



Idioma	Activitat	Nivell	Suport	Núm.	Número
AN	CE	5	NO		138

THE LAND LADY
SHORT STORY

1. Read the summary of the plot and fill in the blanks with the missing words. You can only use one word per gap.

Billy Weaver arrived in Bath on a cold and windy ..1.. .He was looking for a cheap hotel when he caught sight of a "bed and breakfast" ..2.. in a downstairs window. Peering ..3.. the glass he saw a cosy room with a fire burning in the ..4.. and a dog curled up asleep in front of it. He thought it ..5.. be a pretty decent house to stay in. The most pleasant of ..6.. opened the door for him and led him into a ..7.. arranged bedroom. The bedspread cover had been taken off the bed and a hot-water bottle placed ..8.. the sheets. Everything was ready as if she had been ..9.. him. There were no other ..10.. at the house, which was rather peculiar, given the fact that the price wasn't ..11.. .The last of the guests had left the place a long time ..12.. .Another thing Willy thought ..13.. was the smell the old lady emanated. It wasn't so much that he found it unpleasant ..14.. that he couldn't quite identify it. It ..15.. him of the smell of corridors in hospitals. Apart from this, everything was to his liking.

2. Say whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false statements.

- Billy Weaver went to Bath on Holiday.
- He rented a room at a boarding house because hotels were full.
- There were only two other guests at the house.
- The landlady was very choosy as to the selection of her guests.
- Some of her previous guests were world famous and always made the headlines.

2. Billy uses different expressions to refer to the landlady meaning that she is rather peculiar. Do you remember any?

3. Can you find another word with the same meaning as the adjective underlined in each of the sentences below?

- a. the houses in the street had been very swanky residences in the past.
- b. a pub would be more congenial than a boarding house.
- c. the landlady was a bit choosy.



Idioma	Activitat	Nivell	Suport	Núm.	Número
AN	CE	5	NO		138

1. Billy Weaver arrived in Bath on a cold and windy **evening**. He was looking for a cheap hotel when he caught sight of a "bed and breakfast" **notice** in a downstairs window. Peering **through** the glass he saw a cosy room with a fire burning in the **hearth** and a dog curled up asleep in front of it. He thought it **would** be a pretty decent house to stay in.

The most pleasant of **landladies** opened the door for him and led him into a **properly** arranged bedroom. The bedspread cover had been taken off the bed and a hot-water bottle placed **between** the sheets. Everything was ready as if she had **been** expecting him.

There were no other **guests** at the house, which was rather peculiar, given the fact that the price wasn't **high**. The last of the guests had left the place a long time **ago**. Another thing Willy thought **peculiar** was the smell the old lady emanated. It wasn't so much that he found it unpleasant **but** that he couldn't quite identify it. It **reminded** him of the smell of corridors in hospitals. Apart from this, everything was to his liking.

2. Billy Weaver went to Bath on Holiday. **F**
He rented a room at a boarding house because hotels were full. **F**
There were only two other guests at the house. **F**
The landlady was very choosy as to the selection of her guests. **T**
Some of her previous guests were world famous and always made the headlines. **T**
3. The landlady appeared to be **off the rocker**.
He thought the landlady was slightly **dotty**.
The old lady was **choosy and particular**.
4. - swanky - elegant
- congenial - friendly
- choosy - demanding