

The Penang File

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Before reading

- The title of this book is *The Penang File*. What is Penang and what is a file?
- Look at the cover. What does it tell you about the story?
- Look at *People in the story* on page 4.
 - Who work together as British agents?
 - Who work together in the Malaysian police?
 - Who are the two criminal friends?
- From this information, what do you think will happen in the story?
- Look at the maps on page 5.
 - What is the name of the town on Penang Island?
 - What four buildings are shown?
 - What is the name of the airport?
 - What three areas of Georgetown are shown?
- Look at the newspaper on page 6.
 - How old is this newspaper?
 - What happened in Malaysia on that day?
 - Who did Malaysia belong to before it became a new country?

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

- Look at the picture on page 7. Where are Naylor and Munro?
- Where is Munro going 'tonight'?
- Which two people are also in Penang?
- What does the e-mail from the embassy say Sergio is going to do?
- Why is 31 August an important day in Malaysia? Why is it more important in the year of the story (2007)?
- Who is the English Prince going to meet in Penang?
- Who is Munro going to meet in Penang?
- What does Naylor want Munro to do?

CHAPTER 2

- True or false?
 - Munro is staying at the Eastern and Oriental Hotel.
 - The Padang is a kind of beach.
 - Munro travels around Georgetown in a taxi.
 - The old city is very busy with people selling things.
 - Sergio is staying at the same hotel as Munro.
 - Sergio is with the Big Man when Munro first sees him.

CHAPTER 3

- Is Munro watching Sergio and the Big Man from a real taxi?
- Where do Sergio and the Big Man go to eat?
- How does Munro know there are no guns in Sergio and the Big Man's rooms?
- Put these events in order:
 - Munro follows the Big Man on foot.
 - Munro sees a window open in the City Hall.
 - At the City Hall, a man gets out of the car and gives the Big Man a long suitcase.
 - The Big Man comes out of the hotel at 4 a.m.
 - Munro walks across the Padang and looks back.
 - The front door of the City Hall opens and the Big Man goes inside.
- What does Munro think is in the suitcase, and what does it have to do with the window that opens in the City Hall?

CHAPTER 4

- Who says these things to whom?
 - 'Ten o'clock today. The Padang.'
 - 'And get Sergio.'
 - 'Go back into the room.'
 - 'No-one stops Sergio.'
- Look at the picture on page 23. Why does everything go dark for Munro?

CHAPTER 5

- Look at the picture on page 24.
 - Why is it difficult for Munro to use the phone?
 - How does he dial 0 for Reception?
- Times and numbers
 - What happens at 9.40?
 - What is 1415?
 - Who does Munro meet at 9.53?

CHAPTER 6

- What does Munro do in the Japanese woman's room?
- How does he stop the Big Man?
- What happens at 9.57?
- What is Sergio holding?
- Why doesn't Sergio kill Munro?
- Munro finds an old newspaper in Sergio's bag. What does the article say?
- Why does Sergio want to kill the Prince?

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Choose five of the pictures and write one sentence about each one.
2. What mistakes does Munro make?
3. Sergio tells the police what happened to his family and why he wants to kill the Prince. Write his story.
4. You are a reporter on the *Peninsula News*. Write the newspaper article about how the Prince was saved.
5. What does the story suggest about information in Asia (see pages 15 and 18)?
6. Imagine you are a film director and you are going to make a film of *The Penang File*. Which actors would you want to play the different people?
7. These jobs are jumbled. Write the words correctly.
E.g. sobs *boss*
a tenag, **b** nameclipo, **c** ridrev, **d** ttiieeorcpns, **e** rotcepnis,
f tangeras
8. What do you think of Penang and Georgetown? Would you like to visit these places? Why/why not?