

**Level 6-5**  
**The Hollow Needle**

**Workbook**

**Teacher's Guide and Answer Key**

# Teacher's Guide

## A. Summary

### 1. Book Summary

There was a strange robbery at the house of the Count de Gesvres. The robber was shot, but there was no body, and nothing was missing. The Police Inspector came to investigate, and he met a high school student named Isidore who said he knew what was missing.

Isidore used the Inspector's baton to break the head of an angel statue that stood outside the Needle, a famous chapel near the count's house. The Inspector was shocked, but Isidore showed him that the statue was fake. The robber had taken the real one and left a fake in its place. Then Isidore took the Inspector inside the Needle and tried to find a secret door to show where the real statue was, but he could not find any.

After the Inspector left, Lupin, the most famous thief in France, appeared. He told Isidore that he had indeed taken the statue but that he was not a thief. He took the valuables of France to hide them in the Needle to keep them safe. He said that for 500 years there had been a Lupin who served the king of France in this way and that the Needle was filled with secret rooms full of France's treasures.

Lupin said that he was the 99<sup>th</sup> Lupin, but he was getting old for the job. He asked Isidore to take his place, and Isidore agreed.

### 2. Chapter Summary

#### ► Chapter 1

Late one night, at the house of the Count de Gesvres, Raymonde and Suzanne heard a noise coming from the first floor. They went downstairs and saw a man near the front door. He was carrying something big and heavy. Suzanne cried out, "It's him! It's Lu—," and then she fainted. As the man ran away, Raymonde got a shotgun and shot at him. The man fell near an old chapel called "the Needle." However, they could not find a body. There was only a little blood. The next day, the Police Inspector and his detectives came. A young stranger also came. The Inspector thought it was strange that nothing was missing and there was no dead body. The young man said he knew what was missing. He introduced himself as Isidore Beautrelet, a high school student.

## ► Chapter 2

Back at his office, the Police Inspector was thinking about the strange events of the day before when Isidore walked in. He was followed a moment later by Dr. Loganne, who said he had been kidnapped and forced to help a man who had been shot. The Inspector thought maybe it was the man shot in the robbery. The doctor also said he heard that Raymonde, the niece of the count, had gone missing.

The Inspector and Isidore drove to the count's house. On the way, a fisherman stopped them and said he had found a woman's body. Isidore was sure it was Raymonde because the woman was wearing a bracelet that he had seen on Raymonde earlier. The Inspector was impressed with the boy's observation and asked him what he knew about the robbery at the count's house. Isidore agreed to show him something, and they continued to the house.

## ► Chapter 3

They parked by the Needle, near the count's house, and Isidore borrowed the Inspector's baton. He struck the head of one of the chapel's angel statues, smashing it. The Inspector was shocked, but Isidore explained that it was not a real statue but a fake made of plaster. He said that thieves were stealing the real statues and replacing them with plaster copies so no one would notice. The real name of the chapel was the Chapel of Roses, and every king of France had come here for the last 500 years. It had a pointed tower that looked like a needle. Isidore said he knew where the robber's missing body was, and they went inside the Needle. He walked up to the altar and pushed on a stone, thinking it would open a secret passage, but nothing happened. He tried again and also with other stones, but no luck. The Inspector told him he had been reading too many comic books and that secret passages existed only in stories. He then left.

## ► Chapter 4

Isidore sat with his head in his hands and said to himself, "How could I be so wrong?" From the back of the chapel came a laughing voice, "You're not that wrong." Dr. Loganne, the man who had been kidnapped, emerged from the shadows. He removed his disguise to reveal that he was the famous Lupin, king of thieves. Lupin told Isidore that he was not a thief. He took things not for himself but for France. The first Lupin was a servant of the king 500 years before, when there was trouble in France. He went around the country taking the valuable treasures of France and replacing them with copies. He kept the valuables safe in secret rooms in the Needle. Lupin told Isidore there had been a Lupin working for the king for 500 years and he was the 99<sup>th</sup> Lupin. Just then, a beautiful young woman appeared. It was Raymonde.

## ► Chapter 5

Isidore was shocked to see her, but Raymonde explained that they had put Raymonde's bracelet on a girl who had died. She and her husband, Lupin, decided to fake her death so they could start a new life. She also explained that the gun she had used on Lupin did not have real bullets and that the blood was pig's blood. They wanted people to think that Lupin may have died. Lupin said that he was getting old and needed someone to replace him. He felt that Isidore would be a good Lupin because he was clever. He told Isidore that France needed him. Isidore agreed to be the next Lupin. Then the couple took him to a small stone in the wall that was a different color. Lupin pushed the stone, and a secret door opened, leading to some stairs. As Isidore walked down the stairs to see the treasures of France for the past 500 years, he said to himself, "I am Lupin, king of thieves."

## B. Background and Themes

★ **Suspense:** Strange things happened that could not be easily explained. It was only through the cleverness of a boy that the mystery was solved.

★ **Patriotism:** Lupin gave up a normal life to serve his king and his country in a lonely and dangerous job.

★ **Courage:** Young Isidore agreed to take on a difficult and dangerous job to replace Lupin.

★ **Precociousness:** A boy was able to solve a mystery that an adult could not.

# Answer Key

## Part A Story Focus

### Before You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

#### ► Introduction

1. It first came out in a French magazine.
2. Maurice Leblanc wrote it.
3. They compare him with Sherlock Holmes.

#### ► Characters

1. Lupin: clever, patriotic
2. Isidore: smart, sharp-eyed
3. Police Inspector: experienced, thoughtful
4. Raymonde: young, pretty

## While You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

### ► Chapter 1

#### A. Preview Questions

1. There is a robbery.
2. I think they will try to scare the robber away.
3. I would be really scared.

#### B. Review Questions

1. She thought there was a robber in the house.
2. They saw a man carrying something big.
3. She took a shotgun and shot him.

### ► Chapter 2

#### A. Preview Questions

1. They are near some water.
2. I think the man has found a dead body.
3. I think he is helping the policeman.

#### B. Review Questions

1. Isidore Beautrelet and then Dr. Loganne came to his office.
2. He had been kidnapped and taken to help a man who had been shot.
3. The Inspector was looking for someone who had been shot.

### ► Chapter 3

#### A. Preview Questions

1. They are at a chapel.
2. I think he is going to hit the statue.
3. He is upset and wants the boy to stop.

#### B. Review Questions

1. He smashed the head of an angel statue with it.
2. He wanted to show that it was a fake.
3. He tried to find a secret passage.

## ► Chapter 4

### A. Preview Questions

1. He is Lupin.
2. He is surprised.
3. I think he is talking about why he steals.

### B. Review Questions

1. Lupin was.
2. He took them to keep them safe.
3. Raymonde did.

## ► Chapter 5

### A. Preview Questions

1. They are going into one of the secret rooms.
2. I think they will see a lot of treasures.
3. I would feel really excited.

### B. Review Questions

1. They wanted to start a new life.
2. He wanted Isidore to become the next Lupin.
3. He showed Isidore a secret door that led to a room underground.

### Mini Quiz

- a. Do not count your chickens before they hatch.  
→ Your plans might not work out the way you have expected.
- b. Things are not always what they seem.  
→ What may seem to be true to us may in fact be false.
- c. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.  
→ A whole team can be no better than the weakest member of the team.

## After You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

### ► Pattern Practice

4. A: My mother found our cat sleeping in a tree.

B: How funny!

5. A: My brother saw a lady riding a motorcycle.

B: That was our teacher!

### ► Challenge

1. There was a noise from the first floor of the house.

2. "It looks like the robber did not take anything," said the Police Inspector.

3. Isidore smashed the statue's head with the police baton.

4. Isidore could feel the cool air of the underground rooms.

## Part B Skill Focus

### Vocabulary Preview

#### A.

##### Across

2. fainted      4. niece      6. chasing      7. bracelet      8. needle      9. copy

##### Down

1. baton      3. thief      5. calmly      6. chapel

#### B.

1. next to the altar
2. all our paintings
3. The kidnapers
4. lit his pipe
5. shot the robber
6. We saw a figure
7. She fainted before

## Reading Comprehension

### ► Beginning: Chapters 1–2

#### A.

1. T   2. F   3. F   4. T   5. T

#### B.

1. Dr. Loganne
2. Raymonde
3. Police Inspector
4. Isidore

#### C.

1. b   2. c   3. d   4. a   5. b   6. c

### ► Middle: Chapter 3

#### A.

1. T   2. F   3. T   4. F   5. T

#### B.

1. He is Isidore.
2. He is a high school student.
3. He is not a thief.
4. He smashes an angel statue.

#### C.

1. b   2. d   3. b   4. b   5. a   6. c

### ► End: Chapters 4–5

#### A.

1. F   2. T   3. T   4. T   5. F

#### B.

a → d → c → b

#### C.

1. c   2. c   3. d   4. c   5. a   6. c

## Think and Write

Main Idea: robbery near the Needle

Event 1: The thief was Lupin.

Detail 1: wears disguises

Detail 2: fakes a kidnapping

Detail 3: chooses the next Lupin

Event 2: Isidore becomes detective.

Detail 1: knows what is missing

Detail 2: thinks the Needle has secret rooms

Detail 3: becomes the next Lupin

## Vocabulary Review

1. There was a robbery, but nothing was taken.
2. Raymonde took his shotgun off the wall.
3. He was interested in the beautiful statues of angels.
4. She was wearing a bracelet on her wrist.
5. The tower looked like a needle pointing to Heaven.
6. Isidore thought there was a secret passage in the chapel.
7. A thief steals things only for himself.
8. All of those rooms are filled with treasures.
9. They decided to fake Raymonde's death.
10. The gun did not have real bullets.

## Summary

A.

4	2
3	1

B.

*(Answers may vary.)*

1. "If he was hurt as badly as you say, then he must be dead," said the Inspector.
2. A fisherman said they pulled a body from the sea.
3. "I made a plaster copy of this same statue last year," said Isidore.
4. A secret door opened, leading to some stairs going down.

## Book Report

**Story** 1. robbery    2. Inspector    3. baton    4. fakes    5. secret