

Mystery Writing

A mystery is something that is difficult or impossible to explain that can puzzle someone. Writing a mystery story is a great way to improve on students' creative approach to story writing, making it more interesting and diverse.

Step 1: Main Character

The first thing we need to do is think of a character that has great detail that will draw a reader's interest. Basing a character on yourself is a great choice for you to get started!

- Think about their appearance.
- What kind of personality does he/she have?
- Anything interesting about the character?

Step 2. Setting

Choose a place you know well as you must be able to describe the setting in great detail to give the reader a better understanding. School, your home, your neighbourhood are great choices.

- What can your character see, hear, smell, touch, and taste?



Mystery Writing

Step 3. The Beginning of the Puzzle

Your character needs something to happen that causes the mystery. It can be something bizarre/weird, like for example, the box of toys moved by itself!

- Be creative! It can be something that is not normal.
- Tie it into the setting to avoid confusion.
- Your character must be involved.

Step 4. Building the Puzzle

You don't want your character to solve the mystery instantly! There should be a number of steps before they are able to solve the problem. You can be creative as you like.

- Maybe something bad happened and they need to try something else!
- Something changed in the story that made the character do something else!
- The character may have found a clue and had to go to the next task.



Mystery Writing

Step 5. The Final Part of the Puzzle

Before solving the mystery there should a final part of the puzzle that draws in the most attention of the reader. This will help keep the story interesting and thrilling.

- Maybe you character rescues somebody!
- Something dangerous happened but they overcame it.
- Maybe the character found something surprising!

Step 6. Solving the Mystery

This part your character will have solved the puzzle that you came up with in step 3.

- It is important to relate back to step 3 to ensure no confusion.



Mystery Writing

Step 7. The Ending

The best finish to the story is what happens next. You can end it on a happy note, or on another cliff hanger! Maybe your character found another mystery!

Step 8. Review

Look back at what you planned. Does it make sense? Do the events link together? Check if you made clear enough instructions for the mystery to be solved.

Also check upon if you want to add more detail in any area to enhance your story.

