

ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

- 1 Read the back cover and the story introduction on the first page of the book. What do you know now about voodoo? Use the words below to complete these sentences from the story.

afraid, dangerous, hurt, spirit, voodoo

- 1 'Voodoo is more than magic. I don't believe in magic, but I know that voodoo can be very ____.'
- 2 'You see, nothing is really dead. There's a ____ in everything, in every tree, in the sun, in the sea. If you understand ____, you can talk to these spirits.'
- 3 'They can use voodoo to help people, like doctors. But they can use it to ____ people too.'
- 4 'Everyone believes in it . . . or they are ____ of it. And perhaps that's why it works.'

- 2 Can you guess who will say these things – Kee or Conway?

- 1 'I'll tell him that he can't build shops here.'
- 2 'Now, please, get out, I'm a busy man.'
- 3 'You must not do these things. If you do, you'll be sorry.'
- 4 'I'll finish building my town and then I'll be a rich man.'

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While Reading

- 1 Read Chapters 1 and 2, and then answer these questions.

Who

- 1 . . . wanted to make a lot of money?
- 2 . . . was a young doctor who was interested in voodoo?
- 3 . . . lived in the worlds of both the dead and the living?
- 4 . . . felt danger was coming?

Read Chapter 3. Match these halves of sentences, and put them together using the words below.

so / but / because / and

- 1 After nine months in Haiti, Conway was happy ____
- 2 The first houses in the new town were finished, ____
- 3 He wanted to build on the hill to the west of the town, ____
- 4 He knew this was a problem, ____
- 5 now he needed some more land.
- 6 he called his business friend Jacques Remy.
- 7 he was making a lot of money.
- 8 there was an old graveyard on it.

Read Chapters 4 and 5. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Change the false sentences into true ones.

- 1 Kee was happy about all the building work.
- 2 Karen came to ask Kee about the new houses.
- 3 Kee took Karen to see his grandfather's grave.
- 4 Karen did not know the name 'Baron Samedi'.
- 5 The men from Conway Construction laughed at Kee.

Read Chapters 6 and 7. Choose the best word to complete these sentences.

- 1 Kee went to see Conway because he was *sad* / *angry* / *afraid*.
- 2 Kee said, 'You mustn't build on the graveyard. It's a very *beautiful* / *old* / *important* place.'
- 3 When Kee left, Conway remembered the face in Karen's book, and he felt *frightened* / *happy* / *angry*.
- 4 Conway sent Kee away because he thought Kee was *stupid* / *mad* / *important*.

Complete this text with words from Chapter 7 (one word for each gap).

Conway wants to live in a _____ house with lots of _____.
He wants lots of people to _____ the rooms and bring him _____.
He wants to have a lot of _____ in the bank, and he doesn't want to _____.

Before you read Chapters 8 and 9, can you guess the answers to these questions? The chapter titles are:

Chapter 8: The Spirit of the Wind and the Rain
Chapter 9: Voodoo Law

- 1 Will Conway build on the graveyard?
- 2 Will Conway learn any more about voodoo?
- 3 Will Kee give Conway all the things that he wants?
- 4 Will Kee use voodoo to do something bad to Conway?
- 5 Will Karen meet Conway again?

Read Chapter 8. Who said these things, and to whom?

- 1 'Go back to your village and be quiet.'
- 2 'Now I need your help.'
- 3 'This time you're not dreaming.'
- 4 'Do you know my name?'
- 5 'Am I sleeping or am I awake?'

Read Chapter 9, and then answer these questions.

- 1 What was Kee's village like now?
- 2 Why did Karen come to see Kee for a second time?
- 3 Who was in Room 473 in the hospital, and why?
- 4 What did he do when he heard a telephone or a bell?
- 5 What were the nurses saying about him?
- 6 Why did Kee say, 'But perhaps he's happy here'?

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After Reading

- 1 Choose the best words to complete this text about Kee.

Kee is a *rich / poor* man who comes from *Haiti / America*. He is a *businessman / houngan*, and he knows all about *money / spirits*. He doesn't understand *voodoo / business*, and / *but* he *understands / doesn't understand* about people. Kee *is / is not* a kind man, and he *always / never* listens to other people.

Now use the other words to write a text about Conway.

- 2 What happened after Chapter 8? Put these sentences into the right order, and rewrite them as a paragraph. Use linking words (*and, but, so, then*) where possible.

- 1 She called the police and an ambulance.
- 2 The ambulance took Conway to hospital.
- 3 She drove to Conway's house.
- 4 One day Conway did not arrive at work.
- 5 His secretary Marie rang him at home.
- 6 The policemen broke open the door.
- 7 Nobody answered the telephone.
- 8 She heard screaming from inside the house.

ACTIVITIES: After Reading

- 3 Here is a new illustration for the story. Find the best place in the book to put the picture, and answer these questions.

The picture goes on page ____.

- 1 Where is Kee?
- 2 Why is he angry?
- 3 Why are the men laughing at him?

Now write a caption for the illustration.



Caption: _____

- 4 When Conway arrived at the hospital, Karen asked Marie some questions. Complete Marie's answers. (Use as many words as you like.)

KAREN: Was Mr Conway unwell at work yesterday?

MARIE: No, doctor, he _____. But in the afternoon a strange old man _____ and _____.

KAREN: Why was Mr Conway angry? What happened?

MARIE: I don't really know. But when the old man left, Mr Conway shouted _____ and said _____.

KAREN: Mad? What did they talk about? Do you know?

MARIE: Mr Conway said that the old man was talking _____ and about giving _____.

KAREN: Voodoo! Why voodoo? What happened next?

MARIE: Mr Conway spoke to _____ and told them to start _____.

KAREN: The old graveyard? Was the old man's name Kee?

MARIE: Yes, it was. But why _____?

KAREN: Because he's a houngan. I think I understand now.

MARIE: Understand what? And what's _____?

KAREN: Mr Conway is sick because Kee has used voodoo against him. And I'm afraid we can't help him.

MARIE: Voodoo? You don't believe in all that, do you, doctor? No, I know what's wrong with him – he works too hard and drinks too much, that's all.

Imagine that you heard this conversation. Who do you agree with, Karen or Marie?

- 5 What do you think happens after Chapter 9? Make some sentences, putting together words from A, B, and C.

A If Conway gets better, . . .

If Conway doesn't get better, . . .

B he will never leave hospital . . .

he will go back to work . . .

C but another person will build on the graveyard.

and he will try to build on the graveyard again.

but he will have bad dreams all his life.

and the spirits in the graveyard will be happy.

and he will die as a mad old man.

but he will be a nicer person.

- 6 Do you agree (A) or disagree (D) with these sentences?

1 Money cannot make you happy.

2 Magic belongs in children's stories, not in the modern world.

3 Life was happier in the old days.

4 It is wrong to put up modern buildings in beautiful, old places.

5 The world changes; people and places must change too.

6 Building in poor countries makes jobs and money for the people who live there.