

Knowledge Organiser— THE RUBY IN THE SMOKE Year 7



Events Time Line

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 identity. 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.

Key Characters



SALLY
LOCKHART



CAPTAIN
LOCKHART



MRS
REES



MAJOR
MARCHBANKS



MRS
HOLLAND



MR BERRY



FRED
GARLAND



ROSA
GARLAND



JIM
TAYLOR



MR
HOLLAND



MATTHEW
BEDWELL



REV NICHOLAS
BEDWELL



ADELAIDE



MRS CHANG



AH LING

Some Key Themes

love loyalty

deception greed

addiction obsession

secrets regrets

violence mystery

retribution yearning

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 women 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

