

The Lahti File

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Before reading

1. Look at the front cover picture. What do you think is happening?
2. Read the back cover blurb. What do you think the 'poisonous secret' is?
3. Look at the map on page 5. Where in Europe can you find Finland? What do you know about this country?
4. Read the contents on page 3. What do you think will happen to Munro in the story?
5. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

PAGE 6

1. Why do you think the fish, people and birds died?

CHAPTER 1

1. Match the questions and answers.
 - 1 What do you think is happening?
 - 2 How's your Finnish?
 - 3 Who am I meeting?
 - 4 Why don't we let the Finns do something about it?
 - a A man called Pentti Virolainen.
 - b ... it would not be a good idea to tell the Finns what we know.
 - c I'm not sure ... Poison of some sort. Poison gas, maybe.
 - d It's fine ... People usually think I come from Lapland, north of the Arctic Circle.

CHAPTER 2

1. Match the times to the events.
 - 1 17.45
 - 2 17.55
 - 3 18.00
 - 4 18.10
 - a Munro seemed to be looking in a window, but he was checking the streets.
 - b Munro decided to wait another five minutes before returning to the hotel.
 - c Munro saw nobody was waiting for him on the church steps.
 - d Munro left the hotel and checked nobody was waiting for him in the street.
2. What do you think will happen in the next chapter?

CHAPTER 3

1. True, false or don't know? Write T (true), F (false) or DK (don't know).
 - a Virolainen died immediately from the gun shots.
 - b Virolainen had information about the newspaper stories.
 - c Munro had become used to death because he worked as a spy.
 - d Lappalainen was interested in becoming president of Finland.
 - e Munro thought Lappalainen had a truthful smile.
 - f Munro didn't mind answering all of Koivisto's questions.

CHAPTER 4

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
 - 1 Koivisto seemed to believe that Munro was on holiday
 - 2 At midnight, Koivisto came to Munro's room
 - 3 Munro woke up feeling awful, and asked himself
 - 4 Munro checked the wardrobe, drawers and his suitcase
 - 5 After getting dressed,
 - a and they spent the night together.
 - b but he didn't believe much of what she told him.
 - c Munro received a message from Naylor.
 - d if Koivisto had given him a drug.
 - e and discovered Koivisto had searched them.

CHAPTER 5

1. Complete the summary.

Munro called ¹..... from a ²..... phone, and told him about Virolainen's ³..... . Munro asked Naylor to check on ⁴..... and described her. Naylor gave Munro an ⁵..... to visit in Lahti and told him that the people who killed Virolainen were very ⁶..... . In the market, Munro saw that ⁷..... men and two ⁸..... were following him. He walked to the lake and bought a beer. He knew the men had not ⁹..... him because they did not know who he was meeting. Munro made a ¹⁰..... and called London again.
2. What do you think Munro's plan is?

CHAPTER 6

1. Put the events in the right order.
 - a The drunk man fell asleep in front of the TV.
 - b Munro put on a black T-shirt and lay on the bed, 'asleep'.
 - c Munro entered the Hotel Lahti and ran up to the second floor.
 - d A man entered the room and saw two drunk men.
 - e Munro heard his followers searching for him.
 - f Munro helped a drunk man get into his room.
 - g Munro undressed, hid his clothes and put whisky on himself.

CHAPTER 7

1. Write the correct names. Who ...
 - a was still asleep at four o'clock in the afternoon?
 - b received a message from London?
 - c did not like their executives making trouble in public places?
 - d looked like a man who had drunk too much?
 - e tried to hit Munro with a knife?
2. The message read: 'VEJ 563'. What do you think this means?

CHAPTER 8

1. Look at the words in italics. Who are *them*, *he*, *we* etc.?
 - a It would take *them* a few seconds to find their friend.
 - b Two minutes later *he* was driving along the road to Helsinki.
 - c *She* was in her mid-thirties, with shoulder-length red hair.
 - d *We* can speak Finnish, if you prefer.
 - e *They* must be brother and sister.
 - f Just before *he* went to meet *you*, he told me everything he knew.

CHAPTER 9

1. What can Munro be sure or not sure about? Write S (sure) or NS (not sure).
 - a The work of Bioratkaisut was something biological.
 - b Riitta Koivisto worked for Bioratkaisut.
 - c Pentti Virolainen discovered the company was making poisonous gas.
 - d Pentti had talked to a British biologist.
 - e The paper from Pentti explained how to make poisonous gas.

CHAPTER 10

1. Put the sentences from the story in the right order.
 - a The car was thrown across the road and almost off the other side.
 - b ... the car turned over again on its way off the road and into the trees.
 - c There was no way he could escape by going faster than the jeeps.
 - d There was another loud crash as the front of the jeep hit the car.
 - e He could see a forest road further ahead on the left.
 - f Munro put his foot to the floor, and the car went faster.
 - g ... he pulled the wheel round to the right and turned into the side road.
 - h Only one jeep was left but the driver knew what he was doing.

CHAPTER 11

1. Who or what is the author describing?
 - a Her eyes were closed, her red hair lying across her face.
 - b A short man with white blonde hair.
 - c Strong, powerful and with almost no smell at all.
 - d They don't care about rules or the law either.
 - e Usually we have them between 95° and 100° Celsius.
2. Think of three adjectives to describe:
 - a Munro
 - b Sirpa Virolainen
 - d Jorma Lappalainen

CHAPTER 12

1. Complete the paragraph with names of people.

¹..... had been shot in the leg. ²..... moved her behind some boxes. ³..... told Munro to tell him where ⁴..... was. ⁵..... and the Finn fought together, and soon ⁶..... had the gun. ⁷..... was sad that he would not become President of Finland, and did not want to spend time in prison. Before ⁸..... could stop him, he drank some poison.
2. On page 52, Lappalainen says: '... then I can send you both on your way.' What does he mean?

CHAPTER 13

1. Which facts are new for Munro in this chapter? Write ✓ (new) or ✗ (old).
 - a Bioratkaisut produced poison gas.
 - b Lappalainen had homes in both Finland and France.
 - c Riitta Koivisto was Jorma Lappalainen's sister.
 - d Koivisto had disappeared.
 - e Sirpa Virolainen was very beautiful.
2. What do you think will happen in the final chapter?

CHAPTER 14

1. Match Koivisto's answers to Munro's questions.
 - 1 So you were in this with your brother.
 - 2 So you knew what was happening at Bioratkaisut.
 - 3 So how did you know who I was so soon after I arrived in Lahti?
 - 4 So why kill Virolainen's sister?
 - 5 So what now?
 - a So when a British tourist arrived, and he didn't have a camera with him to take holiday photos, we thought it would be a good idea to keep an eye on him.
 - b He was everything to me ...
 - c What now? ... Now I'm going to ...
 - d Of course I knew. He was making lots of money so that he could become President.
 - e She tried to stop us too. Just like her brother.

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Have you read any books or seen any films with a story like *The Lahti File*?
2. Do you think *The Lahti File* describes the real work of a spy?
3. What skills do you need to be a spy?
4. Do you think the book would make a good film? If yes, choose actors to play the characters.
5. What did you learn about Finland from reading *The Lahti File*?
6. Write chapter 15. What will happen next?
7. Write a newspaper story giving the full facts about the events in Lahti.
8. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Write some True or False questions.