

2. Comprehension .

1. Why does Mr. Oldfield come to see Poirot?
2. What is Mr. Oldfield's occupation?
3. What rumors are going around the town?
4. How did Mrs. Oldfield die?
5. What was she like?
6. Why might her death have been convenient for Mr. Oldfield?
7. Did he and his wife get along well?
8. Who is Jean Moncrieffe? What is her occupation?
9. What does Hercules Poirot find out when he interviews her?
10. What does he decide to do after talking to her?
11. Who does he go to see after talking to Jean Moncrieffe? Why?

3. Characters

Name	Physical description	Mental Profile	Relationship with other characters
Mr. Oldfield			
Mrs. Oldfield			
Jean Moncrieffe			
Mrs. Leatheran			
Georges			

4. Quotes

For the following quotes, explain who said it, what they are talking about, and to whom.

" She was an invalid and very concerned over her health and inclined, therefore, to be fretful and difficult to please. "

"in my experience jealousy, however far-fetched and extravagant it may seem, is nearly always based on *reality*."

"Mrs. Oldfield was a singularly unpleasant woman. Frankly, I was delighted when she died."

"You know, I do think it's so true-the saying that there's no smoke without fire"

" Oh, *ofcourse!* I shall not say a *word* to *anybody!*"

5. Guilt

If the autopsy reveals that the cause of death was not illness, for what reasons could the following people all be considered possible suspects in the case?

Name	Reason
Dr. Oldfield	
Jean Moncrieffe	
Nurse Harrison	
Beatrice King	

6. The End

In groups of three or four, write up the end of the story imitating Agatha Christie's style. You will use at least 10 vocabulary words from this or other stories. Be creative!

7. Homework.

Imagine you have to finish writing this story. In a dialogue between Hercule Poirot and his assistant, explain what steps you took to solve the case, what the autopsy revealed, and who the murderer was (if the cause of death was murder.)

• Of course. Nothing can go wrong. By this time next year we'll be married. "

"It's true-it's all true...! killed her. And all for nothing-nothing...! was mad."

• | must ask you to forgive me, Mr. Poirot. I have been so angry with you, so terribly angry. It seemed to me that you were making everything so much worse. "

3. Characters

Fill in this chart giving as much detail as possible.

Name	Physical description	Mental Profile	Relationship with other characters
Nurse Harrison			
Beatrice King			
Georges			

4. Comprehension

1. How does Nurse Harrison describe Mrs. Oldfield?
2. When Poirot interviews Nurse Harrison, what does she claim to have overheard?
3. How does she react to the idea of an exhumation?
4. Does she still work for Mr. Oldfield?
5. How does Beatrice King first react when Poirot questions her?
6. What does Beatrice King think of Jean Moncrieffe?
7. Who is Poirot's assistant in the story?
8. What does the autopsy reveal?
9. When Nurse Harrison meets Poirot after the autopsy, she gives him one more piece of information. What is it? Be specific
10. What does her story suggest?
11. During Poirot and Beatrice's conversation, Poirot's assistant comes in. What does he have with him and what does he have to say? Be specific.
12. What incoherence on Nurse Harrison's part makes Poirot suspicious?

13. Who proves to be the murderer?

14. What is the motive?

5. Going further

Explain Georges' role in the story. Include all the necessary details.

Explain everything you know about the pink enamel case, starting from Nurse Harrison's story.

6. The title

What is the significance of the title? What is the Lernean Hydra? Why is this an appropriate title?

7. Oral work

With a partner, write a five minute dialogue between two gossiping town women about Mrs. Oldfield's murder. Mention all the different characters (Mr. Oldfield, Mrs. Oldfield, Nurse Harrison, Jean Moncrieffe, Beatrice King, Hercules Poirot) and other people in the town. Remember you are gossiping, it can be funny. Use at least 10 vocabulary words from this or other stories.