



Mystery Stories

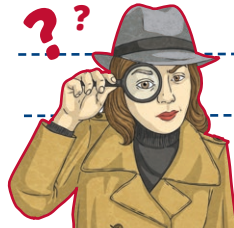
Sentence Openers

Does your mystery story include...

an exciting beginning to hook the reader in?	
a mysterious setting or surprise event?	
a build-up to give clues about what is going to happen?	
a dilemma?	
dialogue to advance the action?	
a resolution to solve the mystery?	
short, snappy sentences used for effect?	
flashbacks to reveal missing information?	

What Might the Detective be Like?

? ? ? ? ambitious, assertive, calm, composed,
 ? ? ? ? daring, dedicated, determined, direct,
 ? ? ? ? fearless, intelligent, knowledgeable,
 ? ? ? ? perceptive, precise, straight-talking,
 ? ? ? ? suspicious, thorough, witty

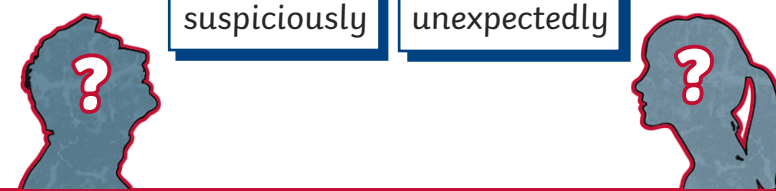


Word Bank

alibi	dread	inspector	sleuth
crime	evidence	motive	suspect
culprit	fingerprints	panic	unease
detective	footprints	red herring	villain
distress	fright	shadows	witness

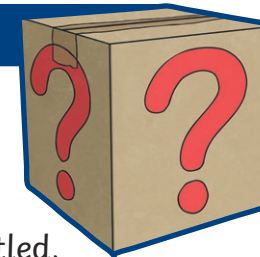
Adverbs

attentively carefully cautiously curiously
 fearfully immediately instantly
 mysteriously nervously secretly silently
 suspiciously unexpectedly



Powerful Verbs

analysed, bellowed, concealed, creaked, deduced, examined, inquired, investigated, mumbled, pounded, quivered, scrutinised, scuttled, shrieked, shuddered, sneaked, trembled, whispered



After a few moments,
 Amazed by the discovery,
 As the light filtered through the small window,
 As the wind howled,
 As their heart raced,
 Examining a misplaced ornament,
 Frustrated at the lack of evidence,
 In alarm,
 Peering around the unfamiliar environment,
 Reading through the witness statement,
 Returning to the scene of the crime,
 Revealing the final clue,
 While inspecting the evidence,
 Without hesitation,
 Without warning,

Key Features

an exciting beginning to hook the reader in

a mysterious setting or surprise event

a build-up to give clues about what is going to happen

dialogue to advance the action

short, snappy sentences used for effect

a dilemma

Mystery at the Museum (an extract)

Detective Inspector Rossi circled the museum. Shards of broken glass littered the floor, reflecting under the glaring, artificial lights. Yellow and black tape cornered the scene of the unbelievable crime, highlighting where the offence had happened. Carefully and attentively, forensic officers dusted for fingerprints and scrutinised the scene for any traces of evidence. The transparent display box was empty. The ancient Egyptian artefact, the renowned, world-famous bust of Queen Nefertiti, had been stolen.

The arrival of the bust of Queen Nefertiti had been long-awaited by the British public after spending years displayed in a museum in Berlin. After long negotiations, the bust was transferred to a London museum yesterday evening to be displayed in an ancient Egyptian exhibition in a world-breaking financial deal. By morning, it had disappeared. While examining the evidence, Detective Inspector Rossi heard a voice behind her.

“We’ve checked the scene. There was no sign of forced entry and the CCTV cameras seem to have conveniently stopped working,” Constable Graham explained.

Detective Inspector Rossi nodded and sighed. The lack of CCTV footage would be a huge misfortune in terms of their investigation. She contemplated who could have committed this crime. There was no sign of forced entry. The CCTV cameras were not working. The bust had only been in the museum for one night. It had to be someone who worked at the museum...

