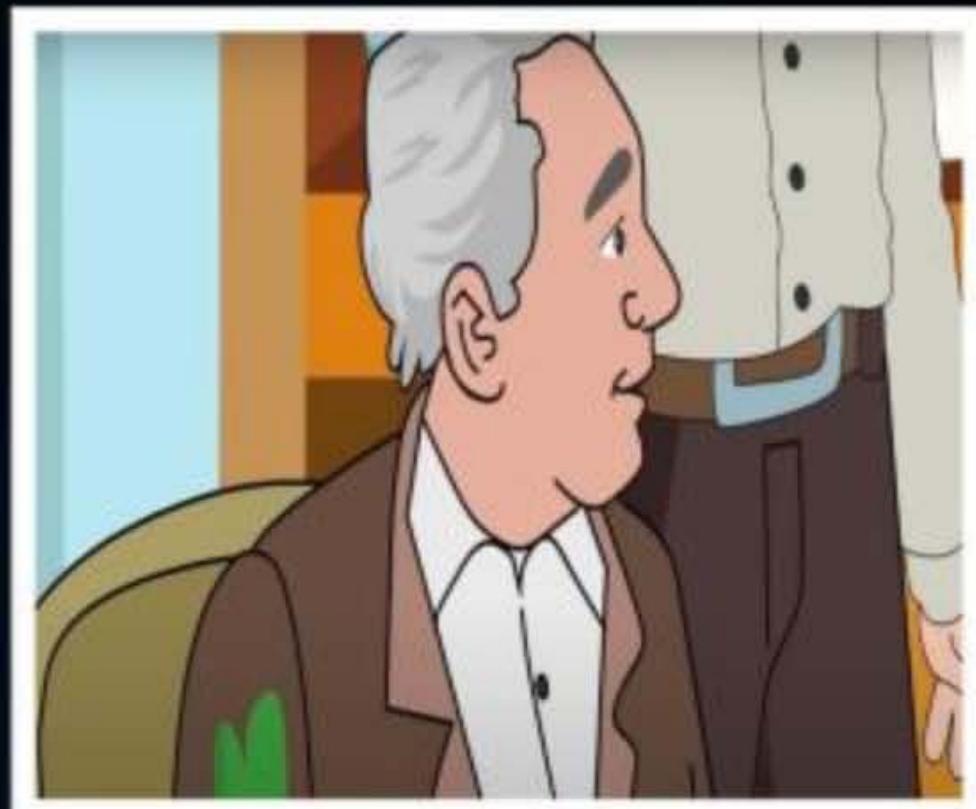
waiting for should have a little extra protection. I told

them to check on me to make sure everything was all

to verify

right."

F f d - S T A





Max bit his lip nervously. The knocking was repeated.

"What will you do now, Max?" Ausable asked. "If I do not answer the door, they will enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot."



to move

extremely angry

sill

Max's face was black with anger as he backed swiftly towards the window.

swing

He swung a leg over the sill. "Send them away!" he warned. "I will wait on the

window frame

take risk

balcony. Send them away or I'll shoot and take my chances!"

The knocking at the door became louder and a voice was raised. "Mr. Ausable! Mr. Ausable!"

bent ; नुदा दृढ़ा

Keeping his body twisted so that his gun still covered the fat man and his guest, the man at the window grasped the

hold ; ग्रिप

frame with his free hand to support himself. Then he swung his other leg up and over the window-sill.



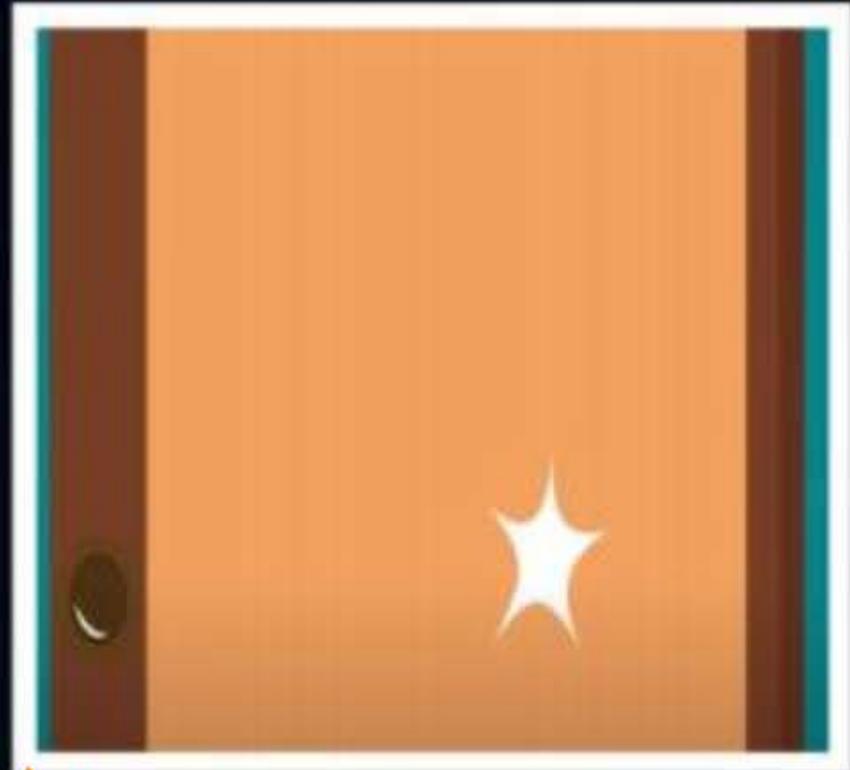


Quickly

The doorknob turned. Swiftly Max pushed with his left hand to free himself from the sill and drop to the balcony.

And then, as he dropped, he screamed once, shrilly.

Cried, Fyordig! in a high-pitched voice



The door opened and a waiter stood there with a tray, a bottle and two glasses. "Here is the drink you ordered for when you returned," he said, and set the tray on the table, deftly uncorked the bottle, and left the room.

१८८



Henry

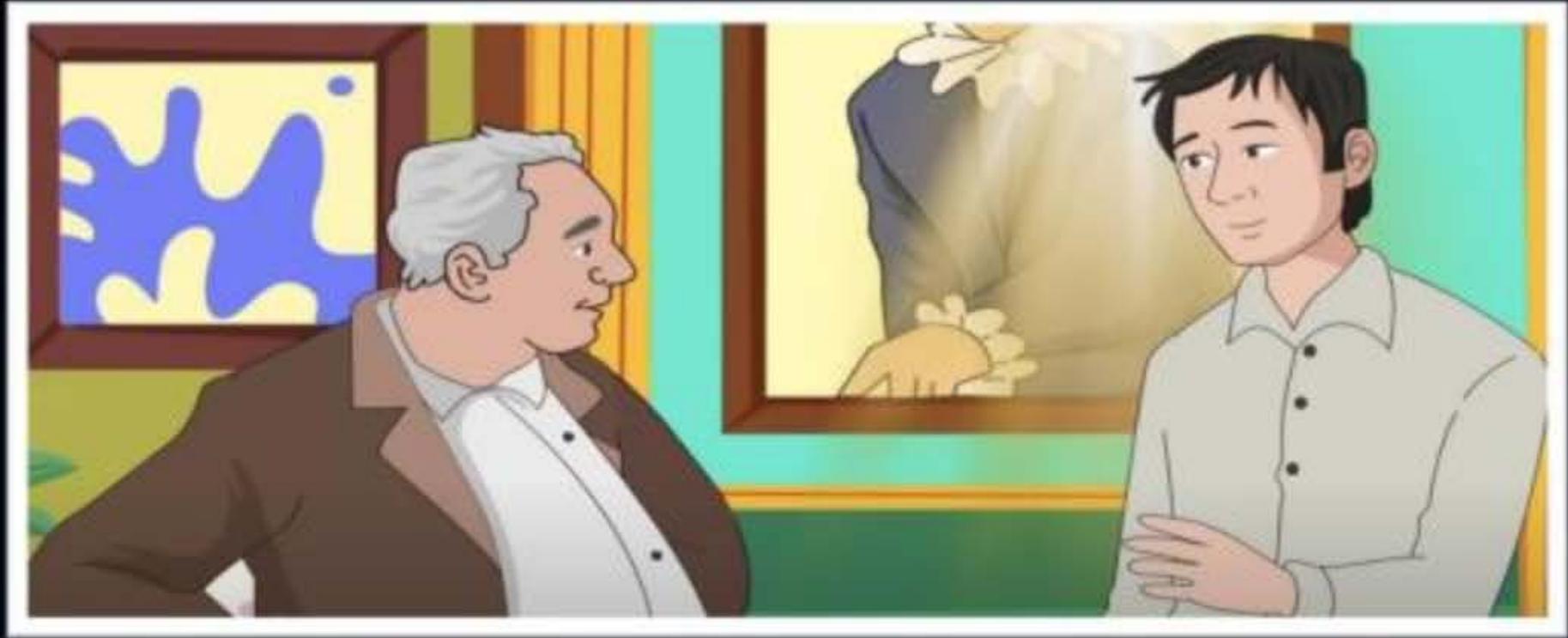


*Earth 911*

White-faced, Fowler stared after him. "But..." he stammered, "the police..."

"There were no police." Ausable sighed. "Only Henry, whom I was expecting."

"But won't that man out on the balcony...?" Fowler began.



"No," said Ausable, "he won't return. You see, my young friend, there is no balcony."





## Topic : Message



- ① Be calm especially in the face of danger!
- ② Don't judge a person by his appearance.
- ③ Never trust someone without verifying.

**#Q. Who was Ausable?**

- A** A writer
  - B** A clever man
  - C** A policeman
  - D** A secret agent
- ✓** (An orange checkmark is placed next to option D.)

#Q. On meeting Ausable, Fowler was -

- A surprised
- B disappointed
- C sad
- D happy

#Q. "You gave me ~~a good~~ start. I thought you were in Berlin." What are you doing in my room." -Who said these lines?

- A Fowler
- B Max
- C Ausable
- D Henry

#Q. What was Max trying to obtain?

- A secret paper
- B Money
- C Business secret
- D National secret

**#Q. What was Fowler's reaction on seeing Max?**

- A Happy
- B Stunned ✓
- C Startled/surprised
- D No reaction

#Q. How did Ausable got rid of Max?

- A By fighting him
- B Through his intelligence
- C By surrendering
- D By weaving a story

#Q. 'If I do not answer the door, they'll enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot.'- Who is actually at door?

- A Police
- B Ausable
- C Henry
- D Max

**#Q. What was Fowler's 'first thrill of the day'?**

**A** Meeting Ausable

**B** Sight of a man with automatic pistol

**C** Seeing a very important paper

**D** None of the above



#Q. How is Ausable different from other secret agents?

#Q. Who is Fowler and what is his first authentic thrill of the day? ←

#Q. How has Max got in?

#Q. How does Ausable say he got in?

#Q. "Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read." What do secret agents in books and films look like, in your opinion? ↗

#Q. How does Ausable manage to make Max believe that there is a balcony attached to his room? Look back at his detailed description of it. What makes it a convincing story?

~~Ausable~~ ~~H.W.~~

#Q Looking back at the story, when do you think Ausable thought up his plan for getting rid of Max? Do you think he had worked out his plan in detail right from the beginning? Or did he make up a plan taking advantage of events as they happened?



## Topic : Key Points



### The Story Setting

- gloomy French hotel
- musty corridor
- small room, 6th floor

### Description of Ausable

- very fat, American accent - spoke French and German
- Boston, US - Paris, France



## Fowler Disappointed

- expected to meet a spy - dealing in spying and danger
- spent a dull evening - French music hall - sloppy fat man
- prosaic phone call making appointment in room
- 'You've been bored'

## Ausable's room and the first thrill of the day

- You're disillusioned, but take cheer
- an important paper-course of history
  - In that thought is there drama?
- Thrill: a man with an automatic pistol halfway across the room
- Ausable's reaction - blinked and wheezed, '*Max! You gave me quite a start! You should be in Berlin. What are you doing in my room.*'





## Description of Max

- Slender
- less than tall
- Features suggesting crafty, pointy countenance of a fox
- not menacing



## Max's Mission

- Why did he come?
  - To take the Report concerning new missiles
- Ausable's reaction and complaint about nuisance of a Balcony
- Moved to armchair and sat down
  - Going to raise the devil with the management this time



- 2<sup>nd</sup> time someone broke in
  - ✓ Max surprised to know about Balcony – passkey – saved trouble
  - ✓ Fowler reaction looking at the window
- Ausable's explanation about how Balcony got there



## The Final episode

- Max's command to sit down & wait
- meeting in 31 mins - 12.30 appointment
- Wish I knew how you got the report
- Knock at the door!
  - 'What is that? Who is that?'

- Fowler jumped - Ausable smiled
  - *'That'll be the police! I thought such an important paper as the one we are waiting for should have a little extra protection. I told them to check on me to make sure everything was alright.'*
- Max scared, bit his lips nervously backed towards Window
  - *Ausable asked, 'What will you do Max? If I don't answer the door, they enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot.'*

## Conclusion

- Max's face, black with anger - backed swiftly towards window
- Swung one leg over sill
- '*Send them away. I'll wait on the Balcony. Send them away or I'll shoot and take my chances.*'
- Knocking louder - 'Mr. Ausable!...' 'Mr. Ausable'
- Doorknob turned - Henry with a tray, a bottle and two glasses
  - The Final Drop - Screamed shrilly
  - White-faced Fowler: 'But won't that man on the balcony...?'





## Topic : Summary



- Fowler was a young and romantic writer. He wanted to meet Ausable because he wanted to write a book on detectives.
- Ausable was a detective in Paris who was fat and sloppy and hardly looked like a secret agent.
- When Ausable switched on the light, he found Max standing with a pistol in his hand in the room.
- Max had come to take a particularly important report concerning missiles forcibly from Ausable.



- Ausable cooked up a false story to entrap crafty Max.
- He told Max that the balcony below his window had become a big nuisance.
- It was the second time in a month that somebody got into his room through the balcony.
- He also made Max panicky by telling him that the knockings at the door were of the police, whom he had already informed.



- When Max became panicky, he came to the window and jumped out of it.
- A loud cry was heard and, in this way, Ausable got rid of his crafty enemy.
- Later on, it was found that the knockings at the door were made by the waiter, who entered the room with a bottle and two glasses as ordered by Ausable.



## Topic : Glossary



- **Romantic** - imaginative; having a fantastic view of reality
- **Passably** - just well enough; tolerably well
- **Espionage** - spying
- **Sloppy** - (here) carelessly dressed
- **Prosaic** - ordinary
- **Chuckled** - laughed quietly, without opening his mouth
- **Wheezed** - spoke breathing noisily and heavily
- **Missiles** - weapons directed by remote control or automatically
- **Shrilly** - piercingly; in a high pitch

- Musty - smelling of mould/ fungus
- Gloomy - cheerless
- Let down - disappointed
- Romantic adventure - exciting happening
- Accent - a distinctive way in which people in a particular area, country or social group pronounce words
- Passably - just well enough to be understood
- Wheezily - with a whistling sound
- Espionage - spying
- Envisioned - imagined

- Sloppy - (here) carelessly dressed
- Slipped - passed secretly
- Prosaic - routine/ordinary
- Chuckled - laughed quietly without opening the mouth
- Disillusioned - disappointed
- Take cheer - be happy
- Affect the Course of History - change the way things happened or will happen
- Drama - excitement
- Authentic thrill - a real feeling of excitement

- **Wheezed** - spoke breathing noisily and heavily
- **Start** - shock
- **Slender** - gracefully thin
- **Crafty, pointed Countenance** - cunning look
- **Menacing** - dangerous
- **Missiles** - weapons directed by remote control or automatically
- **Raise the devil** - make a strong protest
- **Grimly** - seriously
- **Nuisance** - causing annoyance
- **Pressing blackly** - showing total darkness

- Inflection - change of tone
- Passkey - duplicate key
- Block it off - close it
- Check on - meet
- Backed swiftly - went back quickly
- Take my chances - to do something that involves risks
- Shrilly - piercingly/in a high pitch
- Deftly - neatly and skillfully
- Uncorked - removed the top cover
- White-faced - pale from fear

- #Q. How is Ausable different from other secret agents? (CBSE 2011, 2020)
- #Q. Henry unintentionally saved Ausable's life. Briefly comment. (CBSE Question Bank 2021)
- #Q. Max was unprepared for his mission. Discuss with reference to the chapter 'The Midnight Visitor'. (CBSE Question Bank 2021)
- #Q. Ausable displays an acute sense of awareness of his surroundings. Justify with any two instances from the text. (CBSE Question Bank 2021)

**#Q. How is Ausable different from other secret agents?**

(CBSE 2011, 2020)

**Ans.** Ausable is different from other secret agents in several ways. He was extremely fat. Inspite of living in Paris for over twenty years, he spoke French and German with difficulty and had an American accent. Instead of getting messages passed secretly to him by beautiful girls, he got only a routine telephone call for making an appointment. In these ways, he was different from other secret agents.

**#Q. Henry unintentionally saved Ausable's life. Briefly comment.**

(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

**Ans.** Henry was the waiter of the hotel in which the Ausable lived. He helped Ausable unintentionally by coming on time and by not telling from outside the door that he had brought the drink he ordered. Because Ausable told Max that the police will come within half an hour.

**#Q.** Max was unprepared for his mission. Discuss with reference to the chapter 'The Midnight Visitor'. (CBSE Question Bank 2021)

**Ans.** It is truly said that Max was unprepared for his mission. Even though Max was a clever man with a gun in his hand, he did not prepare himself to match the cleverness of Ausable. He does not make sure that he knows the place where Ausable was staying and thus was easily convinced about the balcony. As a result he fell to his death.

**#Q.** Ausable displays an acute sense of awareness of his surroundings. Justify with any two instances from the text. (CBSE Question Bank 2021)

**Ans.** It is absolutely true a calm mind can help you tackle direct stress or any difficult and unwanted situation. Ausable is a secret agent whose physical appearance and joviality deceive everyone. However, in reality, he is a clever person with an acute sense of awareness of his surroundings.

When Max tries to elicit some secret information out of Ausable, he calmly makes such a clever plan of the ordinary happenings that Max gets trapped in them. He makes Max believe that knocking on the door is by the police; he also makes him believe that the window opens to a safe balcony where Max could hide. As Max tries to go into the balcony, Max falls-to the ground.

# PW CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

TEST MISSED ??

WHAT'S NEXT ??



**MISSED THE FIRST TEST  
WHAT'S NEXT**





**IS PROVIDING WITH  
THE SECOND CHANCE  
TO GIVE THE  
ROUND-01**





# details



## Round I : Screening Test – Second Attempt

**Date :** 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Test Window :** 11 AM to 10 PM

**Format :** Online test with 50 questions in 60 minutes

**Subjects :** General Science (35%), General Knowledge (35%), MAT (30%)

**Syllabus :** Full syllabus of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & initial 3 chapters of Class 9<sup>th</sup>

**Marking Scheme :** +2 for correct answers, -0.5 for incorrect answers,  
0 for unattempt questions

**Qualification :** On the basis of this test, the students will be qualified for the Round II.  
Top 1100 students will qualify for the Proctored test (Few toppers from every state)



Batch Price

**FREE**



# THANK YOU

