

How to Fill Out the Mystery Worksheet

The Crime

In the first box, students write the nature of the crime and the victim. For example,

- The Crime: *A millionaire was stabbed by a knife*
- The Victim: *Bob Robertson, businessman and investor*

Clues

Next, they can list all the clues, including:

- what exactly the clue is: *the knife found next to the body*
- why it is important *it had no blood on it, it was from the house next door*
- which character the clue points to or doesn't point to: *Mr. Thompson lives next door and likes to clean things*

The Suspects

In the third part of the worksheet, students should write all the suspects, including

- their names
- their potential motive for committing the crime *would inherit money*
- their alibi *at the movies*
- reasons why we might or might not suspect them *He gets angry quickly*
- anything else significant about the suspect *He has a thick accent.*

This is a good place for students to note something the author emphasizes about the character, although it makes no sense at the time. These details may come up later if a witness remembers an accent or someone notices the suspect's accent is not accurate.

Whodunit?

When students have filled out the sheet and analyzed the clues and talked to their classmates, they will be ready to say who think the criminal is!

There's space here to write:

- who did it
- how they did it
- why
- any leftover questions. This is a good place for students to note loose ends *Why did the victim's brother lie to the police?* areas of the story that seemed unbelievable *Would a son really steal from his dad without asking for the money first?* and anything else they are interested in *How loud is a gunshot really?*

These leftover questions can then be the basis of **follow-up activities** such as:

- rewriting the story
- writing a critical review of the story
- discussing common plot holes in mysteries
- research on how realistic the details in the story were.

Reading a Mystery Worksheet

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| Crime: | Victim(s): | | | | |
| The Clues | | | | | |
| The Object | Why is it important? | | | Who does it point to? | |
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| The Suspects | | | | | |
| Name | Motive | Alibi | Why or Why not? | Other | |
| | | | | | |
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| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Who did it? _____ | | How? _____ | | | |
| Motive? _____ | | | Leftover questions _____ | | |
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