

# Elements of a Mystery

- Detective / Sleuth

- Victim

- Suspects

- Witness

- Alibi

- Crime

- Clues

- Evidence

- Red Herring

- Villain

- Motive



# Mysteries We've Read



**detective**

**victim**

**suspect**

**witness**

**alibi**

**crime**

**clues**

**evidence**

**red herring**

**villain**

**motive**

A person who gathers clues to attempt to solve a mystery.

The person the crime was committed against.

The people who saw the crime happen and can give information about the crime.

A story or excuse a suspect uses to try and prove they are innocent.

The wrongdoing committed by the villain.

Facts, information or objects that help to solve the crime.

Something that proves who took part in the crime.

A false lead or suspect that throws off the detective.

The character who is guilty.

The person the crime was committed against.

The reason the villain committed the crime.



What do you  
think the  
suspect's motives  
are?

What clues did  
you find when  
the crime was  
committed?

Who do you think  
is the villain?  
What clues do  
you have?

Does the victim  
learn a lesson?

Does the villain  
learn a lesson?

What is your  
favorite part of  
the story?

How would you  
change the  
ending if you  
were the author?

Make a personal  
connection with  
an event in the  
story.

Give three  
character traits  
about a main  
character.

How did the  
victim feel at the  
end of the story?

If you were the  
detective, what  
would you have  
done differently?

Did anything  
confuse you in  
the story?

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

## **Elements of Mysteries**

### *Definitions*

- Detective / Sleuth: A person who gathers clues to attempt to solve a mystery.
  - Victim: The person the crime was committed against.
- Suspects: The people who are thought to have committed the crime.
- Witness: The people who saw the crime happen and can give information about the crime.
- Alibi: A story or excuse a suspect uses to try and prove they are innocent.
- Crime: The wrongdoing committed by the villain.
  - Clues: Facts, information or objects that help to solve the crime.
  - Evidence: Something that proves who took part in the crime.
  - Red Herring: A false lead or suspect that throws off the detective.
    - Villain: The character who is guilty.
  - Motive: The reason the villain committed the crime.

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

## It's a Mystery!

**Directions:** We are practicing using schema to help make predictions. Schema is background knowledge we have that helps us understand what we read. Authors give readers clues that help the story make sense. To practice, students are going to gather three small objects that tell about themselves. You may choose to record the objects below. We will play a game using these items at school. The objects will be returned to home.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **Solving the Mystery**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

The author is: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Victim</b>	<b>Crime</b>
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The detective is: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Clues</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
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<b>Suspect</b>	<b>Alibi</b>

**Red Herring**

Who did it? \_\_\_\_\_

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



## **The Red Herring**

**Where did the term red herring come from?**

Red herring is a term commonly used in mysteries. It is a clue that misleads or distracts the reader from an important issue. The red herring might be who you first guess is guilty in a mystery.

The true origin of this saying is unknown. It was first thought to come from a kipper (a strong-smelling smoked fish) used to train hounds to follow a scent. The purpose of the kipper was to distract the dog. Today it is known that this is not the origin of the word.

A journalist named Michael Quinion might have been the first to use the phrase in a political article on February 14, 1807, but this is speculation.

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

**The Red Herring**



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

The author is: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Red Herring**  
is the person you  
**THINK** did it but  
was put in the  
story to throw  
off the reader or  
detective.

**Draw or write to tell about the  
Red Herring:**

**clues that make you think this person is guilty**


**What was the turning point? When do you start to doubt  
this person was guilty?**

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



# The Mystery!



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

The author is: \_\_\_\_\_

The mystery is:

**CLUES**

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



## What's the Motive?



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

The author is: \_\_\_\_\_

The crime is:

What are the possible motives?


Who do you think did it? Why?

--

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

## **Making a Prediction**

**Evidence**

**plus**

**Schema**

**equals**

**Prediction**

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

## Gathering the Clues



Empty rounded rectangular box for writing clues.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing clues.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing clues.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing clues.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing clues.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing clues.

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

## List of Suspects



Suspects	Evidence Against

<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Title:</b> _____	
_____	
<b>Crime</b>	
<b>Victim</b>	

<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Title:</b> _____	
_____	
<b>Crime</b>	
<b>Victim</b>	

<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Title:</b> _____	
_____	
<b>Crime</b>	
<b>Victim</b>	

<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Title:</b> _____	
_____	
<b>Crime</b>	
<b>Victim</b>	

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

**What's the motive?**

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

**What's the motive?**

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

**What's the motive?**

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

**What's the motive?**

<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Title:</b> _____	
<b>Suspect</b>	
<b>Alibi</b>	

<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Title:</b> _____	
<b>Suspect</b>	
<b>Alibi</b>	

<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Title:</b> _____	
<b>Suspect</b>	
<b>Alibi</b>	

<b>Name:</b> _____	
<b>Title:</b> _____	
<b>Suspect</b>	
<b>Alibi</b>	

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

**Title:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Clues**


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

**Title:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Clues**


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

**Title:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Clues**


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

**Title:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Clues**
