Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lucille Fletcher

 Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_





Lucille Fletcher's stories and screenplays have chilled at least three generations of filmgoers and television viewers. She started off as a clerk/typist in New York radio and evolved into a successful screenwriter in Hollywood. You may remember her from her famous ghost thriller playwright, “The Hitchhiker.” Today, we will study what many critics acclaim as her number one suspense thriller, *Sorry, Wrong Number* (radio play).

This mystery thriller is about a neurotic invalid, whose only contact with the outside world is through her phone. One night, because of a crossed wire, she overhears plans for a murder, and she frantically works to enlist help to spoil their devious plot.

**Characters**: Mrs. Elbert Stevenson (Agnes), Jim, George, Police Sergeant Martin, Telephone Operator, Chief Operator, Information Operator, Western Union, Hospital Receptionist, Man in Black, Announcer.

**Resource:** *Sorry, Wrong Number* (radio play)

**Strategy:** PQA (Put the Question in your answer)

**Question:** Who wrote *Sorry, Wrong Number*?

**Answer in PQA format:** Lucille Fletcher wrote *Sorry*, *Wrong Number*.

**Instructions**: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions in PQA format (excluding all graphic organizers). Please support your responses with textual evidence when needed. All questions refer to the radio play version of *Sorry, Wrong Number*.

1. What is the **setting** of “Sorry, Wrong Number?
2. Who is the **protagonist** of “Sorry, Wrong Number”?
3. Who is the **antagonist** of “Sorry, Wrong Number”?
4. What is the **exposition** of “Sorry, Wrong Number”?
5. Why is Mrs. Stevenson home alone and how does she feel about it? (Consider why her husband is not home or coming home and why she’s confined to her home.)
6. What is the name of Mrs. Stevenson’s maid?
7. Who is Mrs. Stevenson attempting to call when she was connected to a wrong number?
8. What does Mrs. Stevenson overhear when she is connected to a wrong number?
9. ~~What type of assistance is Mrs. Stevenson attempting to obtain through the phone?~~
10. Why do you think it was so difficult for Mrs. Stevenson to receive the assistance she felt she needed or deserved? (Think about questions 12 & 14.)
11. ~~Why doesn’t the telephone company assist Mrs. Stevenson with her request to trace the call of the wrong number that she was connected to?~~
12. Why does Mrs. Stevenson feel uneasy, worried, and nervous at home?
13. How long has Mrs. Stevenson been sick?
14. Why does Mrs. Stevenson want to hire a trained nurse?
15. What type of operation does Mrs. Stevenson have at Henchly Hospital?
16. What coincidences does Mrs. Stevenson have with the woman in the murder plot?
17. ~~Create a chart that lists both the types and the complications/~~**~~conflicts~~** ~~that Mrs. Stevenson encounters in the story. Please include how each complication/conflict is resolved.~~
18. How/why does Mrs. Stevenson finally realize that the murder plot she overheard was her own?
19. What is the **resolution** of the story?
20. ~~Create a chart that identifies Agnes’~~ **~~character traits~~** ~~along with textual evidence to support your answers.~~
21. ~~Why do you think Mrs. Stevenson did not recognize the murder plot she overheard was her own? (~~*~~Hint~~*~~: Think about her character traits)~~.
22. What examples of **foreshadowing** can you identify in the story?
23. ~~Do you think Mr. Stevenson planned his wife’s murder? Why?~~
24. What is **suspense**?
25. Create a chart that lists examples of suspense (in the radio play) and the effects that they had on the reader.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Examples of Suspense** | **Effects on the Reader** |
| 1. Mrs. Stevenson hears the phone click while she is on the phone w/nurse at Henchly Hospital.
 | * Draws reader into the story
* Generates more interest
* Creates tension
* Makes reader curious about next steps
* Creates anxiety
* Creates nervousness
 |
| 1. Hearing/imagining George walk up the stairs and approach Mrs. Stevenson in the bed.
 | * Draws reader into the story
* Generates more interest
* Creates tension
* Makes reader curious about next steps
* Creates anxiety
* Creates nervousness
 |
| 1. The training passing by her bedroom.
 | * Draws reader into the story
* Generates more interest
* Creates tension
* Makes reader curious about next steps
* Creates anxiety
* Creates nervousness
 |
| 1. George murders Mrs. Stevenson.
 | * Draws reader into the story
* Generates more interest
* Creates tension
* Makes reader curious about next steps
* Creates anxiety
* Creates nervousness
 |

1. What is **irony**?
2. What examples of irony can you find in *Sorry, Wrong Number*? (Please specify the type of irony.)
3. What **character traits** did the author give Mrs. Stevenson in order to advance the plot of the story? (Think about how Agnes characteristics.)
4. ~~This story has a plot twist similar to stories like “The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street” and “The Hitchhiker.” What is the plot twist that you discover only at the end of this drama?~~
5. ~~Create a Venn diagram that compares the radio play of “Sorry, Wrong Number” to its film adaptation.~~