

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

The Woman in Black by Susan Hill

A Before Reading

1 Look at the cover of this book:

Do you think the story is going to be:

(a) funny? (b) sad? (c) frightening? (d) happy?

2 Look quickly at the pictures, then read Chapter 1.

What kind of story is *The Woman in Black*? Does the story happen in the 1990s? Do you think your answers to Question 1 are right?

B While Reading

3 Read to the end of Chapter Five. What do you know about the person telling the story?

Name:	
Place of work:	
Occupation (job):	
Name of wife:	
Number of children:	

4 Look at these descriptions:

Who are these people?

(a) ... a big man with a red face got into the carriage.

(b) ... a small man dressed in black.

(c) A large, old-fashioned bonnet covered her face.

Name

...

...

...

5 Read to the end of Chapter 11. There are six days between the beginning of Chapter 2 and the end of Chapter 11. Pretend you are Arthur. Write his diary saying what happened each day (and night).

6 Spider is Arthur's friend. Arthur tells us what Spider does, eg '*Hearing her name, the little dog wagged her tail.*' (Chapter 7)

Find four sentences about what Spider does in:

(a) Chapter 8

(b) Chapter 9

(c) Chapter 10

7 Read to the end of Chapter 13. Put these sentences in the correct order:

a	Jennet wrote angrily to Alice.	
b	Jennet began to go mad.	
c	Jennet had a child.	1
d	Alice let Jennet come to Eel Marsh House.	
e	Jennet returned to Crythin.	
f	Alice adopted the child.	
g	Alice refused to let Jennet see the child.	
h	The child and nursemaid were drowned.	
i	Jennet wanted the child back.	
j	Jennet went away.	

8 At the beginning of Chapter 14 Arthur has one last thing to write. 'But it is the most terrible thing of all.' What do you think is going to happen? (There is a clue in Chapter 13.)

C After Reading.

9 Write a paragraph which fits into this ghost story.

Try to make the paragraph frightening. Here are some words to help you. (Don't use them all!) Write about 10 sentences.

wind rain mist ghost graveyard marshes sea silence winter cold grey alone
strange terrible evil quiet black white howl cry

10 Write a letter from Jennet Humfrye to Alice Drablow.

11 (a) Look back at page 31. Some letters are missing from Jennet Humfrye's gravestone. Copy the picture. Write in the missing letters.
(b) Design a gravestone for Alice Drablow.

12 Put these characters in order of importance:

(a) inn-keeper		(g) Keckwick	
(b) Spider		(h) Mr Bently	
(c) Arthur Kipps		(i) Nathaniel Drablow	
(d) Alice Drablow		(j) Esmé	
(e) Jennet Humfrye		(k) Samuel Daily	
(f) Stella		(l) Mr Jerome	