



Idioma	Activitat	Nivell	Suport	Núm.	Número
AN	CE	5	NO		139

**PARSON'S PLEASURE**  
SHORT STORY

1. Read this brief summary of Roald Dahl's short story and correct the false statements.

Cyril Boggis was an antique dealer by trade who owned a big shop and showroom in Chelsea, where he did a great deal of business. He wasn't a man of taste but he knew a lot about furniture and had a well-known source of supply. This source was the countryside, where he spent his Sundays, visiting the rich farmhouses in search of antique furniture. In order to gain admittance into such houses, he pretended to be compiling an art inventory. His character helped him to gain the confidence of country people who in general were rather stupid. It was usually a piece-of-cake for him to trick them into selling their most valuable pieces very cheaply.

2. Finish the sentences with the missing word or words.
- Cyril Boggis was a talented .....
  - He usually got his furniture from country houses at a .....
  - Every Sunday, he covered an area ..... in search for antiques.
  - He never visited the houses of the .....
  - He was able to carry the furniture he bought because he owned .....
3. Describe Cyril Boggis physical aspect and personality by filling the columns below with as much information as possible.

Physical appearance	Dress	Personality	Tastes

4. Classify the adjectives in the box, into three groups. You can use the same adjective more than once.
- a. those that describe a stereotype of country people
  - b. those that describe Cyril Boggis
  - c. those that describe Brett, Cloud and Rummins

ignorant	suspicious	gentle	proud	stupid	fool
talkative	shy	friendly	sly	wary	
charming	deceitful	cunning	devious	dishonest	talented

5. Put the following into your own words:
- I mustn't allow myself to **haggle** like this.
  - I'll be back in a **jiffy**.
  - He is **balmy**.
  - The lady at the farm was a **sitting duck**.
  - He never wasted time on **barren territory**.



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1.
  - the shop was small and he didn't do a great deal of business.
  - he was a man of good taste.
  - nobody knew his source of supply.
  - country people weren't stupid, only suspicious.
  - some times it wasn't easy to convince country folk to sell him their furniture.
2.
  - a. Cyril Boggis was a talented **salesman**.
  - b. He usually got his furniture from country houses at a **very low price**.
  - c. Every Sunday, he covered an area **of five square miles** in his search for antiques.
  - d. he never visited the houses of the **rich or the villages**.
  - e. He was able to carry the furniture he bought because he owned **a large station wagon**.

3.

Physical appearance	Dress	Personality	Tastes
- Small fat-legged man	- Uniform of a clergyman	- Talented salesman	- Love for the great English eighteenth century designers
- Round and rosy face	- Dressed in black	- Good taste	
- Moon-faced	- Oak walking-stick	- Clever	
- Two large brown eyes	- Soft black hat	- Changed mood according to the situation	
- Easy going air			

4.

Cyril Boggis	Country people	Brett, Cloud, Rummins
Deceitful	Friendly	Wary
Charming	Ignorant	Sly
Talkative	Gentle	Suspicious
Devious	Suspicious	Ignorant
Talented		
Dishonest		
Cunning		

5.
  - I mustn't allow myself to **bargain** like this.
  - I'll be back in a **moment**.
  - He is **crazy**.
  - The lady was a **good target**.
  - He never lost time in a place he knew they wouldn't have anything to sell.