

## 'Skulduggery Pleasant' Comprehension

Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

💡 If you see a light bulb next to the question, you will need to think about your own thoughts or opinions, based on what you have read.

1. What do you think the word 'custodian' means?

*It means somebody who takes care of something or someone.*

2. Read the quote below:

*'Owning three houses between them seemed a bit much.'*

What does this suggest about Stephanie's family?

*This suggests that Stephanie's family is wealthy, particularly if they have a holiday villa as one of the three houses.*

3. What is Stephanie's mother's opinion of why men were 'invented'? What impression does that give you of her mother's character?

*They were invented for fixing engines and shelves. This suggests that her mother doesn't have a very high opinion of men and thinks that they are only useful for doing practical jobs.*

💡 4. Why do you think Steph's mum is reluctant to let her stay at the house alone? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

*Appropriate answers, e.g. I think Stephanie's mum is reluctant because she thinks it would be dangerous if something happened to her and she was there by herself.*

💡 5. What does the author mean when he says the publisher spoke as though Gordon's death had been a 'clever marketing ploy'?

*Appropriate answers, e.g. This means that he is almost saying that Gordon died in order to sell more books as 'dead writers sell' - it was if he did it on purpose as part of his selling strategy.*

6. What structure did Gordon's books usually follow?

*The main character was normally someone who could do astonishing and wonderful things, but there were strange and terrible events that led to their deaths.*



7. How do we know that Steph's mother doesn't believe that she's reading the dictionary?

There is a pause on the end of the phone as though she is skeptical about what Steph has told her.

💡8. Why do you think Stephanie hesitates when the man asks for her name over the phone? What would you do if you were in her situation?

Appropriate answers, e.g. She doesn't want to say her name in case he comes after her or finds out things about her, e.g. where she lives. Answers to part b) are pupil's own responses.

9. Why does the man laugh when he sees the poker that Stephanie is holding?

He doesn't believe that it will do him any damage, as she's not big enough to hurt him.

10. What caused the man to run out of the house at last?

He was shot by Skulduggery's revolver

