1. Why did Miss Casewell drive Mrs. Boyle away from the hall?

**Ans>** Miss Casewell wanted the chair on which Mrs. Boyle was sitting as it was the best chair in the hall. Hence Miss Casewell drove Mrs. Boyle away from the hall

1. What does Miss Casewell keep thinking about?

**Ans>** Miss Casewell keeps thinking about her past - ice on a bedroom jug, painful red swellings raw and bleeding – one thin coarse blanket – a child shivering with cold and fear.

1. Why was Mollie surprised when she picked up the phone?

**Ans>** Mollie was surprised when she picked up the phone as the call was from the Berkshire Police.

1. Why was it impossible for Superintendent Hogben to come to the manor?

**Ans>** It was impossible for Superintendent Hogben to come to the manor because they were completely snowbound.

1. What does Mollie tell Giles in a worried tone?

**Ans>** Mollie tells Giles in a worried tone that the Berkshire police were sending a sergeant or inspector over to the manor.

1. Who was the inspector be sent to the manor? What were the hosts expected to do on his arrival?

**Ans>** The inspector being sent to the manor was Sergeant Trotter. Mollie was expected to convince her husband Giles to listen carefully to him and they were both expected to follow the instructions of Sergeant Trotter upon his arrival.

1. What assumptions do Mollie and Giles make for the impending visit they are due to receive from the police?

**Ans>** Mollie says they must have doe something or ignored some regulation regarding the running of the guest house. She then thinks that it must be the nylon stockings they got from Gibraltar. Giles tries to recall if he got the radio license or if it was regarding the narrow escape from a car accident that he had recently.

1. How does Mollie express her frustration after receiving the police phone call?

**Ans>** Mollie expresses her frustration by saying that they should have never started the guesthouse in the first place. She says that they will be blocked by snow for days, their stock of food will be exhausted and that everyone is quite angry with the way things are.

1. How does Giles console Mollie? What does he say about the police visit?

**Ans>** Giles tells Mollie not to wory as everything is going well at the moment. He assures her that he has filled the coal scuttles and stoked the stove. He tells her that there must be a very serious situation if a police seargant has to be sent to their guest house in terrible weather.

1. What is Mrs. Boyle’s complaint about the library?

**Ans>** Mrs. Boyle complains that the central heating in the library is almost dead. She says she is paying rent of seven guineas a week and does not want to freeze.

1. Elaborate the conversation between Mrs. Boyle and Mollie about Christopher Wren and Mr. Paravicini?

**Ans>** Mrs. Boyle tells Mollie that she finds Christopher to be a strange young man. Mollie tells her that he is an architect, to which Mrs. Boyle says she needs to confirm the same. Mollie then says she knows just the same about Mrs. Boyle and Christopher, that they are guests paying rent. Mrs. Boyle then brings her attention to the fact that she does not know anything about Mr. Paravicini either who arrived on her doorstep out of nowhere. Here Mollie reminds Mrs. Boyle that she being a magistrate should know that to refuse shelter to a genuine traveller is against the law.

1. How does Mrs. Boyle react when Mr. Paravicini enters the hall?

**Ans>** Mrs. Boyle literally jumps in shock and surprise as Mr. Paravicini quietly comes up behind her in the hall.

1. What warning does Mr. Paravicini give Mollie about? How does she react?

**Ans>** Mr. Paravicini warns Mollie that both she and her husband are too credulous. He enquires whether they have any references regarding the guests at their guest house. Mollie then asks him if it the regular practice as she always thought that the guests usually just walked in and booked a room to stay.

1. What is Mr. Paravicini’s suggestion to Mollie regarding her guests?

**Ans>** Mr. Paravicini tells Mollie that it is always good to know a little about the people who stay at her guest house.

1. What concern does Major Metcalf express to Mollie? What is her comment?

**Ans>** Major Metcalf asks Mollie if her husband is near as the pipes of the downstairs cloakroom were frozen. Mollie replies that she is having a really bad day first with the police phone call and then the frozen pipes.

1. Describe some of the guest’s reactions when they hear about the police phone call?

**Ans>** When they hear about the police phone call Mrs. Boyle is shocked, while Major Metcalf expresses his disbelief quite loudly asking why the police were called.

1. What is Mrs. Boyle’s comment about the police? Why?

**Ans>** Mrs. Boyle says the police force is paid to enjoy themselves going around playing winter sports. This is because Detective Trotter arrives at the manor wearing skis.

1. How do the guests react to the arrival of Detective Trotter?

**Ans>** On Detective Trotter’s arrival at the manor Mrs. Boyle says the police force is paid to enjoy themselves going around playing winter sports. Mr. Paravicini angrily whispers to Mollie, asking why she called the police. Christopher casually enquires as to who the energetic looking new man is. Finally Giles introduces Detective Trotter as the new arrival to everyone present.

1. What do Mrs. Boyle and Mr. Christopher think of Detective Trotter?

**Ans>** After Detective Trotter arrives at the manor Christopher says that he is very attractive, as he finds all policemen to be attractive. Mrs. Boyle however comments that he has no brains and this can be noticed in a glance.

1. What concern does Major Metcalf express regarding the telephone? What reason does he suggest?

**Ans>** Major Metcalf informs Mollie that the telephone line is not working. This he says may be due to the weight of the snow.

1. What joke does Christopher crack regarding the disconnected telephone line? Is it funny?

**Ans>** Regarding the disconnected telephone line Christopher Wren jokes, laughing in an excited manner that they are all quite cut off, and quite separated from outside contact. This he says is his private joke. No, it isn’t funny.

1. Where does Giles suggest the interrogation be done? What is Detective Trotter’s reply?

**Ans>** Giles suggests that if Mollie and himself need to be interrogated, it can be done in the privacy of the library. To this Detective Trotter says that it will save time if everyone is present and asks to sit at a table in the hall itself.

1. What does Sergeant Trotter tell Mollie about his visit?

**Ans>** When Mollie asks if they have done anything wrong, Sergeant Trotter tells her he is there to provide them police protection.

1. What explanation does Sergeant Trotter give for the police protection?

**Ans>** Sergeant Trotter informs Mollie that his arrival concerns the death of Mrs. Maureen Lyon of twenty four Culver street who was murdered by being strangled and asks if they knew the victim.

1. What does Sergeant Trotter tell Mollie and Giles about Maureen Lyon?

**Ans>** Sergeant Trotter informs Mollie and Giles that Maureen Lyon was in fact Maureen Stanning the wife of a farmer John Stanning who lived at Longridge Farm. She had a police record and her fingerprints were on file for easy identification.

1. What was the significance of the Longridge Farm case?

**Ans>** Sergeant Trotter said that the case involved the presentation of the Corrigan children in court and their police protection. The children – two boys and a girl, were repeatedly ill-treated by Mr. and Mrs. Stanning while in their care and one child died from neglect. The Stannings were finally imprisoned for life. Mr. Stanning died in prison, while Mrs. Stanning completed her jail term and was duly released, just the day before Sergeant Trotter’s visit.

1. What was the clue found at the murder scene of Mrs. Lyon? Where did it lead?

**Ans>** A notebook was found at the murder scene of Mrs. Lyon. It contained two addresses – One was twenty- four Culver Street and the other was Monkswell manor.

1. What was the actual reason for Detective Trotter to be at Monkswell manor?

**Ans>** Since one of the addresses was Monkswell manor, it was essential for the police to know if there was any connection between that address or any one at that address and the murder victim. Detective Trotter had been sent to find out full details regarding the same and ensure the safety of everyone in the house.

1. Why was Detective trotter sent instead of Superintendent Hogben?

**Ans>** As the weather was relatively bad and only Sergeant Trotter knew how to ski, hence he was sent to Monkswell manor instead of Superintendent Hogben.

1. What was the danger proposed by Detective Trotter? How did Giles react?

**Ans>** Detective Trotter said that there was an imminent danger of somebody getting killed in the manor and he was there to prevent that occurrence before it took place. He indicated a danger more to the ladies present. At this information Giles became very nervous and excited

1. What details did Detective Trotter share with Mollie?

**Ans>** Detective Trotter told Mollie that below the two addresses was written “Three Blind Mice” and on the dead woman’s body was a paper with ‘This is the First’ written on it along with the drawing of three little mice and the music notes of the nursery rhyme.

1. What did Trotter reveal about the whereabouts of the Corrigan children?

**Ans>** Trotter stated that of the three children the boy of eleven was the one who died. The girl was adopted by someone, but they were still trying to find out her present place of living. Finally the elder boy he said; would be about twenty two. He was not heard from ever since he left the army. According to the army psychologist, he was definitely suffering from schizophrenia.

1. Who according to Mollie killed Mrs. Lyon?

**Ans>** After the details given by detective Trotter, Mollie then said that it must have been the elder son of twenty two who had murdered Mrs. Lyon.

1. What did Sergeant Trotter question Mollie and Giles about? Why?

**Ans>** Sergeant Trotter asked Mollie and Giles if they had any connection to the murderer or to the Longridge Farm case. This was done in order to make sure that they were not hiding the murderer, who was supposed to be a mad man and who would possibly come to Monkswell manor to kill someone.

1. Whom does Trotter ask first? Why? What do others respond?

**Ans>** Trotter asks Paravicini because appeared to have arrived first more or less by an accident. Paravicini says that he has no idea of what Trotter is talking. He was a stranger there and has no idea about the local affairs that had happened a long ago. When Mrs Boyle was asked, she considered it to be rude. She said why she would have anything to do with an upsetting business. Miss Casewell replies that she never heard of Longridge Farm and has no idea of it. Major replies that he had read about the case in the papers at the time he was stationed at Edinburgh but he has no personal knowledge about it. Wren says that he was just a child and he doesn’t even remember hearing about it.

1. How does Christopher Wren react to all of this?

Ans> Wren finds all this as melodramatic. He finds Trotter to be attractive and he admires police. He finds them harsh and impassive. The entire issue is quite sensational for him. He whistles the tune of *Three Blind Mice.* He starts humming it which Mrs Boyle doesn’t like but he finds it to be thrilling since it is the signature tune.

1. What joke does Wren play on Mrs Boyle? What kind of reaction did it meet?

Ans> Wren said that he would creep up behind her and she would feel the touch of his hands on her throat. Mrs Boyle commands him to stop and Major says that it was not a joke at all.

40. What do Mrs Boyle and Major discuss regarding ‘nervousness’?

Ans> Mrs Boyle believes that the young architect was behaving in the most unusual manner. Major Metcalf reacts by saying that young people seem nervous these days and he believes he will overcome his nervousness soon. Mrs Boyle responds that she cannot bear with such people who suffer from nervousness and she is free from it. Major Metcalf takes this chance to get back to her and says that suits her nature of not being nervous as she was responsible for sending those three children to Longridge farm.

How does Mrs Boyle defend herself from Major’s accusation?

**Ans>** Mrs Boyle says that she can hardly be held responsible as they had reports from welfare workers that the farm people seemed very nice and were most willing to have the children It seemed to be most satisfactory and the children seemed to get eggs, fresh milk and a healthy outdoor life.

What did the children actually get, according to Major? What did Boyle say further?

**Ans>**According to the Major, the children actually got some kicks and blows. The children were starved and they were actually a wicked couple. Boyle says that she didn’t know as the children were addressed in a very civilized manner. She further adds that she did a public duty yet all that she gets in return is insult.

What is discussed about Paravicini’s appearance?

**Ans>** Mrs Boyle says that she never actually liked him. Casewell asks him Mollie knows from where exactly he had come. Mollie says that she has no idea and Casewell continues to say that he looks a bit dishonest and he puts a lot of makeup. He uses rouge and powder which she finds it extremely disgusting. He must be quite old too, she says. Mollie adds that yet he jumps about as though he were

quite young.

Mention the nature of Mollie and Casewell’s discussion.

**Ans>** On hearing the sound of *Three Blind Mice*, Mollie says that it is a horrible little tune. Casewell thinks that Mollie probably had an unhappy childhood. Mollie says that she was happy as a child and asks if Casewell was lucky. Casewell says that she wasn’t lucky and that she isn’t affected as it is the thing of the past. Casewell says that one has to overcome unpleasantness of the past.

Mention the details about the people staying in the guest house.

**Ans>** Mrs Boyle wrote from a Bournemouth Hotel. Major Metcalf came from Leamington. Wren wrote from Hampstead and Casewell from a private hotel in Kensington. Paravicini turned up unexpectedly.

How is the description of the murderer?

**Ans>** He is a man of medium height, indeterminate build, darkish overcoat, soft felt hat, face hidden by a muffler. He speaks in whispers.