

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

The Silent World of Nicholas Quinn by Colin Dexter

A Before Reading

- 1 Read the title of the book. Why might you say that someone lived in a 'silent world'?
- 2 Read the section of the story on the back cover. Imagine that the conversation between Chief Inspector Morse and Sergeant Lewis continues. Write the next few lines of the story.

B While Reading

- 3 Keep a record of what happens in the story. Make notes connected to these dates, times and people. Change your notes if you find out later that people have lied about where they were or what they were doing. And change them if Morse and Lewis find out new information. (Make a copy of this chart and leave plenty of space for your notes.)

Place/Date/Time	People	Action	Changes
Oxford: 4th, 5th, 6th Nov. 6th Nov	Sheik Dubal Nicholas Quinn		
Friday 21st Nov. time not known 12 p.m. 1 p.m. early afternoon afternoon 4.00 4.25 4.30 4.50 6.15	Nicholas Quinn Foreign Examinations Syndicate staff Dr Bartlett Margaret Freeman Monica Height/Donald Martin, Philip Ogleby Mrs Evans, Christopher Roope Christopher Roope Noakes Noakes Mrs Evans		
Oxford: Tuesday 25th Nov. 9.30 10.15 later in the morning afternoon later in the afternoon	Donald Martin Morse Morse/Lewis Morse/Lewis Morse/Lewis		
Al-jamara: Tuesday 25th Nov.	five young men		
Oxford: Wednesday 26th Nov. morning late morning afternoon evening	Morse/Lewis Lewis Morse Morse/Lewis, Constable Dickson Morse		
Thursday 27th Nov. afternoon evening	Morse Lewis		

Place/Date/Time	People	Action	Changes
Friday 28th Nov. 12 p.m. afternoon late afternoon evening	Morse/Roope Morse/Lewis Morse Morse, Morse/Lewis, Lewis, Monica Height		
Saturday 29th Nov. 7.30 a.m. afternoon afternoon 10 p.m. time not known time not known	Morse Morse Lewis Morse/Lewis Nigel Dennison George Bland		
Monday 1st Dec. 11.10 a.m. later evening	people who knew Quinn Morse/Roope/Lewis Lewis		
Tuesday 2nd Dec. morning lunchtime afternoon	Lewis Morse/Roope Morse		
Thursday 4th Dec. 9.30 a.m. afternoon evening	Morse Morse/Lewis Morse		
Friday 5th Dec. 10.00 a.m. evening	Morse and all Syndics etc. Morse/Lewis		

C After Reading

- 4 At the end of the story, what has happened to:
- (a) Nicholas Quinn? (b) Dr Bartlett? (c) Donald Martin?
 (d) Monica Height? (e) Christopher Roope? (f) Philip Ogleby?
- 5 Read the letter on page 29 again and the secret message which it sends. Then try to write a similar letter yourself which sends a secret message. You don't have to make it work in exactly the same way as the one that Morse discovers.
- 6 Morse finds a number of things in Quinn's pockets, one of which is very useful. It helps Morse to discover who killed Quinn.

Here are a number of things from a woman's handbag:

2 lipsticks; 2 passports – one with the name, Kate Betterton, and the other with the name, Katerina Bezhukov; a wig; a paperback book; an Oxford bus timetable to Heathrow and Gatwick airports; an Oxford bus timetable to London; a plane ticket dated 26th January; a Eurostar train ticket from Brussels to London, dated 26th January; an English phrasebook; a bottle of aspirin tablets; a tube of suntan lotion.

Imagine that you are Morse. Write as much as you can about the owner of the bag. What do you think her story is?