

STUDY GUIDE TO *THE FATHER BROWN READER*

BY LORI WATSON

Follow Father Brown as he unravels mysteries that baffle the brightest detectives! In these adaptations for young readers, a whole new generation of children will be delighted by Chesterton's masterful storytelling.

This Study Guide is intended to complement *The Father Brown Reader*, written by Nancy Carpentier Brown, published by Hillside Education. To purchase copies of this book please visit:

www.chcweb.com/catalog/TheFatherBrownReader/product_info.html

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BOOK ONE: THE BLUE CROSS

CHAPTER ONE

VOCABULARY

inconspicuous—not easily noticed; not drawing attention

elegant—stylish and of a high quality

notorious—well-known for bad qualities or deeds



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What did the police think Flambeau would pretend to be in order to blend in with the Eucharistic Congress?

2. What made the police chief think that Flambeau was getting ready to commit another crime?

3. What one thing could Flambeau not hide in any disguise?

4. If you were Valentin, what type of person would you look for in your search for Flambeau?

CHAPTER TWO

VOCABULARY

disembarked—left a ship and went ashore

parcels—wrapped packages

skeptic—a person who doubts accepted ideas or beliefs

coincidences—things that happen in an unlikely way and by chance



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What did the little priest on the bus keep saying he had to be careful of? Can you think of a way this might tie in with the story?

2. What did Valentin warn the little priest about on the train?

3. What incredible thing did Valentin know about miracles?

CHAPTER THREE

VOCABULARY

stammered—spoke with a great deal of stopping and repeating of sounds, usually because of nervousness or fear

bewildered—very confused

cheek—in Great Britain, rudeness



DETECTIVE WORK

1. While sitting at the restaurant table, what unusual things did Valentin notice?

2. Who did the waiter say had thrown soup on the wall?

3. On page 13, the story mentions a clergyman who “was some minutes longer getting all his packages and things together.” Does this remind you of anyone who has been mentioned already in the story?

CHAPTER FOUR

VOCABULARY

peculiar—strange or unusual

merchant—someone who sells things; a person who runs a store

pursuit—the act of chasing someone or something

agile—able to move quickly and easily

keep our eyes peeled for—keep looking for



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What was unusual about the oranges and nuts at the shop?

2. What other unusual thing had happened at the shop that day?

3. Would doing these things help a person to hide, or would they draw more attention to him?

4. Do you think this person was a criminal trying to hide from the police? Why or why not?

5. Why did Valentin think it was better to follow the priests in a bus, even though a taxi could go faster?

CHAPTER FIVE

VOCABULARY

draggled—dirty, as if dragged through the mud

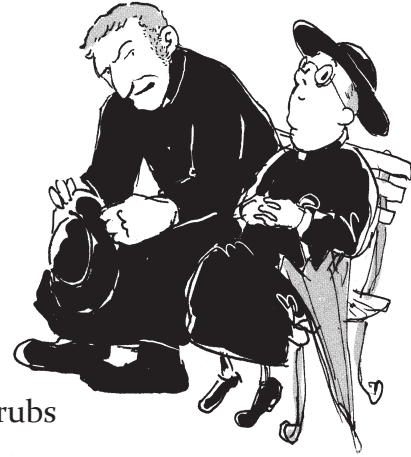
taverns—in Great Britain, inns or restaurants

dreary—dull, gloomy, and cheerless

scrubs—in Great Britain, areas of short, straggly trees or shrubs

blatant—loud and unpleasant

vulgar—in this story, vulgar could mean not in good taste or belonging to ordinary people who are not part of the upper class.



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Can you think of a reason the priest might have had for breaking the window?

2. The waiter said he thought he had written \$4.15 on the bill, but when he picked up the bill to show it to the priest he saw that it read \$14.15. Can you think of a way that the bill could have gone from \$4.15 to \$14.15 without the waiter knowing about it?

CHAPTER SIX

VOCABULARY

lingering—staying behind somewhere; being slow to leave

simpleton—a person who is not very smart

imprudently—without good judgment



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What did the lady in the bakery mail for the little priest?

2. There was also a brown paper parcel earlier in this story. What was inside the earlier parcel? Can you think of a way that the earlier parcel might be connected to this one?

3. Who might the tall priest at Hampstead Heath have been?

4. Who was the short priest?

CHAPTER SEVEN

VOCABULARY

bumbling—clumsy, not skilled, or confused

secluded—private

agonizing—very unpleasant and filled with stress



DETECTIVE WORK

1. After reaching Hampstead Heath, why did Valentin feel angry with Flambeau?

2. When the two priests were sitting on the park bench talking, the story tells us that the short priest's round face was turned to the brightening stars, while the tall one's head was down, as if he were not even worthy to look at them. What might each priest's pose say about his relationship with God?

CHAPTER EIGHT

VOCABULARY

appeal to—in this story, to try to use

reason—one of the ways humans can think; it is one of the ways we know of God the Creator (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 286)

supreme—above everything else

infinite—never-ending

philosophical—having deep meaning and using great knowledge or wisdom



DETECTIVE WORK

1. While sitting on the park bench, Father Brown said that the universe is only infinite physically and cannot escape from which laws?

CHAPTER NINE

VOCABULARY

unaffected—in this story, simple and sincere

bumpkin—a person who is from the country and who is not very smart



DETECTIVE WORK

1. In the beginning of Chapter 9, how did Flambeau see Father Brown? How did Flambeau see himself?

2. What was it that had made Father Brown suspect Flambeau when they first met?

3. Although Father Brown suspected that the “tall priest” was a thief, did Father Brown treat him badly? Did he see Flambeau as less worthy of respect than he himself was or than the policemen were?

4. What did Flambeau find inside the brown paper parcel in his coat pocket?

CHAPTER TEN

VOCABULARY

stunned—shocked

utmost—greatest

DETECTIVE WORK



1. What did Father Brown say had made him sure Flambeau was not a priest?

2. Which person do you think was the smartest: Flambeau, Valentin, or Father Brown? Talk it over with a parent.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. In the beginning of the story, the police inspector thought the little priest was slow and unqualified and felt sorry for him. How did Valentin's opinion of the priest change from the beginning of the story to the end?



2. While sitting on the bench talking with Flambeau, Father Brown took a conversation about reason, the stars, and the planets and turned it, saying, "Look at those stars. Don't they look as if they were single diamonds and sapphires? Even if we could see behind the very last sparkling gem out there, we would still find the words, 'Thou shalt not steal.'" What do you think Father Brown was trying to do when he said those words? Do you think it worked?

3. In Matthew 10:16, Jesus said to his disciples, “What I am doing is sending you out like sheep among wolves. You must be clever as snakes and innocent as doves.” Do you think Father Brown fits this description? How?

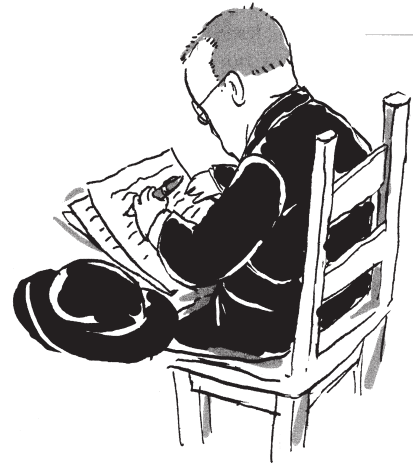
BOOK TWO: THE STRANGE FEET

CHAPTER ONE

VOCABULARY

exclusive—only serving a privileged few

peculiar—in this story, different from others; special or unique



DETECTIVE WORK

1. In what “topsy-turvy” way had the Vernon Hotel made its good name?

2. The restaurant in the Vernon Hotel was small and only held a few people at a time. Do you think this would make it easier to commit a crime—or harder?

3. Which treasure did the Fishermen most enjoy showing off?

4. Was there something in this chapter that a thief might want to steal? If so, what was it?

CHAPTER TWO

VOCABULARY

curious—unusual

riot—a protest by a group that is violent and noisy

checkroom—a room where coats or other items are kept for people



DETECTIVE WORK

1. How did Mr. Lever feel about Father Brown being in his hotel at first?

2. As Father Brown sat in the dark room, which sense was sharpened?

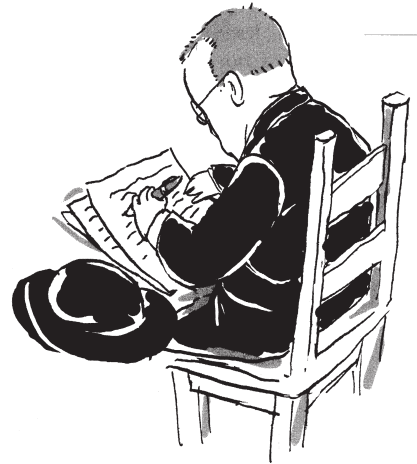
3. What sound did Father Brown hear as he was writing?

CHAPTER THREE

VOCABULARY

abnormal—not normal

purposefully—with a definite purpose



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What was strange about the footsteps Father Brown heard?

2. What did Father Brown decide the slow, heavy steps sounded like?

3. Think of all the people the story has told us are in the dining room: the owner, the True Fishermen, and the waiters. Of these, who do you think might have the quick steps Father Brown heard?

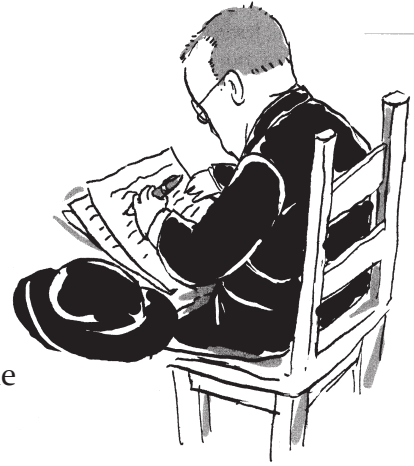
CHAPTER FOUR

VOCABULARY

foreigner—someone from another country

menial—usually done by a servant

revelations—things that are suddenly made known to someone



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What did Father Brown say he thought the tall man had in his pocket?

2. What might be in the tall man's pocket? Has anything been mentioned in the story that was made of silver and might make one's suit bulge and bag out if hidden inside it?

3. Which Sacrament did Father Brown offer Flambeau?

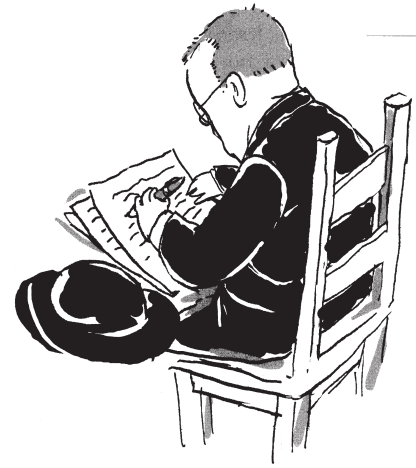
4. Flambeau was much taller than Father Brown, and the story says he “towered over the priest, putting one huge hand upon Father Brown’s collar.” Reread Father Brown’s reaction. Did Father Brown seem afraid of Flambeau?

CHAPTER FIVE

VOCABULARY

uneventful—without anything unusual happening

optimist—one who sees the good in most things and is usually hopeful about the future



DETECTIVE WORK

1. After a waiter removed Mr. Audley's plate, what did the next waiter do that got the Fishermen's attention?

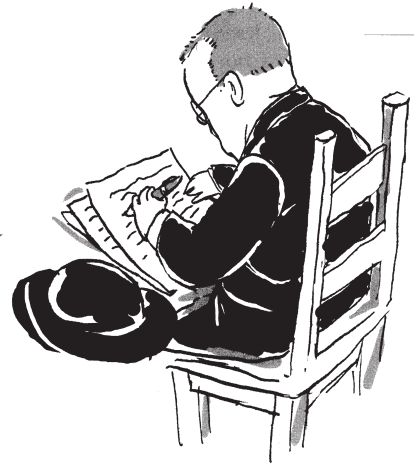
2. Before this waiter came into the room, the story tells us that the Fishermen had just emptied their plates from the fish course. Which silverware would they have been using for this course?

CHAPTER SIX

VOCABULARY

indignantly—in a way that shows anger at being treated poorly or accused unfairly

quaintly—nicely, artistically, and unusually



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Why were the waiters and Mr. Lever upset?

2. Why should there not have been 15 waiters in the restaurant on the night of the story?

3. How did the Duke count 15 waiters when there should only have been 14?

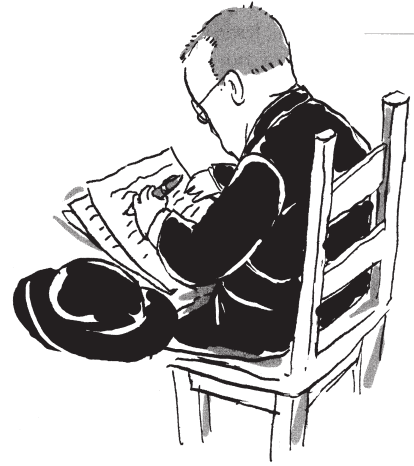
4. Can you think of a way the extra “waiter” and the missing silver could be connected?

CHAPTER SEVEN

VOCABULARY

repent—to feel sorry for one’s sins because they have offended God and turn away from those sins

content—satisfied; not seeking to change things



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What clue made Colonel Pound think someone other than Father Brown had stolen the silver?

2. What did Father Brown say was odd about Flambeau repenting? What point do you think he was trying to make to the richer Twelve True Fishermen?

3. Father Brown said, when returning the silver, “You call yourselves the Twelve True Fishermen, and there are all your silver fish. But He has made me a fisher of men.” What did the Twelve True Fishermen value? What did Father Brown value? Which is more important?

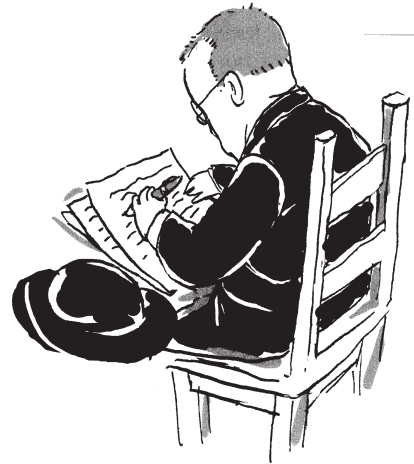
CHAPTER EIGHT

VOCABULARY

unmistakable—very clear and plain

assumed—took to be true or real without proof

hare—a quick-running animal that is much like a rabbit



DETECTIVE WORK

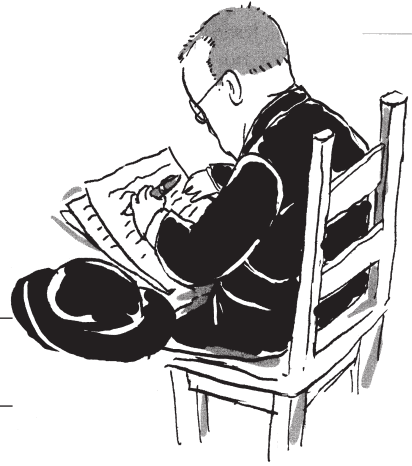
1. What did Father Brown tell the colonel the whole of this tale centered on?

2. When the thief was in sight of the gentlemen, like whom did he act?

3. When the thief was in sight of the waiters, like whom did he act?

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. Did Mr. Lever want Father Brown in his hotel in the beginning of the story? How do you think his feelings might have changed from the beginning of the story to the end?



2. When Mr. Lever asked Mr. Audley if he knew the waiter, Mr. Audley answered indignantly, "Know the waiter?...Certainly not!" If Mr. Audley and the other Fishermen had taken the time to get to know the waiters as people, instead of only seeing them as servants, how might this story have gone better for the Fishermen?

3. Would a criminal who was looking for an “easy” crime have attempted this one? What does this tell you about Flambeau?

BOOK THREE: THE FLYING STARS

CHAPTER ONE

VOCABULARY

circular—shaped like a circle

ornamental—used for decoration

literary—as it would be in a story

ingenious—showing great skill and the use of new ideas



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Why did Flambeau say that it almost seemed a shame that he repented when he did?

2. On which feast day did this story begin?

CHAPTER TWO

VOCABULARY

angular—lean, thin, or bony

grimly—hopelessly, gloomily

chauffer—a paid driver

manservant—a male servant



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Why did the young lady give an exclamation of wonder as she looked up at the high garden wall?

2. What was Miss Adams' godfather's job? Did he seem to be wealthy, poor, or in-between?

CHAPTER THREE

VOCABULARY

boisterous—noisy, rough, and loud

gruff—with a rough tone

chimney sweep—someone whose job is to clean the insides of chimneys



DETECTIVE WORK

1. How did the author describe Colonel Adams' brother-in-law, James Blount?

2. What did you notice in this chapter that might become the object of a crime?

CHAPTER FOUR

VOCABULARY

evident—easily seen

nuisance—a bother

charades—a game in which one tries to act out a word or phrase, and the others try to guess what it is

pantomime—in this story, a play that is performed with music and other entertainment. Clowns and harlequins were often characters in pantomimes.

harlequin—a silly, trick-playing character dressed in brightly-colored clothes who provides entertainment



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Who did Mr. Blount say was coming to visit him?

2. Whose idea was it to put on the pantomime?

CHAPTER FIVE

VOCABULARY

anonymous—nameless

chandelier—a light with several branches that usually hangs from the ceiling

DETECTIVE WORK

1. Who was not in favor of acting in the beginning?

2. Who gave everyone their roles in the pantomime (except for the role of Poppins)?

3. Where did Mr. Blount put the paper donkey's tail?

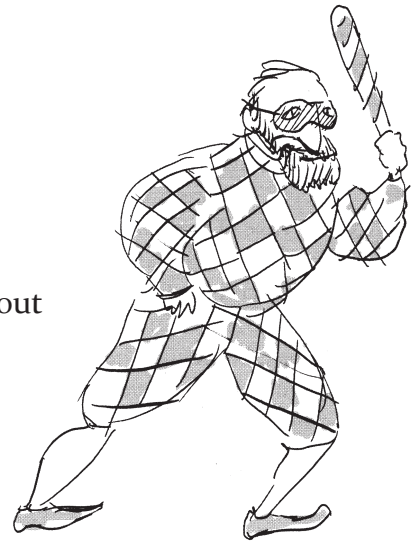


CHAPTER SIX

VOCABULARY

obscuring—hiding from view

improvisation—something that is made up suddenly and without practice, such as lines in a play or music



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Which character in the play was shown when the two doors at the back of the scene flew open?

2. Why was the clown's spy theme drowned out by applause when the policeman appeared?

3. Which character in the play had the most contact with the policeman?

4. When the policeman appeared as a man who had fainted, what did the author say it was almost impossible to believe?

CHAPTER SEVEN

VOCABULARY

savagely—wildly

study—a room for reading, studying, or writing

dispelled—cleared away

DETECTIVE WORK



1. What was missing from Sir Leopold's pocket?

2. Whom did Sir Leopold suspect?

3. If it wasn't Mr. Crook who stole The Flying Stars, who could it have been?

CHAPTER EIGHT

VOCABULARY

chloroform—a liquid that was used a long time ago to put people to sleep for surgery

compose himself—calm himself down

gasped—spoke while trying to catch his breath



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Think back to Chapter Five. Who played the harlequin in the pantomime?

2. When had James Blount arrived to see Colonel Adams' wife?

3. In the description of the harlequin in the trees, the story says, “the real moon catches him at every movement and sets a new inch of him on fire.” In Chapter Three, the story mentioned some items that “seemed to set the very air on fire all round them.” What were they?

CHAPTER NINE

VOCABULARY

mesmerized—had his attention completely captured

heeded—paid attention to

DETECTIVE WORK

1. Where had Flambeau hidden the diamonds?

2. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (number 1733) tells us, “The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just.” If Flambeau does not give the diamonds back and escapes into the woods with them, will he really be free? Why or why not?



CHAPTER TEN

VOCABULARY

restoration—the return of something to its owner

ignorant—not knowing about something

DETECTIVE WORK

1. What did Father Brown say Flambeau used to boast about?
How was the crime in this story different?



2. Sir Leopold said that Father Brown was “shut off from ‘real life’ and ignorant of the ways of the world.” Was this a true and fair description of Father Brown?

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. God gives us all gifts and talents, and He wants us to use those gifts for good. Think back over the crimes Flambeau has committed in *The Father Brown Reader*. What gifts and talents was he using (although not for good!) in committing these crimes? Can you think of a way Flambeau could use these gifts and talents to help and serve God and people instead of causing harm?



2. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (number 2547) uses some words Saint Augustine used in teaching about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the Bible. It says, "Let the proud seek and love earthly kingdoms, but blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Think about Sir Leopold and Father Brown. Of the two, who would you say was prouder? Who is choosing Heaven by staying humble?

BOOK FOUR: THE ABSENCE OF MR. GLASS

CHAPTER ONE

VOCABULARY

refined—showing good taste and richness

restlessly—in a way that lacks calmness

rigid—stiff, strict, and set in one's ways

embodiment—a person or thing that shows a quality or idea perfectly



DETECTIVE WORK

1. In what area of science was Dr. Hood famous and well-known?

2. Think about the way Dr. Hood's office looked. Were there any signs (such as children's drawings or framed pictures of loved ones) that Dr. Hood had a life full of people he loved, or was his office filled with things that spoke only of money and knowledge instead?

3. Was the visitor who came into Dr. Hood's office very much like Dr. Hood, or very different?

CHAPTER TWO

VOCABULARY

restrained—held back; kept under control

deprived—kept one from having good or necessary things



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Asking for help with a problem can be a sign of humility. How was Father Brown's humility shown in Chapter 2?

2. What was the problem Father Brown asked Dr. Hood for help with?

3. Did Dr. Hood's reaction show any doubt that he thought he could solve the problem, or did his reaction show that he felt very capable?

CHAPTER THREE

VOCABULARY

simplicity—the quality of being simple or sincere

pessimistic—usually seeing and expecting the worst

seclusion—separation from all others



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Think about the way Father Brown described Mr. Todhunter. Did Father Brown seem to think Mr. Todhunter was a good person, or not?

2. When did Mr. Todhunter say that he would explain the reason for his work behind the closed door?

3. When Dr. Hood heard Father Brown's account of the story, what was his first idea about Mrs. MacNab?

CHAPTER FOUR

VOCABULARY

wayward—hard to control

aspect—the look of something

vengeance—punishment or revenge

lodger—someone who rents a room in another's house

catastrophe—terrible event causing great destruction



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What did Maggie think had happened to Mr. Todhunter?

2. Where—and how—did Maggie think she had seen James lying?

3. When the group entered Mr. Todhunter's room, what did the story say no one could doubt had happened there?

CHAPTER FIVE

VOCABULARY

farfetched—unlikely and hard to believe

quavering—having a shaky sound

blackmailed—tried to get money from a person with the threat of harm or the threat of telling a secret

villain—a person who causes evil



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What did Miss MacNab and Father Brown keep asking Dr. Hood to do while Dr. Hood was talking out the details of the case? Did he ever do it?

2. Can you think of a kind of show in which someone uses a silk hat (we sometimes call these top hats now; they are shaped almost like the black hat Abraham Lincoln wore) for something?

3. Have you ever broken a drinking glass? How did it happen?

4. What did Dr. Hood think Mr. Glass had done to Mr. Todhunter?

CHAPTER SIX

VOCABULARY

dagger—a short, sword-like knife with two sharp sides

absent-minded—not paying attention to what's going on at the time because one is thinking about other things

wretched—very unhappy; pitiful



DETECTIVE WORK

1. Why did Dr. Hood say that he hadn't set Mr. Todhunter free from his ropes?

2. Can you think of a reason why someone in a show might want to be tied in knots he could untie himself?

CHAPTER SEVEN

VOCABULARY

psychological—having to do with the mind or the emotions

abnormality—something that is not normal



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What could Father Brown tell Mr. Todhunter was doing by the expression in Mr. Todhunter's eyes?

2. If Mr. Todhunter was laughing when he heard Dr. Hood's ideas, do you think Dr. Hood had gotten the right answers to the mystery of what was happening behind Mr. Todhunter's door?

3. How did Dr. Hood (the criminologist) feel after seeing Father Brown laugh at the things that showed Mr. Todhunter's profession?

CHAPTER EIGHT

VOCABULARY

commonplace—dull and often repeated

comic—funny

conjuring—seeming to make things appear



DETECTIVE WORK

1. What did Father Brown say Mr. Todhunter could get out of having an old hat he couldn't wear?

2. How did Father Brown say the blood got on the sword?

3. What had Mr. Todhunter been learning to do behind the closed door?

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. Think about what Dr. Hood said Mr. Todhunter had probably done to Mr. Glass, and think about Mr. Todhunter's reaction—he reacted with laughter instead of anger at being suspected. What does this tell you about the kind of person Mr. Todhunter is?



2. In Luke 18:14, Jesus tells us, “...for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be exalted.” Do you think this verse can be tied to the differences between Dr. Hood and Father Brown in this story? Talk it over with a parent.

ANSWER KEY

BOOK ONE: THE BLUE CROSS

CHAPTER ONE

1. They thought he would pretend to be a minor clerk or parish priest.
2. Europe had been quiet for months, and he knew that when Flambeau was quiet, something was going to happen.
3. his height
4. a tall priest (answers may vary)

CHAPTER TWO

1. He kept saying he had to be very careful because he was carrying a “pretty cross” of “real silver with blue stones” in one of his parcels. The cross might become the object of a crime. (Answers may vary)
2. He warned the priest not to take care of the silver by telling everyone about it.
3. Valentin knew that miracles happen.

CHAPTER THREE

1. Valentin noticed that the salt and sugar had been switched and that a dark fluid had been splashed on one of the white walls.
2. Clergymen
3. Answers may vary, but this might bring to mind the little priest who was on the train with Valentin earlier.

CHAPTER FOUR

1. The signs for the oranges and nuts had been switched.
2. A priest had upset the shopkeeper’s apples.

3. They would probably be more likely to draw attention to him.
4. Answers may vary, but the fact that the person was doing things that would almost certainly attract attention would likely point to someone who was not trying to hide.
5. Valentin said that when you don't know what a man is doing and are trying to guess, you should keep behind him, travel as slowly as he does, and try to do what he does.

CHAPTER FIVE

1. Answers may vary, but if the children realize that the priest might have broken the window to attract attention, it will help them to solve the mystery.
2. Answers may vary; one of the customers could have simply added a 1 before the 4 on the bill.

CHAPTER SIX

1. a brown paper parcel
2. The silver cross with the blue stones was in the earlier parcel. This parcel might be the one containing the cross.
3. The tall priest at Hampstead Heath might have been Flambeau.
4. Father Brown

CHAPTER SEVEN

1. Valentin felt angry because he thought Flambeau had taken advantage of Father Brown's simplicity.
2. Answers may vary. One answer might be that Father Brown lived a simple, honest life close to God and was comfortable turning his face toward Heaven because he understood God's great mercy and love for him, while Flambeau (who seemed to feel uncomfortable facing Heaven) had lived a criminal life and might have felt unable to face God because he didn't have a full understanding of God's mercy and love for him.

CHAPTER EIGHT

1. the laws of truth

CHAPTER NINE

1. Answers may vary, but one answer is that Flambeau felt superior to Father Brown, thinking Father Brown was too simple and wasn't very smart. Flambeau thought he had used his wits to outsmart the simple priest.
2. the bulge up Flambeau's sleeve that Father Brown suspected was a spiked bracelet
3. No, Father Brown treated Flambeau very respectfully, even when he suspected that Flambeau was a thief.
4. paper

CHAPTER TEN

1. Flambeau attacked reason, which is bad theology.
2. The most likely answer is Father Brown. He helped "one of the best brains in all of Europe" solve a crime, and he outsmarted a famous criminal. (Answers may vary.)

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. Valentin went from thinking the little priest was unqualified and slow in the beginning to thinking Father Brown was a "master" in the end of the story.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.

BOOK TWO: THE STRANGE FEET

CHAPTER ONE

1. by turning people away
2. It probably would have made it more difficult. (Answers may vary.)
3. their fish-shaped silver forks and knives set with valuable pearls
4. Yes; the silver forks and knives might be the object of a crime.

CHAPTER TWO

1. The story says Father Brown's presence was like a spot of dirt that Mr. Lever wanted to clean away as quickly as possible.
2. his sense of sound
3. the sound of feet walking back and forth

CHAPTER THREE

1. The footsteps changed back and forth between a long rush of quick steps and a series of long, slow strides.
2. the walk of a wealthy gentleman who probably belonged to an exclusive club
3. Answers may vary, but the answer that will help the students to solve the mystery is that the footsteps sound most like those of a waiter.

CHAPTER FOUR

1. some silver
2. the silver forks and knives
3. the Sacrament of Confession
4. No, Father Brown didn't seem afraid of Flambeau; he reminded Flambeau of the consequences of not repenting for one's sins and offered him Confession.

CHAPTER FIVE

1. The waiter came swiftly into the room and then stopped suddenly and stared for a few seconds.
2. They would have been using the valuable silver fish-shaped forks and knives.

CHAPTER SIX

1. because the fish silver had been stolen
2. One of the waiters had died of a heart attack.

3. An extra person was pretending to be a waiter.
4. Answers may vary, but the one that will help the students solve the mystery is that the extra waiter stole the fish silver.

CHAPTER SEVEN

1. The window of the little room was broken, as if someone had jumped violently through it.
2. Father Brown said it was odd “that a thief and a wanderer should repent, when so many who are rich and content remain hard-hearted and silly, without having ever served God or man”. Answers may vary, but one point he might have been trying to make was that the Twelve True Fishermen were no better than Flambeau and that repentance would be good for them, too.
3. Answers may vary, but the Twelve True Fishermen valued material things and didn’t seem to think much about the souls of others, such as the waiters. Father Brown valued souls and God. The things Father Brown valued are really more important.

CHAPTER EIGHT

1. a black coat
2. like a waiter
3. like a gentleman

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. No, Mr. Lever didn’t really want Father Brown in his hotel in the beginning of the story. One possible answer to the second question is that in the end Mr. Lever was grateful for Father Brown’s presence because Father Brown had gotten the fish silver back.
2. If the gentlemen had paid more attention to the waiters and had gotten to know them as people, they probably would have noticed when there was a new waiter. This might have kept Flambeau from being able to steal the silver.
3. No, a criminal looking for an “easy” crime probably would not have tried this one. Answers may vary on the second question; some possible answers might be that Flam-

beau enjoys using the mind God gave him (although he is not using it for good here) or that he likes to be challenged or might even want to get caught and stop his life of crime.

BOOK THREE: THE FLYING STARS

CHAPTER ONE

1. because his last crime was so ingenious and the setting was so beautiful
2. St. Stephen's Day

CHAPTER TWO

1. because a young man was sitting on top of the wall, ready to jump down
2. Sir Leopold was a government official and seemed to have quite a bit of money.

CHAPTER THREE

1. as a big and rather boisterous young gentleman farmer with a yellow beard
2. the diamonds called "The Flying Stars"

CHAPTER FOUR

1. Florian, a famous French acrobat and actor who was an old friend
2. James Blount's

CHAPTER FIVE

1. Mr. Crook
2. Mr. Blount
3. on Sir Leopold's jacket

CHAPTER SIX

1. the policeman
2. because everything the great actor did was exactly like what a real policeman would have done
3. the harlequin
4. that a living person could appear so limp

CHAPTER SEVEN

1. The Flying Stars
2. Mr. Crook
3. Possible answers might include James Blount and Florian (the policeman).

CHAPTER EIGHT

1. James Blount
2. a week after she passed away
3. The Flying Stars

CHAPTER NINE

1. in the midst of all his stage jewels
2. No, he will not be truly free; he can only be free in doing what is good and just, and if he continues in this sin it will only enslave him further.

CHAPTER TEN

1. that he never committed a crime that hurt anyone; this crime was different because an honest young man was suspected of Flambeau's crime and it was keeping him apart from the young lady he loved.
2. Answers may vary, but the most likely answer is that it is an unfair description; Father Brown understands more than any other character in the story, and that is how he

solved the mystery and returned the diamonds.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. Answers will vary
2. Sir Leopold seems the prouder of the two; Father Brown is choosing Heaven by leading a humble life and not becoming attached to earthly things. (Answers may vary.)

BOOK FOUR: THE ABSENCE OF MR. GLASS

CHAPTER ONE

1. He was a criminologist.
2. Dr. Hood's office seemed to be filled with things that spoke of money and good taste, but the story doesn't mention anything that would suggest that he had a life full of love.
3. The visitor (Father Brown) was very different from Dr. Hood.

CHAPTER TWO

1. He came to Dr. Hood for help, fully confident that Dr. Hood could offer him a solution.
2. Mrs. MacNab would not let Maggie and Mr. Todhunter get married because Mr. Todhunter's career was a secret.
3. He seemed very confident; he said he would give Father Brown advice that was fourteen years better than the advice he had given the country of France and the King of England.

CHAPTER THREE

1. Yes, he seemed to think well of Mr. Todhunter. Father Brown said he was decent, bright, fair, agile, clean-shaven, and polite.
2. He promised to explain it all before the wedding.

3. He thought Mrs. MacNab was superstitious.

CHAPTER FOUR

1. She thought Mr. Todhunter had been killed.

2. She thought she had seen him lying huddled up in a corner, as if he had been tied up.

3. that there had been a fight between at least two people

CHAPTER FIVE

1. They wanted him to untie Mr. Todhunter, but he did not do it.

2. Answers may vary, but if the children can think of a magic show, it will help them to solve the mystery along with Father Brown.

3. Answers may vary, but if the children can remember dropping a glass and breaking it that way, it will help them to solve the mystery.

4. Dr. Hood thought Mr. Glass had blackmailed Mr. Todhunter.

CHAPTER SIX

1. because Mr. Todhunter could untie the ropes himself

2. Answers may vary, but if the children can think of a magician's or escape artist's show in which someone escapes from being tied up with ropes, it will help them to solve the mystery.

CHAPTER SEVEN

1. laughing

2. No; Mr. Todhunter would probably not be laughing at Dr. Hood's ideas if they were correct. (Answers may vary.)

3. Dr. Hood was very angry.

CHAPTER EIGHT

1. rabbits, ribbons, goldfish, rolls of colored paper...
2. Mr. Todhunter was trying to teach himself to swallow a sword for his act, but the sword must have nicked the inside of his throat.
3. He had been learning to be a magician, juggler, ventriloquist, and sword swallower.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

1. Answers may vary.
2. Answers may vary.