

ANGOL IRODALOM EREDETIBEN  
MAGYARÁZATOKKAL

- Humoros elbeszélések -



Strucc Kiadó

Felelős kiadó: Strucc Könyvkiadó Kft.  
1133 Budapest, Kárpát u. 5.  
Telefon: 349-5816, 30-970-6038  
www.strucckiado.hu

Szerkesztő: Vadász György  
Lektor: Téglás Mária  
Anyanyelvi tanácsadó: Michael Hughes  
Illusztráció: Lovász Zoltán

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## A KÖTET SZERZŐI

**Mark Twain** (*Samuel Langhorne Clemens*, 1835-1910) — Sokan az amerikai irodalom legnagyobb humoristájának tartják. Írói pályafutását újságírással, tárcák és satirikus karcolatok írásával kezdte. Később utazási élményeit örökítette meg néhány kötetben, majd megírta a világhírnevet jelentő két ifjúsági regényét (*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*). Elbeszéléseiben és regényeiben a humoros portréfestésen és gúnyos helyzetleíráson keresztül értékes korrajzot ad a XIX. század Amerikájáról.

**Ellis Parker Butler** (1869-1937) — Korának népszerű humoristája vidéki boltosként kezdte, majd írói ambíciója New Yorkba vitte, ahol szerkesztő lett egy folyóiratnál, később bankár és ismert közéleti személyiség. Könnyű, nevetető írásaival sikeres karriert futott be: élete során mintegy kétezer tárcája és novellája, valamint négy regénye jelent meg.

**Jerome Klapka Jerome** (1859-1927) — A világszerte ismert és népszerű *Three Men in a Boat, to Say Nothing of the Dog* című regény magyar származású, Angliában született írója páratlan humorérzékét színészként és újságíróként is kamatoztatta. Műveit könnyed életfelfogás, derűs optimizmus és kedélyes, bár néha kicsit érzelmes emberszeretet jellemzi.

**Donald Ogden Stewart** (1894-1980) — Regényein és elbeszélésein kívül számos forgatókönyvet írt az amerikai mozi számára (például a díjnyertes *The Philadelphia Story*-t), ezen kívül színészként is szerepelt. Írásainak jellemző tulajdonsága a cizellált stílus és a satirikus hangvétel.

**Charles Dickens** (1812-1870) — A viktoriánus Anglia legnagyobb regényírója. Erősen támadta a társadalmi igazságtalan-

ságot, képmutatást és gonoszsgot, melyet küzdelmes élete során volt alkalma megtapasztalni. Kimagasló jelentőségű műveiben (*Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *Great Expectations*) és korábban írt „vázlataiban” egyaránt megnyilvánul a groteszk abszurd és a komikus iránti érzéke.

**Dorothy (Rotschild) Parker** (1893-1967) — A szellemességéről és szatirikus hangvételéről híres író nő amellet, hogy számtalan verset és novellát írt, színésznőként, színműíróként és irodalmi kritikusként is ismert. Elbeszéléseiben elgondolkodtató képet ad az amerikai polgári élet visszasságairól, különös tekintettel a nők társadalmi helyzetére.

**George Mikes** (1912-1987) — A magyar születésű, de később Angliában élő író és rádiós személyiség világának középpontjában az idegen fogalma áll, melyet saját idegenségét meghazudtoló nyelvi humorral ábrázol. Útikönyveinek leírásai szerint a világ nem más, mint sok nemzetre szakadt valóság, melynek képtelensége a tréfában, ebben a nyelvi korlátokon nehezen átvihető közegben oldódhat fel.

**Stephen Butler Leacock** (1869-1944) — A kanadai író világszerte az angol nyelvterület egyik legnagyobb humoristájaként ismerik, bár saját maga inkább gazdaságtudományi és politológiai tevékenységét tartotta fontosnak. Elbeszéléseiben nevetséges jellemek és tréfás helyzetek sorát állítja élénk könnyed iróniával, amely mögöl mély emberszeretet sugárzik.

**James Herriot** (*James Alfred Wight*, 1916-1995) — Az észak-angliai Yorkshire-ban élő és dolgozó állatorvos rendkívüli szeretettel, emberséggel és finom humorral meséli el az embert próbáló vidéken, falusi tanyákon átél kalandjait, melyek hitelességét saját nevetséges helyzeteinek őszinte leírása is alátámasztja.

**Max Steele** (1922-) – A modern amerikai próza jeles képviselője, számos novella és a *Debby* című társadalmi regény írója. A stílusára jellemző ironikus humor mellett a jellemek és helyzetek mélyebb ábrázolása és a szereplői iránt tanúsított meleg együttérzés is jelentkezik műveiben. Steele alkotói tevékenységén kívül jelentős szerepet vállalt az irodalmi oktatásban: nyugdíjba vonulásáig a kreatív írástechnika professzora volt az észak-karolinai egyetemen.

## ELŐSZÓ

A *Szépirodalom eredetiben* sorozat – mint neve is mutatja – értékes irodalmi műveket juttat el az olvasóhoz a maguk eredetiségében azzal a céllal, hogy a nyelvtanulók minél szélesebb köre élvezhesse az érdekes, ötletes írások eredeti nyelvezetét. Segítségképpen a lap szélén megadjuk a nehezebb szavak, kifejezések fordítását. A teljesebb megértést a novellák végén található jegyzetek is segítik, amelyek elsősorban kulturális kiegészítést nyújtanak.

### Használati javaslat

Ne akarjuk a könyvet egyszerre végigolvasni. Válasszunk ki egy-egy elbeszélést, és először olvassuk el szótár nélkül – az sem baj, ha az oldal szélén lévő segítséget sem vesszük igénybe – és próbáljuk megérteni a történetet. Ezután olvassuk el újra, most már a szöveg nyelvi jelenségeire is figyelve. Ekkor már szótárt is használhatunk. Ha érdekes szót vagy kifejezést találunk, jelöljük meg, és később foglaljuk saját szerkesztésű mondatokba. Ezáltal az könnyebben válik aktív szókincsünk részévé.

### Fontos tanács

Az eredeti szöveg mellett található fordítás nem feltétlenül a szóban forgó kifejezés legpontosabb magyar megfelelője, hanem az adott mondatba legjobban illő változat – ezért mielőtt a szót vagy kifejezést más szövegek környezetben használnánk, ellenőrizzük annak jelentését a szótárban.

## ELLIS PARKER BUTLER — OUR FIRST BURGLAR

betörő

When our new **suburban** house was completed I took Sarah out to see it, and she liked it all but the **stairs**.

külvárosi

lépcső

‘Edgar,’ she said, when she had **ascended** to the second floor<sup>1</sup>, ‘I don’t know whether it is imagination or not, but it seems to me that these stairs are funny, some way. I can’t understand it. They are not a long flight<sup>2</sup>, and they are not unusually **steep**, but they seem to be unusually **wearying**. I never knew a short flight to tire me so, and I have climbed many flights in the six years we have lived in flats.’

felmegy

meredek

fárasztó

‘Perhaps, Sarah,’ I said, with **mild dissimulation**, ‘you are unusually tired to-day.’

enyhe

színlelés

The fact was that I had planned those stairs myself, and for a particular reason I had made the **rise of each step** three inches more than the **customary** height, and in this way I had saved two steps. I had also made the **tread** of the steps unusually **narrow**; and the reason was that I had found, from long **experience**,

lépcsőfok magassága

szokásos

lépcsőfok (belépője)

keskeny

tapasztalat



that stair <b>carpet wears</b> first on the tread	szőnyeg // kopik
of the steps, where the foot falls. By	
making the steps tall enough to save	
two, and by making the tread narrow, I	
<b>reduced</b> the wear on the carpet to a	csökkent
minimum. I believe in <b>economy</b> where it	takarékosság
is possible. For the same reason I had	
the stair <b>banisters</b> made wide, with a	korlát
<b>saddle-like</b> top to the <b>newel post</b> , to	nyeregszerű // korlátpillér
<b>tempt</b> my son and daughter to <b>slide</b>	csábít // csúszik
downstairs. The less they used the stairs	
the longer the carpet would last.	
I need hardly say that Sarah has a	
fear of burglars; most women have. As	
for myself, I prefer not to meet a burglar.	
It is all very well to get up in the night	
and <b>prowl about</b> with a <b>pistol</b> in one	ólálkodik // pisztoly
hand, <b>seeking to eliminate</b> the life of a	szándékozik // véget vet (valaminek)
burglar, and some men may like it; but I	
am of a very <b>excitable</b> nature, and I am	könnyen felizgatható
sure that if I did find a burglar and <b>suc-</b>	sikerül (valakinek valamit megtenni)
<b>ceeded in shooting</b> him, I should be in	lelő
such an excited <b>state</b> that I could not	állapot
sleep again that night — and no man	
can <b>afford</b> to lose his night's rest.	megengedheti magának
There are other <b>objections</b> to shoot-	ellenérv
ing a burglar in the house, and these	
objections <b>apply</b> with double force when	számít
the house and its <b>furnishings</b> are	berendezés(i tárgy)

entirely new. Although some of the **rugs** in our house were red, not all of them were; and I had no **guarantee** that if I shot a burglar he would lie down on a red rug to **bleed** to death. A burglar does not **consider** one's feelings, and would **be** quite as **apt to** bleed on a green rug, and **spoil** it, as not. Until **burglarizing** is properly **regulated** and burglars are educated, as they should be, in technical burglary schools, we

szőnyeg

garancia

vérzik

figyelembe vesz

kitelik tőle (valami)

tönkretesz

betörés // szabályoz



Technical burglary school

cannot hope that a shot burglar will **staunch** his **wound** until he can find a red rug to lie down on.

elszorít // seb

And there are still other objections to shooting a burglar. If all burglars were fat, one of these would be removed; but perhaps a thin burglar might get in front of my revolver, and in that case the **bullet** would be likely to go right through him and continue on its way, and perhaps break a mirror or a **cut-glass dish**. I am a thin man myself, and if a burglar shot at me he might **damage** things in the same way.

(fegyver)golyó

metszett üveg // edény

kárt tesz (valamiben)

I thought all these things over when we decided to build in the **suburbs**, for Sarah is very nervous about burglars, and makes me get up at the slightest noise and go **poking about**. Only the fact that no burglar had ever entered our flat at night had **prevented** what might have been a serious accident to a burglar, for **I made it a rule**, when Sarah wakened me **on such occasions**, to **waste** no time, but to go through the rooms as **hastily** as possible and get back to bed; and at the speed I travelled I might have **bumped** into a burglar in the dark and knocked him over, and his

külváros

keresgél

megakadályoz

szokásommá vált

ilyenkor

pazarol

sietősen

beleütkezik

head might have struck some hard object, causing **concussion of the brain**; and as a burglar has a small **brain** a small amount of concussion might have **ruined it entirely**. But as I am a **slight** man it might have been my brain that got concussed. A father of a family has to think of these things.

agyrázkódás

agy

tönkretesz // teljesen // kistermetű

The nervousness of Sarah **regarding** burglars had led me in this way to study the subject carefully, and my **adoption** of **jet-black pajamas** as nightwear **was not due to cowardice** on my part. I properly reasoned that if a burglar tried to shoot me while I was **rushing** around the house **after** him in the darkness, a suit of black pajamas would somewhat **spoil his aim**, and, not being able to see me, he would not shoot at all. In this way I should save Sarah the **nerve shock** that would follow the **explosion** of a pistol in the house. For Sarah was very much more afraid of pistols than of burglars. I am sure there were only two reasons why I had never killed a burglar with a pistol: one was that no burglar had ever entered our flat, and the other was that I never had a pistol.

valamit illetően

használat

koromfekete // pizsama // nem

gyávaságból eredt

kerget

megnehezíti a célzást

idegroham

durranás

But I knew that one **is** much less **pro-**

biztonságban van

<p><b>tected</b> in a suburb than in town, and when I decided to build I studied the <b>burglar protection matter</b> most carefully. I said nothing to Sarah about it, for fear it would upset her nerves, but for months I <b>considered</b> every <b>method</b> that seemed to have any <b>merit</b>, and that would <b>avoid</b> getting a burglar's blood — or mine — <b>spattered around</b> on our new furnishings. I desired some method by which I could <b>finish up</b> a burglar properly without having to leave my bed, for although Sarah is <b>brave</b> enough in sending me out of bed to catch a burglar, I knew she must <b>suffer severe nerve strain</b> during the time I was <b>wandering about</b> in the dark. Her <b>objection to explosives</b> had also to be considered, and I really had to <b>exercise my brain</b> more than common before I <b>hit upon</b> what I may now consider the only perfect method of <b>handling</b> burglars.</p> <p>Several things <b>coincided</b> to suggest my method. One of these was Sarah's foolish <b>notion</b> that our <b>silver</b> must, every night, be brought from the dining-room and <b>deposited</b> under our bed. This I considered a most <b>foolhardy tempting</b></p>	<p>betörésvédelmi szempont</p> <p>átgondol // módszer</p> <p>érdem</p> <p>elkerül</p> <p>szétfröcsköl</p> <p>elintéz</p> <p>bátor</p> <p>elszenved // komoly</p> <p>idegfejszültség</p> <p>kószál</p> <p>tiltakozás // robbanószer</p> <p>használni az agyamat</p> <p>rátalál</p> <p>bánik (valakivel)</p> <p>egybeesik (valamivel)</p> <p>nézet // ezüst (étkezéslet)</p> <p>elhelyez</p> <p>vakmerő // kísértés</p>
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of **fate**. It **coaxed** any burglar who ordinarily would have quietly taken the silver from the dining-room and have then gone away peacefully, to enter our room. The knowledge that I lay in bed ready at any time to **spring** out upon him would make him prepare his revolver, and his **nervousness** might make him shoot me, which would quite upset Sarah's nerves. I told Sarah so, but she had a **hereditary instinct** for bringing the silver to the bedroom, and **insisted**. I saw that in the suburban house this, would be continued as 'bringing the silver upstairs,' and a **trial** of my carpet-saving stairs **suggested** to me my burglar-**defeating** plan. I had the **apparatus** built into the house, and I had the house planned to agree with the apparatus.

sors // csábít

ugrik

idegesség

öröklött // ösztön

ragaszkodik (valamihez)

próba

sugall

legyőz // készülék

For several months after we moved into the house I had no burglars, but I felt no fear of them in any event. I was prepared for them.

In order not to make Sarah nervous, I explained to her that my **invention** of a silver-**elevator** was **merely a time-saving device**. From the top of the dining-room **sideboard** I ran **upright**

találmány

lift (US) // pusztán // időmegtakarító

eszköz

tálaló(szekrény) // függőleges

<b>tracks</b> through the <b>ceiling</b> to the back of	sín // mennyezet
the hall above, and in these I placed a	
<b>glass case</b> , which could be run up and	üvegszekrény
down the tracks like a <b>dumbwaiter</b> . All	ételfelvonó
our <b>servant</b> had to do when she had	szolgáló
washed the silver was to put it in the	
glass case, and I had <b>attached</b> to the top	odaerősít
of the case a <b>stout steel cable</b> which ran	erős // acél // sodronykötél
to the ceiling of the hall above, over a	
<b>pulley</b> , and so to our bedroom, which	csiga
was at the front of the hall upstairs. <b>By</b>	ezáltal
<b>this means</b> I could, when I was in bed,	
pull the cable, and the glass case of sil-	
ver would rise to the second floor. Our	
bedroom door opened upon the hall,	
and from the bed I could see the glass	
case; but in order that I might be sure	
that the silver was there I put a small	
electric light in the case and kept it burn-	
ing all night. Sarah was <b>delighted</b> with	el (volt) ragadtatva
this arrangement, for in the morning all	
I had to do was to <b>pay out</b> the steel cable	kienged
and the silver would <b>descend</b> to the	leereszkedik
dining-room, and the <b>maid</b> could have	cseléd
the table all set by the time breakfast	
was ready. Not once did Sarah have a	
<b>suspicion</b> that all this was not merely a	gyanú
<b>household</b> economy, but my burglar	háztartási
<b>trap</b> .	csapda

On the sixth of August, at two o'clock in the morning, Sarah awakened me, and I **immediately** sat straight up in bed. There was an **undoubtable** noise of **sawing**, and I knew at once that a burglar was entering our home. Sarah was **trembling**, and I knew she was getting nervous, but I ordered her to **remain calm**.

azonnal

kétségtelen

fűrészelés

rezket

marad // nyugodt

'Sarah,' I said, **in a whisper**, 'be calm! There is not the least danger. I have been expecting this for some time, and I only hope the burglar has no **dependent family** or poor old mother to **support**. Whatever happens, be calm and keep perfectly quiet.'

suttogva

eltartott család(tagok)

(anyagilag) támogat

With that I **released** the steel cable from the head of my bed and let the glass case full of silver slide noiselessly to the sideboard.

kienged

'Edgar!' whispered Sarah **in agonized tones**, 'are you giving him our silver?'

kétségbeesett hangon

'Sarah!' I whispered **sternly**, 'remember what I have just said. Be calm and keep perfectly quiet.' And I would say no more.

keményen

In a very short time I heard the window below us open softly, and I knew



the burglar was entering the **parlour** from the side **porch**. I counted twenty, which I had figured would be the time **required** for him to reach the dining-room, and then, when I was sure he must have seen the silver shining in the glass case, I slowly pulled on the steel cable and raised case and silver to the hall above. Sarah began to whisper to me, but I **silenced** her.

szalon

veranda

szükséges

csendre int

What I had expected happened. The burglar, seeing the silver rise through the ceiling, left the dining-room and went into the hall. There, from the foot of the stairs, he could see the case **glowing** in the hall above, and without **hesitation** he **mounted** the stairs. As he reached the top I had a good view of him, for he was silhouetted against the light that glowed from the silver case.

csillog

tétovázás

felmegy

He was a most **brutal looking fellow** of the **prize-fighting** type, but I almost laughed aloud when I saw his **build**. He was short and **chunky**. As he stepped forward to **grasp** the silver case, I let the steel cable run through my fingers, and the case and its **precious contents** slid noiselessly down to the dining-room. For only one instant the burglar seemed

durva külsejű // fickó

djibirkózó

testfelépítés

tagbaszakadt

megragad

értékes // tartalom

**disconcerted**, then he turned and ran downstairs again. meghökken

This time I did not wait so long to draw up the silver. I hardly gave him time to reach the dining-room door before I  **jerked** the cable, and the case was glowing in the upper hall. The burglar immediately stopped, turned, and  **mounted** the stairs, but just as he reached the top I let the silver slide down again, and he had to turn and descend. Hardly had he reached the bottom step before I had the silver once more in the upper hall. megránt

The burglar was a **gritty** fellow and was not to be so easily defeated. With some word which I could not catch, but which I have no doubt was **profane**, or at least **vulgar**, he **dashed** up the stairs, and just as his hand touched the case I let the silver drop to the dining-room. I smiled as I saw his next move. He carefully **removed** his coat and **vest**, **rolled up** his **sleeves**, and took off his **collar**. This **evidently** meant that he intended to get the silver if it took the whole night, and nothing could have pleased me more. I lay in my comfortable bed fairly shaking with **suppressed** laughter, felmegy

elszánt

istenkáromló

durva // rohan

levesz // mellény (US) // feltűr

ingujj // gallér

kétségkívül

visszafojtott

and had to **stuff** a corner of a **pillow** in my mouth to **smother** the sound of my **mirth**. I did not allow the least **pity** for the unfortunate fellow to **weaken my nerve**.

(be)töm // párna  
elfojt  
jókedv // szájalom  
megrendíti az önbizalmamat

A low, long **screech** from the hall told me that I had a man of **uncommon** brain to **contend** with, for I knew the sound came from his hands drawing along the banister, and that to **husband his strength** and to save time, he was sliding down. But this did not **disconcert** me. It pleased me. The quicker he went down, the oftener he would have to walk up.

csikorgás  
nem mindennapi  
(meg)küzd  
takarékoskodik az erejével  
zavarba ejt

For half an hour I played with him, giving him just time to get down to the foot of the stairs before I **raised** the silver, and just time to reach the top before I **lowered** it, and then I grew tired of the **sport** — for it was nothing else to me — and decided to finish him off. I was getting sleepy, but it was **evident** that the burglar was not, and I was a little afraid I might fall asleep and **thus** defeat myself. The burglar had that **advantage** because he was used to night work. So I quickened my movements a little. When the burglar slid down I gave

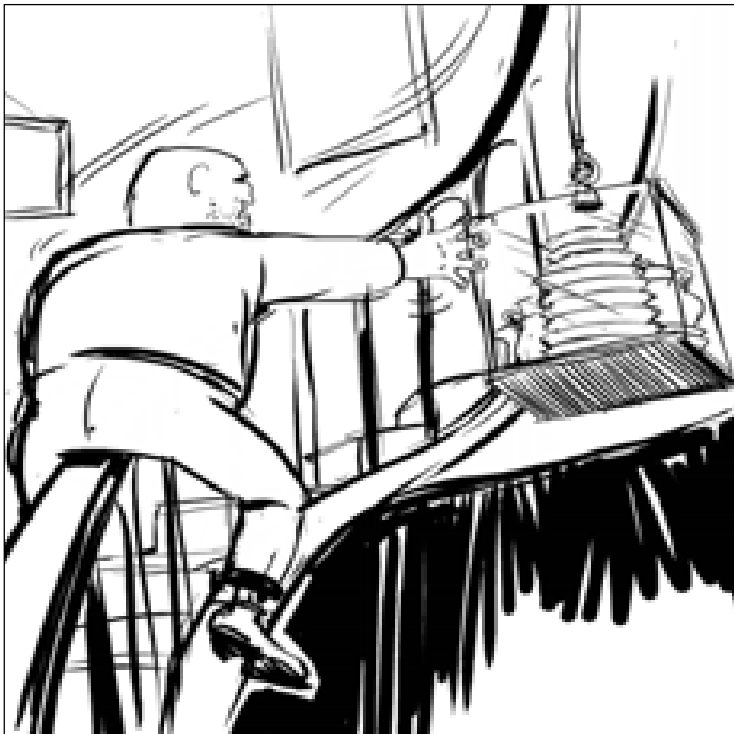
felhúz  
leereszt  
játék  
nyilvánvaló  
így  
előny

him just time to see the silver rise through the ceiling, and when he climbed the stairs I only allowed him to see it descend through the floor. In this way I made him **double** his **pace**, and as I quickened my movements I soon had him dashing up the stairs and sliding down again as if for a **wager**. I did not give him a moment for rest, and he was soon **panting** terribly and beginning to

megkettőz // lépés

fogadás

liheg



He was sliding down...

**stumble**; but with almost superhuman **nerve** he **kept up the chase**. He was an unusually tough burglar.

botladozik

erő // kitartott a hajszában

But quick as he was I was always quicker, and a **glimpse** of the glowing case was all I let him have at either end of his climb or slide. No sooner was he down than it was up, and no sooner was the case up than he was up after it. In this way I kept increasing his speed until it was something **terrific**, and the whole house shook, like an automobile with a very powerful motor. But still his speed increased. I saw then that I had brought him to the place I had prepared for, where he had but **one object in life**, and that was to beat the case up or down stairs; and as I was now so sleepy I could hardly keep my eyes open, I did what I had **intended** to do from the first. I lowered the case until it was exactly between the ceiling of the dining-room and the floor of the hall above — and turned out the electric light. I then **tied** the steel cable securely to the head of my bed, turned over, and went to sleep, **lulled** by the shaking of the house as the burglar dashed up and down the stairs.

pillantás

iszonyatos

egyetlen életcél

szándékozik

(oda)köt

álomba ringat

Just how long this continued I do not

know, for my sleep was deep and dreamless, but I should **judge** that the burglar ran himself to death sometime between half-past three and a quarter after four. So great had been his **efforts** that when I went to **remove** him I did not recognize him at all. When I had seen him last in the glow of the glass silver case he had been a stout, chunky fellow, and now his remains were those of an **emaciated** man. He must have run off one hundred and twenty pounds of **flesh** before he **gave out**.

gondol

igyekezett

eltávolított

csonttá aszott

hús // kilehelte a lelkét

Only one thing **clouded** my **triumph**. Our silver **consisted of** but half a **dozen** each of knives, forks, and spoons, a butter knife, and a sugar spoon, all **plated**, and **worth** probably five dollars, and to save this I had made the burglar **wear to rags** a Wilton<sup>3</sup> stair carpet worth twenty-nine dollars. But I have now **corrected** this. I have bought fifty dollars worth of silver.

beárnyékol // diadal

áll valamiből // tucat

krómozott // ér valamit

ronggyá koptat

orvosolja a bajt

### *Jegyzetek*

<sup>1</sup> *second floor*: első emelet (Amerikában a földszintet *first floor*-nak mondják)

<sup>2</sup> *flight: flight of stairs* — lépcsőforduló, lépcsősor; illetve egy lépcsősornyi távolság vagy magasság

<sup>3</sup> *Wilton carpet*: egyfajta drága, kézi szövésű szőnyeg, melyet a XVIII. század első felében kezdtek előállítani Wilton városában (Wessex, Anglia); manapság géppel, szintetikus anyagból készítik

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