

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2022-2023 - Notes

Class: X

Subject: English

Topic: L-3 The Midnight Visitor

Q1. How is Ausable different from other secret agents?

Ans. Ausable was different from other secret agents in more ways than one. He had a small room in a musty corridor of a gloomy French hotel. It was on the sixth and top floor, and it was scarcely the setting for a romantic adventure. He was extremely fat. In spite of living in Paris for over twenty years, he spoke French and German only passable and had an American accent. Instead of getting message slipped into his hands by dark eyed beauties, he got only a telephone call making an appointment. In these ways, he was different from the conventional notion of a secret agent.

Q2. Who is Fowler and what is his first authentic thrill of the day?

Ans. Fowler was a writer and he had come to meet Ausable. Fowler's first authentic thrill of the day came when he saw a man in Ausable's room, pointing a pistol towards Ausable and himself.

Q3. How does Ausable say he got in?

Ans. Ausable said that he thought Max had got into the room through the balcony. He said that it was the second time in a month that somebody had got into his room through balcony.

Q4. How does Ausable manage to make Max believe that there is a balcony attached to his room? Look back at his detailed description of it. what makes it a convincing story?

Ans. Ausable creates a detailed description of how his office was part of a bigger apartment and how the next room had a direct connection with a balcony. His statement that, somebody else also broke into his office through that balcony earlier made it a convincing story. Ausable's ability to think quickly and calmly in a situation of panic makes it convincing.

Q5. How did Ausable kill Max without using a weapon?

Ans. Ausable was an intelligent spy. When he found Max waiting for him in his room, he made up a story of a balcony under his window. He convinced Max about the balcony when someone knocked at the door, Max fearing it to be the police, jumped out of the window and died.

Q6. Ausable was always one step ahead of everyone. Highlight any two instance from "The Midnight Visitors" when this hold true.

Ans. Ausable fabricated a story about the balcony in no time, to which Max got trapped and killed himself. He then made up the story of a police knocking at the door, which led Max to run towards the window, in order to hide in the non-existent balcony.

