Chapter 1: The Seven Blessings
We meet Sally Lockhart. She visits her dead father’s old offices and accidentally kills Mr Higgs. She meets Jim Taylor, who offers to help.

Chapter 2: The Web
Major Marchbanks reads about Sally in the newspaper. Mrs Holland discusses the ruby with her lawyer. Sailor Matthew Bedwell returns to London, suffering from opium addiction.

Chapter 3: The Gentleman of Kent
Sally goes to Kent to visit Major Marchbanks. Mrs Holland is also there—and Sally only escapes thanks to Fred Garland, a photographer.

Chapter 4: The Mutiny
On the train back to London, Sally reads through Major Marchbanks’ diary. She falls asleep and the diary is stolen from her by Mr Hopkins. Sally only has a few scraps of paper left.

Chapter 5: The Ceremony of the Smoke
Sailor Matthew Bedwell is in Mrs Holland’s lodging-house, looked after by little Adelaide. Opium is used to get to his secrets.

Chapter 6: Messages
Adelaide sees Jim Taylor for help. Sally and Jim realise that Mrs Holland wants the ruby—and needs the scraps from the diary as a clue. Mrs Holland blackmails Mr Hopkins into stealing the scraps of paper and murdering Sally.

Chapter 7: The Consequences of Finance
Mr Hopkins breaks in—but cannot bring himself to murder the sleeping Sally. Leaving the house, he is murdered by a mugger. In the morning, Sally decides to leave Mrs Rees’s house. She goes to her lawyer.

Chapter 8: The Passions of Art
Desperate for somewhere to stay, Sally goes to Fred Garland. She meets Rosa and gets a job as their accountant. They decide that the scraps of paper are a treasure clue to the ruby.

Chapter 9: A Journey to Oxford
Fred and Sally go to Oxford to meet sailor Nicholas Bedwell’s brother, the Reverend Nicholas Bedwell. They decide to find some opium to help Nicholas.

Chapter 10: Madam Chang
Sally and Fred go to an Opium Den to buy the drug. Sally smells the drug and has a “nightmare” about murder, Major Marchbanks and her father. She realises it is actually a memory.

Chapter 11: The Stereographic Repertory Company
The Reverend Bedwell and Fred set off to rescue Nicholas. Mrs Holland gets hold of the scraps of paper and the clues to finding the ruby.

Chapter 12: Substitution
Fred and the Reverend Nicholas Bedwell rescue Matthew from Mrs Holland. Adelaide runs away to live with Fred, Rosa and Sally.

Chapter 13: Lights Below the Water
Sally finds out that her father was murdered. She also learns about the deadly society of The Seven Blessings and its evil leaders, Ah Ling.

Chapter 14: Arms and the Girl
Sally practises firing her new gun.

Chapter 15: The Turk’s Head
Mrs Holland works out that the ruby is hidden in the cellar of a pub in Kent. However, when she gets there it has already been taken.

Chapter 16: Protecting the Property
A mysterious stranger wishes to talk to Sally.

Chapter 17: King James’s Stairs
Sailor Matthew Bedwell is murdered. Adelaide is snatched away from safety by Mrs Holland. Fred and Jim try to get Adelaide back—but both are badly beaten.

Chapter 18: London Bridge
Sally takes the ruby to meet with Mrs Holland. There, Sally finds out the truth of her own real identify. Sally throws the ruby into the river and Mrs Holland kills herself by jumping in after it. Ah Ling turn up in a coach.

Chapter 19:
Ah Ling is a drug smuggler who betrayed and murdered Sally’s father. He tries to blackmail Sally into joining him; she shoots him.

Chapter 20:
Ah Ling mysteriously disappears. Later, Sally finds a letter from Captain Lockhart and a large amount of money.

Some Context
The novel is set in 1872, in Victorian times. Victorian girls like Sally were expected to do as they were told, aiming to marry well and have a family. Independent woman were frowned upon.

A woman’s reputation was vital in making sure she was attractive as a wife. Opium was an incredibly dangerous drug—but not actually illegal. The British Government ran the official trade.

Some Useful Words
- nefarious: extremely wicked
- compulsion: an obsession or impulse you cannot avoid; compulsive behaviour
- feisty: brave, energetic, courageous
- malevolent: evil and wicked
- self-sufficient: able to live on your own and fend for yourself
- retribution: a sort of aggressive revenge or justice for a wrong done to you
- intrepid: brave and adventurous
# Knowledge Organiser — The Ruby in the Smoke Year 7

## Plot Questions

### Chapter 1-5
- Which phrase does Sally say to Mr Higgs which kills him?
- Who does the lawyer visit in Hangman’s Wharf?
- What is the name of the photographer Sally meets when she goes to Kent?
- What is the name of the ship which Sally’s father was on when he died?
- What did Sally’s father give her for her fourteenth birthday?
- What object ‘had been responsible for deaths too many to list—murders, suicides, executions’?

### Chapter 6-10
- Whom does Mrs Holland order Mr Hopkins to kill?
- Where does Sally go to live after she leaves Mrs Rees’s house?
- What happens to Mr Hopkins eventually?
- Whose murder does Mrs Holland blame on Mr Hopkins in order to control him?
- Where is opium grown, under British Government supervision?
- After Sally suffers an opium trance, who tells her, “you have the smoke in your nature now”?

### Chapter 11-15
- Why is Nicholas Bedwell able to swap places with his brother so successfully?
- “If I went to the bottom of the sea she’d find me”: whom is Adelaide describing?
- What was the name of the ship upon which Matthew Bedwell was First Mate when it was attacked?
- Why did Ah Ling sink the whole ship upon which Captain Lockhart was travelling? Why not just murder him?
- Who, do we discover, was once an expert boxer?
- What does “The Turk’s Head” - the name of the pub—mean?

## Character Questions

### Chapter 1-5
- Where does Jim Taylor work?
- Who taught Sally “military tactics and book-keeping” but no other school subjects?
- What does Mrs Holland say happened to the last girl who worked for her, before Adelaide?
- Who was “crazy with love” for the young Mrs Holland?
- When Mrs Holland was young, in which foreign country did she live with her father?

### Chapter 6-10
- What does Jim Taylor read which gives him the ability to decipher the mystery of the ruby?
- Who, it turns out, is making money from looking after Sally?
- “They don’t think of Trembler as a servant. And they don’t think of me as a girl. We’re all equal.” Whom is Sally describing?
- What was Mrs Holland called, including her nickname, before she married Sergeant Holland?
- Where does Captain Lockhart put his £10,000 share of Lockhart and Selby

### Chapter 11-15
- By punishing Sally for her father’s treatment of Mrs Holland’s husband, Mrs Holland is seeking...
  - retribution
  - rehabilitation
  - recommendation
  - renunciation

## Ideas Questions

### Chapter 1-5
- Which word best describes Jim Taylor?
  - foreboding
  - feisty
  - malevolent

### Chapter 6-10
- Which word best describes Mrs Holland’s activities?
  - negligent
  - nondescript
  - nefarious

### Chapter 11-15
- Which best describes Mrs Holland’s attitude towards the ruby?
  - self-sufficient
  - intrepid
  - compulsive
  - nonchalant

## Remarks
- By punishing Sally for her father’s treatment of Mrs Holland’s husband, Mrs Holland is seeking...
  - retribution
  - rehabilitation
  - recommendation
  - renunciation

- Attitudes towards women in Sally’s time might be described as...
  - descriptive
  - restrictive
  - lenient
  - encouraging