

CHRISTOPHER. I think you would only kill a dog if (a) you hated the dog or (b) if you were a lunatic or (c) because you wanted to make Mrs. Shears sad. I don't know anybody who hated Wellington so if it was (a) it was probably a stranger. I don't know any lunatics either, so if it was (b) it was also probably a stranger.

SIOBHAN. Right.

CHRISTOPHER. But most murders are committed by someone who is known to the victim. In fact, you are most likely to be murdered by a member of your own family on Christmas Day.

SIOBHAN. Is that a fact?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes actually it is a fact. Wellington was therefore most likely to have been killed by someone known to him. I only know one person who didn't like Mrs. Shears and that is Mr. Shears who divorced Mrs. Shears and left her to live somewhere else and who knew Wellington very well indeed. This means that Mr. Shears is my Prime Suspect.

SIOBHAN. Christopher —

CHRISTOPHER. I am going to find out more about Mr. Shears.

14. SCHOOL OFFICE

MRS. GASCOYNE. Mr. Boone, nobody has ever taken an A-level examination in the school before.

ED. He can be the first then.

MRS. GASCOYNE. I don't know if we have the facilities in the school to allow him to do that.

ED. Then get the facilities.

MRS. GASCOYNE. I can't treat Christopher differently to any other student.

ED. Why not?

MRS. GASCOYNE. Because then everybody would want to be treated differently.

ED. So?

MRS. GASCOYNE. It would set a precedent. Christopher can always do his A-levels later. When he's 18. Which is, after all, the age everyone else takes their A-levels.