

## II. Beetle Boy

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/extract/12293/Beetle-Boy-by-M-G-Leonard.html>



1. Which day did Bartholomew Cuttle go missing?

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2. What time did Bartholomew Cuttle greet his secretary?

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3. The police reported that the 27<sup>th</sup> of September had been an **unremarkable** Tuesday. Define the word highlighted. You may use a dictionary to help.

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4. He'd exchanged **pleasantries** with Eddie, the security guard on that day. Define the word highlighted. You may use a dictionary to help.

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5. Based on the first paragraph, what impression do you get of Bartholomew Cuttle. Use the text as evidence to help support your answer.

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6. Find and copy a synonym

for 'said' (page 3) s\_\_\_\_\_

Bartholomew did something 'often' (page 4) f\_\_\_\_\_

Darkus 'told' his neighbours (page 4) a\_\_\_\_\_

7. If you were to write a headline based on the disappearance you have just read about, what would it be?

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8. Summarise these two pages of text in less than twenty words.

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## CHAPTER ONE

# *The Mysterious Disappearance of Bartholomew Cuttle*



**D**r Bartholomew Cuttle wasn't the kind of man who mysteriously disappeared. He was the kind of man who read enormous old books at the dinner table and got fried egg stuck in his beard. He was the kind of man who always lost his keys, and never took an umbrella on rainy days. He was the kind of dad who might be five minutes late picking you up from school, but he always came. More than anything else, Darkus knew his dad was not the kind of father who would abandon his thirteen-year-old son.

The police report stated that the 27th of September

had been an unremarkable Tuesday. Dr Bartholomew Cuttle, a 48-year-old widower, had taken his son, Darkus Cuttle, to school and gone on to the Natural History Museum, where he was the Director of Science. He'd greeted his secretary Margaret at nine-thirty, spent a morning in meetings discussing museum business, and eaten lunch at one o'clock with an ex-colleague, Professor Andrew Appleyard. In the afternoon he'd gone down to the collection vaults, as he frequently would, via the coffee machine, where he'd filled his cup. He'd exchanged pleasantries with Eddie, the security guard on duty that day, walked down the corridor to the vaults and locked himself in one of the entomology rooms.

That evening, when his father didn't come home, Darkus alerted the neighbours and they called the police.

When the police arrived at the museum, the room Dr Cuttle had entered was locked from the inside. Fearing he may have suffered a heart attack, or had an accident, they produced a steel battering ram and smashed the door open.

The room was empty.

A stone-cold cup of coffee sat with some papers on the table beside a microscope. Several coleoptera specimen drawers were open, but there was no sign of Dr Bartholomew Cuttle.

He had vanished.