

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your friend has given you an excerpt from a book about great detectives. Read the book excerpt.*

### Text 4 Book extract

## Chapter 5

### Kate Warne, the first female detective

1 In 1856, Kate Warne ventured into the Pinkerton Detective Agency seeking employment. Widowed at just 23 years of age, Warne desperately needed to find a way to support herself. Allan Pinkerton, one of the proprietors of the agency, at first assumed that Warne was seeking a secretarial position. After  
5 all, employment options for women were extremely limited at the time. However, Warne had something else in mind for her vocation. Despite living in a time when nobody thought women could be good detectives, Warne wanted to be one. Pinkerton preferred hiring male detectives, but it turned out that Warne could be very persuasive. She soon convinced him that she  
10 would be able to uncover secrets more easily than any male detectives as people are more willing to trust women. In addition, she could worm her way into social settings that men could not.

2 Warne's claim about female detectives was quickly proven. Pinkerton had Warne investigate a fraud case. Warne decided that the best way to get  
15 valuable information on the prime suspect, Mr Maroney, was to befriend his wife. Mrs Maroney confided enough secrets to Warne for her to build a strong case against Mr Maroney, who eventually spent 10 years in prison. Thanks to Warne, about US\$39,000 of the US\$50,000 that the Maroneys had stolen was returned to the rightful owners. This, at the time, was a phenomenal sum of  
20 money.

3 Warne was talented at pretending to be other people. She also had strong powers of observation, so she could spot many minute details that most people would miss. Warne could effortlessly imitate many accents, so she could pretend to be from other countries. These qualities made her one of the  
25 best and most sought-after detectives in the US.

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4 Warne is most famous for preventing the assassination of President Lincoln. Warne heard rumours about an assassination plot, so she befriended the suspects. In order  
 30 to infiltrate the plotters and get close to the mastermind, Warne adopted a strong Southern accent and assumed the identity of a Southern lady. As Warne attended social  
 35 gatherings organized by the plotters, evidence of their nefarious plan was soon found. Lincoln was informed about the assassination plot, however he was doubtful about it at first. Nonetheless, the president agreed to take  
 40 a special train route to avoid the attackers and to put on a disguise. Warne pretended to be his sister during the trip. She informed everyone that he was very sick so that they would stay away from him. Though the journey spanned several days, Warne stayed awake in order to protect the president. The plot was foiled due to Warne's hard work.



Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the US.

5 Sadly, Abraham Lincoln was eventually assassinated four years later, but in  
 45 the extra time that Warne had afforded him, Lincoln changed the course of American history. If not for Warne's actions, the US may look very different today.

6 Many women were inspired by Warne to become detectives and police  
 50 officers. Warne truly blazed a trail for other women who aspired to combat crime. Until 1891, women were not allowed on the police force at all, and it was only in 1903 when they were allowed to become full detectives.

7 Unfortunately, this great detective passed away before she could see much  
 55 of her legacy. She was stuck down with pneumonia on New Year's Day in 1868, and died of the illness just 28 days later at the young age of 35. Who knows how many more crimes this exceptional detective could have solved if she had not been taken away from us so soon?

## Challenging reading and comprehension

## Unit 7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (    ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension 4**     *Your brother wants to know more about Kate Warne. Answer his questions using information from the book extract. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

**1** When did Kate Warne's husband die?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2** Why did Kate Warne need to find a job?

\_\_\_\_\_

**3** What are TWO reasons that Kate Warne gave for why female detectives could find secrets more easily than male detectives?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Find words in paragraph 1 that mean the same as the following:

i) entered \_\_\_\_\_

ii) looking for \_\_\_\_\_

iii) owners \_\_\_\_\_

iv) profession \_\_\_\_\_

v) convincing \_\_\_\_\_

**5** What was Kate Warne's first case?

\_\_\_\_\_

**6** Complete the sentence.

Kate Warne wanted to get valuable information on Mr Maroney. Therefore,

\_\_\_\_\_

**7** What were TWO results of Kate Warne's detective work mentioned in paragraph 2?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

**8** What does 'This' refer to in line 19?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Challenging reading and comprehension

## Unit 7

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- 9 What abilities did Kate Warne have that made her a good detective? Find ideas mentioned in paragraph 3 and match them with examples given in the column on the right.

Idea mentioned in paragraph 3	Examples
(e.g.) <i>She has strong powers of observation.</i>	She could easily find clues that others have missed.
i) _____ _____	She could pretend to speak like someone from France.
ii) _____ _____	She could come up with convincing fake identities.

- 10 Find a word in paragraph 3 that mean the opposite of 'unpopular'.

\_\_\_\_\_



- 11 What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 12 Why do you think Kate Warne is most famous for preventing President Lincoln's assassination?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 13 Based on the information in paragraph 4, complete the following summary by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to word forms, plurals, etc.

Kate Warne found (i) \_\_\_\_\_ of a plan to murder the president. By (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ the character of a Southern lady, she gathered information about the plot. At first, Lincoln (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ Warne's information about the assassination plot, but finally agreed to wear a (iv) \_\_\_\_\_. Warne and the president acted as though they were sister and (v) \_\_\_\_\_ for a journey that went on for several (vi) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Challenging reading and comprehension

## Unit 7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**14** Did everyone in the US approve of Abraham Lincoln's work as president? Justify your response using information from the text.

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**15** How much longer did Abraham Lincoln live after the assassination attempt?

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**16** Which person from the book extract is most likely to say each quote below? Write the name of the character next to the quote. The first one has been done for you.

Quotes	Person
<i>e.g. 'Even though there weren't any female detectives, that's what I knew I wanted to be.'</i>	<i>Kate Warne</i>
i) 'She saved my life, so I'll be forever grateful to her.'	
ii) 'I'm glad I gave her a chance. She has certainly proved herself.'	
iii) 'I can't believe she fooled me into giving sensitive information about my spouse!'	

**17** What happened in the following years for women who wanted to fight crime?

1891: \_\_\_\_\_

1903: \_\_\_\_\_

**18** Find a word in paragraph 7 that means 'had a lasting effect on other people'.

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**19** How did Kate Warne die?

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**20** In paragraph 7, ‘Who knows how many more crimes this exceptional detective could have solved if she had not been taken away from us so soon?’ (lines 54–56) is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_.

A thesis statement

B connective device

C concluding argument

D rhetorical question

A B C D

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**21** What is the purpose of this text?

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**22** Do you think there are significant differences between male and female detectives? Explain your answer.

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