



STORIES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE WHERE ADVENTURE COMES TO LIFE



LESSON PLAN FOR TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

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About L. Ron Hubbard



With 19 *New York Times* bestsellers and more than 280 million copies of his works in circulation, L. Ron Hubbard is among the most acclaimed and widely read authors of our time. As a leading light of American Pulp Fiction through the 1930s and '40s, he is further among the most influential authors of the modern age. Indeed, from Ray Bradbury to Stephen King, there is scarcely a master of imaginative tales who has not paid tribute to L. Ron Hubbard.

About *Spy Killer*

Spy Killer:

(ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL 1936
ISSUE OF *FIVE-NOVELS MONTHLY*)

Falsely accused of murder and grand larceny, Kurt Reid flees to Shanghai.

After rescuing a White Russian spy, he's captured by the Chinese and forced into the cloak-and-dagger world of espionage and intrigue, where everything and everyone are not what they appear to be.



Spy Killer

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• Quiz

For this section circle the correct answers to fill in the blanks.



1. MAIN IDEA

What is the main idea of the story?

- The Chinese and Japanese are always fighting.
- A woman changes her appearance and fools everyone.
- Only women make good spies.
- A man has to fight for his life after being wrongly accused of murder.

2. SEQUENCE

What belongs in the middle?

- a) Varinka Savischna leaves Kurt in a locked room.
- b) _____
- c) The death squad searches the house and Kurt jumps out to fight.
- Anne Carsten, a woman he has met before, shows up unexpectedly.
- Kurt escapes from the *Rangoon* by jumping into the water.
- Kurt meets Lin Wang.
- Kurt meets Varinka in a tea room.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Lin Wang rips out Bonner's fingernails with pliers so _____

- he can see how much Bonner can take.
- Bonner agrees to sign a confession to make the torture stop.
- that Bonner's fingers will look like Lin Wang's.
- he can keep them for himself.

• Quiz

4. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Lin Wang tells Kurt he must kill *Takeki* in order to get the confession and save himself, _____

- so Kurt sets out to find and kill *Takeki* in order to save his own life.
- so Yang kills Lin Wang so that Kurt can get away.
- so Kurt laughs and tells Lin Wang he is a big joker.
- so Kurt tells Lin Wang to forget it—the's not a murderer.

5. CONTEXT CLUES

The Concession was a place in Shanghai where _____

- fruits and vegetables were sold.
- families would vacation during the summer.
- endangered species were bought and sold.
- foreigners could live and trade.

6. CONTEXT CLUES

Ling Wang's group of executioners is called _____

- the finest in China.
- the First Brigade.
- the Death Squad.
- an army.

7. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

Why do you think Kurt kept thinking about both Varinka and Anne Carsten?

- He felt they could each help him escape.
- He thought it would help keep his mind off his troubles in China.
- He thinks about any woman he meets.
- He did not realize they were the same person, but he seemed to like them equally.

• Quiz

8. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

What do you think happens with Kurt and Varinka/Anne after the book ends?

- They have a big fight and Kurt goes back to America.
- They get married and live happily in China.
- They decide to spy for Japan instead.
- The Chinese government throws them out of the country.

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

Kurt jumps over the side of the *Rangoon* into the water because _____

- a captain on the *Rangoon* was found dead and they think Kurt killed him.
- he goes for daily swims in order to keep his exercise in.
- the water is a nice temperature for the first time in weeks.
- he is tired of working on the tanker and wants to find a new job.

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

Kurt is kept in jail for a month before he meets _____

- an old friend.
- the president.
- Anne Carsten.
- Lin Wang.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

After Bonner writes and signs a confession, Lin Wang _____

- throws him into the river.
- hires him to work in the Death Squad.
- shoots him.
- congratulates him on his honesty.

• Quiz

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

Kurt does not try to use the rope to escape from the cage he's in because _____

- he is too tired after the struggle he's been through.
- he has never learned how to climb a rope and thinks he might fall.
- he is starting to get used to being a prisoner.
- he realizes that if he escapes, Yang is still out there to kill him.

13. FACTS AND DETAILS

When Kurt is finally taken to meet *Takeki*, he is shocked that she is _____

- Varinka Savischna.
- a woman.
- not as evil as he was led to believe.
- older than he thought she would be.

14. FACTS AND DETAILS

Kurt discovers that Varinka has helped him by slipping a _____ into his pocket.

- ten-dollar bill
- love note
- bandage
- pistol

15. FACTS AND DETAILS

When Kurt must get Lin Wang to go to the monastery, Varinka _____

- takes a nap to get ready for the meeting.
- lets him go by himself because she is afraid.
- begs him not to go.
- uses dye and a band to make him look Japanese.

• Characters

CHARACTERS

WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS, AND BE SURE TO EXPLAIN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS TO THE OTHER CHARACTERS.

KURT REID

VARINKA SAVISCHNA

LIN WANG

• Summary/SBQ

SUMMARY

Write a summary of the book on a separate piece of paper. You may prepare for an oral summary if you prefer.

SBQ (STORY-BASED QUESTIONS)

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. How does Kurt Reid meet Varinka Savischna?
2. How does Lin Wang get Bonner to sign a confession?
3. What happens shortly after Kurt registers at the hotel at Kalgan, along the Great Wall?
4. What is thrown through the window while Kurt is with Varinka in her house in Kalgan?
5. How do the Japanese soldiers know that Varinka helped Kurt escape?
6. Who is driving the car when the Japanese soldiers are taking Varinka to the firing squad?
7. Why does Varinka tell Kurt to stop at the old tower?
8. Who does Lin Wang have as a prisoner when Kurt shows up dressed as a Japanese officer?

• Story-Based Discussion

SBD (STORY-BASED DISCUSSION)

While you are reading the book, find the answers to the following questions. You don't have to write down the answers.

1. Why does Kurt feel panic when he finds the doors to the room Varinka has left him in are all locked?
2. What does Kurt realize that Lin Wang would do if he did manage to kill *Takeki*?
3. What does Varinka Savischna's job turn out to be?

SAW (STORY-APPLIED WRITING)

Pick one topic below and write a complete response.

1. Write the next chapter of the book, explaining what happens now that Kurt and Varinka are free.
2. Compare and contrast Kurt Reid with a character you have read about in another book.
3. Choose a few scenes from the book and rewrite them from Lin Wang's perspective.

• Find the Meaning

For the following section circle the correct answers.

1. *renowned* means

- foolish
- owned again
- named again
- famous

2. *foil* means

- cause to be angry
- prevent the success of
- not show one's emotion
- cover in silvery paper

3. *keen* means

- pretty
- metal
- sharp
- stylish

4. *poised* means

- killed with poison
- made of flowers
- pretended
- self-assured

5. *unscathed* means

- not serious
- unhappy
- not scared
- unharmed

6. *bleakly* means

- slowly
- without hope
- in a talkative manner
- sharply

7. *scrutiny* means

- surveillance
- speaking slowly
- living well
- squinting

8. *futile* means

- unknown
- deceiving
- not many
- useless

9. *demise* means

- falsities
- trickery
- smallness
- death

10. *placidly* means

- previously
- woodenly
- peacefully
- perfectly

• Complete the Sentences

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. It is the job of a superhero to _____ the plans of criminals and enemies.

- keen
- demise
- scrutiny
- foil

2. With no money and no job, he could only think _____ about his future.

- poised
- renowned
- bleakly
- placidly

3. She is always so _____ that I feel awkward and unattractive next to her.

- foil
- futile
- demise
- poised

4. The misbehaving children became very uncomfortable under the _____ of the teacher.

- scrutiny
- keen
- bleakly
- placidly

5. Be careful with that knife! It has a _____ edge.

- demise
- scrutiny
- unscathed
- keen

• Complete the Sentences

6. He is _____ for his many books on philosophy.

- poised
- renowned
- placidly
- futile

7. I don't know how he comes out of those fights _____

- keen.
- demise.
- foil.
- unscathed.

8. A person without secrets or regrets can go through life _____

- futile.
- placidly.
- foil.
- scrutiny.

9. The _____ of his grandfather left him sad for many weeks.

- renowned
- poised
- bleakly
- demise

10. Your efforts to pass that test will be _____ if you don't study.

- futile
- unscathed
- scrutiny
- placidly

• Quiz: Answers



1. MAIN IDEA

- A man has to fight for his life after being wrongly accused of murder.

2. SEQUENCE

- Anne Carsten, a woman he has met before, shows up unexpectedly.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- Bonner agrees to sign a confession to make the torture stop.

4. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- so Kurt sets out to find and kill *Takeki* in order to save his own life.

5. CONTEXT CLUES

- foreigners could live and trade.

6. CONTEXT CLUES

- the Death Squad.

7. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

- He did not realize they were the same person, but he seemed to like them equally.

8. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

- They get married and live happily in China.

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

- a captain on the *Rangoon* was found dead and they think Kurt killed him.

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Lin Wang.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

- shoots him.

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

- he realizes that if he escapes, Yang is still out there to kill him.

13. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Varinka Savischna.

14. FACTS AND DETAILS

- pistol

15. FACTS AND DETAILS

- uses dye and a band to make him look Japanese.

• Characters: Answers

KURT REID

Kurt Reid is an American who lives and works in China and speaks both Chinese and Japanese. He has been working as a seaman on a tanker and he has a reputation for having a hot temper. It is thought that he killed a captain so he jumps overboard to escape the consequences. He meets up with Varinka Savischna, a Russian who is mysterious and seems to want his help. Then she disappears and he ends up in the hands of the Death Squad after meeting up briefly with a girl he'd had a short romance with earlier, Anne Carsten. Lin Wang, the general of the Death Squad, wants him to kill *Takeki* the Courageous in exchange for his freedom, which he sets out to do. Through various twists and turns he ends up saving both *Takeki* and himself in a battle of wits and force.

VARINKA SAVISCHNA

Varinka Savischna is a mysterious Russian woman who seems to want Kurt's help but will not tell him why. She is a friend of Anne Carsten. She disappears shortly before Kurt is captured by the Death Squad and then reappears when he is sent on a mission to kill *Takeki*. When Kurt is finally taken to see *Takeki*, he is shocked to find that it is really Varinka Savischna. She then helps him escape and puts herself at great risk. When Kurt comes back to save her they fight the final battle together and in the end, it turns out that Varinka is working for the Chinese government and that she and Anne Carsten are one and the same person!

LIN WANG

Lin Wang is the general of the Death Squad. He is a small, ugly, misshapen man with scaly skin who is as vile as he looks. He has Kurt Reid captured as he wants him to do a job for him—kill *Takeki*. In exchange he will give Kurt the confession that will clear his name; a confession gotten by torture which Kurt is forced to watch. Of course, Lin Wang thinks he will get rid of both *Takeki* and Kurt Reid with his plan, but they manage to outsmart him.

• Story-Based Questions: Answers

SBQ (STORY-BASED QUESTIONS)

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. How does Kurt Reid meet Varinka Savischna?

She is sitting in a tea room where he went to dry his clothes after escaping the *Rangoon*, and she stands out because she is Russian.

2. How does Lin Wang get Bonner to sign a confession?

He pulls out his fingernails with pliers until he gives in.

3. What happens shortly after Kurt registers at the hotel at Kalgan, along the Great Wall?

Kurt is arrested by Japanese officers.

4. What is thrown through the window while Kurt is with Varinka in her house in Kalgan?

A rock with a note tied around it breaks the window.

5. How do the Japanese soldiers know that Varinka helped Kurt escape?

They found the gun she put in his pocket that is registered to Varinka.

6. Who is driving the car when the Japanese soldiers are taking Varinka to the firing squad?

Kurt Reid, who has knocked out the real driver and is wearing the driver's military cap.

7. Why does Varinka tell Kurt to stop at the old tower?

She says some Japanese will soon come along in a car and she gives him a rifle to use.

8. Who does Lin Wang have as a prisoner when Kurt shows up dressed as a Japanese officer?

He has Anne Carsten.

• SBD/Find the Meaning: Answers

SBD (STORY-BASED DISCUSSION)

While you are reading the book, find the answers to the following questions. You don't have to write down the answers.

1. Why does Kurt feel panic when he finds the doors to the room Varinka has left him in are all locked?
He has just escaped from the brig of the *Rangoon* and now finds himself a prisoner again.
2. What does Kurt realize that Lin Wang would do if he did manage to kill *Takeki*?
He would have him turned over to the Japanese as *Takeki's* killer so there would be no risk to Lin Wang.
3. What does Varinka Savischna's job turn out to be?
She is a supporter of the Chinese and her last job was to kill Lin Wang.

FIND THE MEANING

1. *renowned* means famous
2. *foil* means prevent the success of
3. *keen* means sharp
4. *poised* means self-assured
5. *unscathed* means unharmed
6. *bleakly* means without hope
7. *scrutiny* means surveillance
8. *futile* means useless
9. *demise* means death
10. *placidly* means peacefully

• Complete the Sentences: Answers

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. It is the job of a superhero to *foil* the plans of criminals and enemies.
2. With no money and no job, he could only think *bleakly* about his future.
3. She is always so *poised* that I feel awkward and unattractive next to her.
4. The misbehaving children became very uncomfortable under the *scrutiny* of the teacher.
5. Be careful with that knife! It has a *keen* edge.
6. He is *renowned* for his many books on philosophy.
7. I don't know how he comes out of those fights *unscathed*.
8. A person without secrets or regrets can go through life *placidly*.
9. The *demise* of his grandfather left him sad for many weeks.
10. Your efforts to pass that test will be *futile* if you don't study.

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