

## Chunking Drill 4

*From 'The Blue Train'*  
*By Agatha Christie*

### Punctuation Reading Drill

'I have brought you a present from Paris.'

'For me? Something very nice?'

'I hope you will think so,' said Van Aldin, smiling. He took the parcel from his coat pocket and handed it to her.

She unwrapped it eagerly, and snapped open the case. A long-drawn out 'Oh!' came from her lips. Ruth Kettering loved jewels, always had done so.

'Dad, how ... how wonderful!'

'Rather in a class by themselves, aren't they?' said the millionaire with satisfaction. 'You like them, eh?'

'Like them? Dad, they're unique. How did you get hold of them?'

Van Aldin smiled.

'Ah! That's my secret. They had to be bought privately, of course. They are rather well known. See the big stone in the middle? You have heard of it, maybe, that's the historic "Heart of Fire"'

'Heart of Fire!' repeated Mrs Kettering.

She had taken the stones from the case and was holding them against her breast. The millionaire watched her. He was thinking of the series of women who had worn the jewels. The heartaches, the despairs, the jealousies. 'Heart of Fire', like all famous stones, had left behind it a trail of tragedy and violence. Held in Ruth Kettering's assured hand, it seemed to lose its potency of evil. With her cool, equable poise, this woman of the western world seemed a negation to tragedy or heart-burnings. Ruth returned the stones to their case; then, jumping up, she flung her arms around her father's neck.

### Record your time here:

First time ..... seconds

Second time ..... seconds

Third time ..... seconds

Fourth time ..... seconds