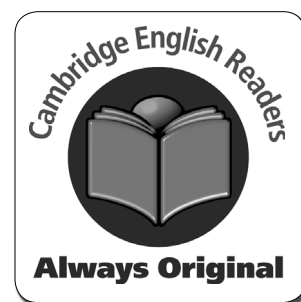**Lesson Plan**
Level 3

Cambridge English Readers

Always Original

A Puzzle for Logan   Richard MacAndrew

Aims

- To work on language related to crime.
- To engage the students in discussing how the police solve crimes.

1. Ask the students to read Extract 1 and answer these questions:
   a Who is Jenny Logan?
   b Where does the story take place?
   c Who is Grant? Why does he call Jenny Logan 'madam'?
   d Who is Ronnie Campbell?
   e This is the opening of a story called *A Puzzle for Logan*. What sort of story is it going to be?

2. Pair the students. Ask them to list the qualities you need to be a good police detective. Get the suggestions from the whole class and list them on the board.
   Possible answers: logical ordered mind, creativity, good psychologist, observant, good listener, good at thinking on your feet, co-operative with colleagues, good actor, good at asking the right questions.

3. Give the students the table below and ask them to complete it in pairs. Discuss the answers with the whole class and complete a master table on the board. The words appear in the story.

	Person (noun)	Event/thing (noun)	Action (verb)
murder	a murderer	a murder	
crime			to commit a crime
steal			
prison			to imprison
rob			

Answers:

	Person (noun)	Event/thing (noun)	Action (verb)
murder	a murderer	a murder	to murder
crime	a criminal	a crime	to commit a crime
steal	a thief	a theft	to steal
prison	a prisoner	a prison	to imprison
rob	a robber	a robbery	to rob

4. Give the students the lists below and ask them to match the noun phrases with the definitions. They all appear in the story.
   1 Robbery Unit
   2 police station
   3 police record
   4 Serious Crimes Unit
   5 police doctor
   6 lawyer

   a a building where the police work
   b a person who defends a criminal in court
   c a member of the medical profession who specialises in examining the bodies of murdered people
   d a department of the police which deals with thefts
   e a department of the police which deals with murders and other very important crimes
   f a file containing information about a particular criminal, his past history, the crimes he has committed and so on
   Answers: 1 d, **2** a, **3** f, **4** e, **5** c, **6** b

5. Detectives use lots of different ways to find out if a person might be a criminal. The police doctor in *A Puzzle for Logan* says that the person who killed Morag Mackenzie is left-handed. Inspector Logan sees Robert Baxter playing tennis, and
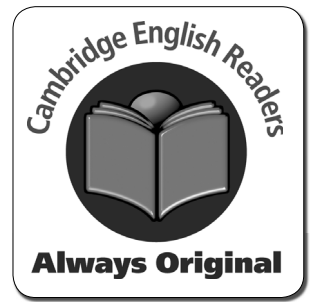
A Puzzle for Logan   Richard MacAndrew

later questions him. Give the students this information then ask them to read Extracts 2 and 3 and find out what Logan does. Ask them to report back to the whole class.

Answer: Baxter plays tennis right-handed, but when Logan throws him the cigarette packet he catches and throws it back left-handed, and does the same with the matches. This shows that he is ambidextrous, and so could have killed Morag, despite first impressions when playing tennis.

6. Tell students that when she is looking at the place where Craig Sinclair was murdered seven years before, Logan meets a homeless man called Angus (Gus) MacLeod, who says he saw the murderer take Sinclair's body out of his car and leave it by a factory. Ask students to read Extract 4 and decide in pairs why this is an example of good police work.

Answer: Logan doesn't take MacLeod to the police station, where he would probably say nothing, but talks to him on the street where he feels comfortable. Also, she doesn't expect too much from him, but knows that he may say something useful for her investigations.

7. When Logan questions Baxter for the second time, she uses another police technique. Read Extract 5, decide what it is, and why it works.

Answer: She pretends that she knows more than she really does, to make Baxter think that he might as well tell her everything because she knows anyway.
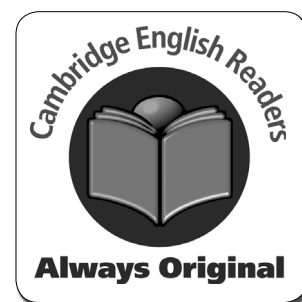
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Extract 1

Jenny Logan was enjoying an afternoon of warm Scottish sunshine on the beach at Portobello, five kilometres from the centre of Edinburgh, when her phone rang.

'Logan.'

'Grant here, madam.'

'It's my day off, Grant,' said Logan.

'I know. I'm sorry,' said Grant. 'But Ronnie Campbell, the murderer, has escaped from prison.'

'OK,' said Logan. 'I'll meet you in my office in about fifteen minutes.'

Extract 2

The taller of the two, fair-haired and in his late thirties, threw a ball in the air and hit it hard with the racket in his right hand. Logan knew from pictures she had seen in the papers that this was Robert Baxter.

Extract 3

'Fine,' said Logan. 'Cigarette?' As she spoke, she took Grant's packet of cigarettes out of her pocket and threw it lazily towards Baxter. The packet turned over in the air and fell towards the left arm of Baxter's chair. Baxter's left hand shot out to catch it. He took a cigarette out of the packet, put it in his mouth and threw the packet back with his left hand.

'Thanks,' he said.

Logan threw him the matches. Again they fell towards the left arm of the chair. Again Baxter caught them with his left hand. He lit his cigarette and threw the matches back easily with his left hand.

Extract 4

Logan knew she had a problem. She should take MacLeod straight to London Road for questioning. She should also be really angry with him for not giving information to the police. But people like Gus, people who lived on the street and drank too much, could be difficult. He might tell her something. But he might not. She could not make him talk. And if he did talk, it would not be easy to know if he was telling the truth or even if he knew what the truth was. If he gave her information that actually was important, she would have to be careful how she used it. A good lawyer could make someone like Gus seem completely mad. She decided to talk to Gus now. Somehow she felt he would not like the London Road police station.

Extract 5

'Yes,' Logan went on, 'I've been looking at that murder too. And, actually, I've had some good luck. I found a man who saw you leaving Sinclair's body in Beaverhall Road. He described you and your car and he even told me your car number. You shouldn't have such an easy number to remember.'

She didn't tell Baxter that Gus MacLeod couldn't actually remember the number and that anyway nobody would ever believe him. It was enough that Baxter believed that she had found him.