



# ENGLISH

## BOOKS - FULL MARKS ENGLISH (HINGLISH)

### THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR

#### Passages For Comprehension

1. Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following

him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.

Why didn't Ausable fit any descriptions of a secret agent ?



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2. Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following

him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.

Why did Fowler feel let down ?



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**3.** And as the light came on, Fowler had his first authentic thrill of the day. For halfway across the room, a small automatic pistol in

his hand, stood a man.

Ausable blinked a few times.

"Max,"he wheezed, "you gave me quite a start. I thought you were in Berlin. What are you doing here in my room?"

How did Fowler have his first authentic thrill of the day?



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across the room, a small automatic pistol in his hand, stood a man.

Ausable blinked a few times.

"Max,"he wheezed, "you gave me quite a start. I thought you were in Berlin. What are you doing here in my room?"

Who was the intruder?



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5. Fowler jumped at the sudden knocking at the door. Ausable just smiled. "That will be the

police." he said, "I thought that such an important paper as the one we are waiting for should have a little extra protection. I told them to check on me to make sure everything was all right."

Why did Fowler jump at the sudden knocking at the door?



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6. Fowler jumped at the sudden knocking at the door. Ausable just smiled. "That will be the

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Why did Ausable ask the police to check on him?



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7. The doorknob turned. Swiftly Max pushed with his left hand to free himself from the sill

and drop to the balcony. And then, as he dropped, he screamed once, shrilly.

The door opened and a waiter stood there with a tray, a bottle and two glasses. "Here is the drink you ordered for when you returned," he said, and set the tray on the table, deftly uncorked the bottle, and left the room.

Why did Max scream shrilly?



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8. The doorknob turned. Swiftly Max pushed with his left hand to free himself from the sill and drop to the balcony. And then, as he dropped, he screamed once, shrilly.

The door opened and a waiter stood there with a tray, a bottle and two glasses. "Here is the drink you ordered for when you returned," he said, and set the tray on the table, deftly uncorked the bottle, and left the room.

What did the waiter bring ?



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9. White-faced, Fowler stared after him. "But ..."  
he stammered, "the police..."

"There were no police." Ausable sighed. "Only  
Henry, whom I was expecting."

"But won't that man out on the balcony ...?"  
Fowler began.

"No," said Ausable, "he won't return. You see,  
my young friend, there is no balcony."

Why was Folwer white faced?



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"But won't that man out on the balcony ...?" Fowler began.

"No," said Ausable, "he won't return. You see, my young friend, there is no balcony."

Why did Ausable assure Fowler that Max would not return?



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1. How is Ausable different from other secret agents ?



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



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3. How has Max got in?



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4. How does Ausable say he got in?



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5. "Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read." What do secret agents in books and films look like, in your opinion? Discuss in groups or in class

some stories or movies featuring spies, detectives and secret agents, and compare their appearance with that of Ausable in this story. (You may mention characters from fiction in languages other than English. In English fiction you may have come across Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, or Miss Marple. Have you watched any movies featuring James Bond?)



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6. 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?



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7. Looking back at the story, when do you think Ausable thought up his plan for getting rid of Max? Do you think he had worked out his plan in detail right from the beginning? Or did he

make up a plan taking advantage of events as they happened?



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**8.** In this story, Ausable shows great 'presence of mind,' or the ability to think quickly, and act calmly and wisely, in a situation of danger and surprise. Give examples from your own experience, or narrate a story, which shows someone's presence of mind.



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9. Discuss what you would do in the situations described below. Remember that presence of mind comes out of a state of mental preparedness. If you have thought about possible problems or dangers, and about how to act in such situations, you have a better chance of dealing with such situations if they do arise.

- A small fire starts in your kitchen.



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**10.** Discuss what you would do in the situations described below. Remember that presence of mind comes out of a state of mental preparedness. If you have thought about possible problems or dangers, and about how to act in such situations, you have a better chance of dealing with such situations if they do arise.

A child starts to choke on a piece of food.



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**11.** Discuss what you would do in the situations described below. Remember that presence of mind comes out of a state of mental preparedness. If you have thought about possible problems or dangers, and about how to act in such situations, you have a better chance of dealing with such situations if they do arise.

An electrical appliance starts to hiss and gives out sparks.



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**12.** Discuss what you would do in the situations described below. Remember that presence of mind comes out of a state of mental preparedness. If you have thought about possible problems or dangers, and about how to act in such situations, you have a better chance of dealing with such situations if they do arise.

A bicycle knocks down a pedestrian.



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**13.** Discuss what you would do in the situations described below. Remember that presence of mind comes out of a state of mental preparedness. If you have thought about possible problems or dangers, and about how to act in such situations, you have a better chance of dealing with such situations if they do arise.

It rains continuously for more than twenty-four hours.



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**14.** Discuss what you would do in the situations described below. Remember that presence of mind comes out of a state of mental preparedness. If you have thought about possible problems or dangers, and about how to act in such situations, you have a better chance of dealing with such situations if they do arise.

- A member of your family does not return home at the usual or expected time.



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# Additional Question Solved Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was Ausable?



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2. Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent. Comment.



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3. Why did Fowler feel let down after meeting Ausable?



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4. What is the important paper that Ausable talks of?



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5. How did Fowler had his first authentic thrill of the day?



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6. Why and how did Max enter Ausable's room?



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7. Describe Max as a secret agent.



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8. What was the real story of the balcony below the window of Ausable's room?



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9. What position did Max take before he jumped out of the window?



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**10.** What story did Ausable cook up regarding the arrival of the police? How did it affect Max?



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**11.** How did Max react when Ausable told him that the loud knockings at the door were of the police?



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**12.** How did clever Ausable outwit and get rid of his rival or enemy secret agent Max?



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**13.** Who was actually knocking at the door. Was it pre-planned?



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**14.** What happened to Max after he jumped out of the window?



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15. How do you judge Ausable as a secret agent?



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**Additional Question Solved Long Answer Type Questions**

1. Give a character-sketch of Ausable highlighting his presence of mind and intelligence.



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2. Presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than a gun. How far is it true in case of Ausable, the secret agent?



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3. How did crafty and foxy Max failed to take away the all important report concerning some new missiles from Ausable?



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4. How did Ausable outsmart and outwit the crafty Max and got rid of him?



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5. Sometimes, appearances can be very deceptive. How does this statement prove with this story?



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