

In detail answer the following questions after reading the story. These are the questions that are found on page 81 & 82 of *The Short Story Reader*, 3rd ed. by Sandra G. Berkley

7. In the opening of "The Avenging Chance," the narrator says, "But for a piece of merest bad luck, which the murderer could not possibly have foreseen, the crime must have been added to the classical list of great mysteries." What event in the story became the "piece of bad luck" for the murderer?

8. On page 79 note that Roger Sherringham says, "What I deduced was that, being the person she was, it was quite incredible that she should have made a bet to which she knew the answer. *Ergo* she didn't." How do you reconcile this statement with the passage on page 64 "Beresford gave them to her after lunch as they sat over their coffee, with some jesting remark about paying his honorable debts, and she opened the box at once?"

9. Find the passage on page 78 which reads: "Good heavens! But Mr. Sherringham, you don't mean to tell me that...Sir William himself!"

"He wanted to get rid of Mrs. Beresford," Roger continued. Note that the *He* in the sentence does not refer to Sir William, even though it appears to do so when you are reading the story for the first time. Roger is, as it turns out, simply ignoring Moresby's exclamation. Find a couple of other examples in the story in which the reader is told not falsehoods, but only part of the truth in order to delay the disclosure of the identity of the murderer.

10. What elements (either persons or forces) line up in opposition with each other in order to form conflict in "The Avenging Chance"? How is the conflict resolved in the story?