

Super Sleuth Detective Training: Uncovering Clues in Stories!

Welcome, Detective! Today, you're going on a special mission to learn how to find all the important clues hidden in stories. Our secret tools are special question words! By the end of our training, you'll be a Master Story Detective!

Meet Your Super Sleuth Tools: The Question Words!

Every good detective has special tools. Ours are these six words. Let's call them our 'Clue Finders':

- **Who?** (Helps us find out about people or characters)
- **What?** (Helps us find out about things or actions)
- **Where?** (Helps us find out about places)
- **When?** (Helps us find out about the time something happens)
- **Why?** (Helps us find out the reasons for things)
- **How?** (Helps us find out the way something happens or is done)

Activity 1: Clue Finder Match-Up!

Let's get to know our 'Clue Finders'. I'll say what kind of clue we're looking for, and you hold up the 'Detective Clue Card' that helps us find it!

1. Parent/Teacher: 'Which Clue Finder helps us know *the person or character* in a story?' (Student shows 'Who' card)
2. Parent/Teacher: 'Which Clue Finder helps us know *what happened?*' (Student shows 'What' card)
3. Parent/Teacher: 'Which Clue Finder helps us know *the place?*' (Student shows 'Where' card)
4. Parent/Teacher: 'Which Clue Finder helps us know *the time?*' (Student shows 'When' card)
5. Parent/Teacher: 'Which Clue Finder helps us know *the reason?*' (Student shows 'Why' card)
6. Parent/Teacher: 'Which Clue Finder helps us know *the way something was done?*' (Student shows 'How' card)

Great job, Detective! You know your tools!

Activity 2: The Case of the Missing Kitten

It's time for our first case! Listen carefully to the story. Be on the lookout for clues!

Story: The Lost Kitten

Lily was sad. Her little kitten, Mittens, was missing. Mittens was fluffy and white. Lily looked for Mittens in the sunny garden in the afternoon. 'Why did Mittens run away?' Lily wondered. Her brother, Tom, helped her call 'Mittens! Mittens!' very loudly. Soon, they heard a tiny 'meow' from under the rose bush. Mittens was found! Lily was so happy.

Activity 3: Crack the Case! Using Your Clue Finders

Now, let's use our 'Clue Finder' cards and our 'Secret Case File' to crack this case wide open! For each 'Clue Finder' card, we'll ask a question about 'The Lost Kitten' story and then find the answer right in the story.

Let's take out our 'Secret Case File' (folder/envelope). You can write or draw your answers!

- **WHO:**

Parent/Teacher: 'Detective, let's use our 'Who' Clue Finder. What question can we ask about the story that starts with 'Who?' (Example: 'Who was in the story?' or 'Who was sad?')

Student: (Asks a 'Who' question).

Parent/Teacher: 'Excellent question! Now, let's find the answer in our story.'

Student: (Finds and states the answer, e.g., 'Lily, Mittens, and Tom were in the story.')

- **WHAT:**

Parent/Teacher: 'Next Clue Finder: 'What'. What 'What' question can we ask?' (Example: 'What was missing?' or 'What did Lily and Tom do?')

Student: (Asks a 'What' question and finds the answer, e.g., 'The kitten, Mittens, was missing.')

- **WHERE:**

Parent/Teacher: 'Time for 'Where'! What 'Where' question fits our story?' (Example: 'Where did Lily look for Mittens?' or 'Where was Mittens found?')

Student: (Asks a 'Where' question and finds the answer, e.g., 'Lily looked in the garden. Mittens was found under the rose bush.')

- **WHEN:**

Parent/Teacher: 'Let's use 'When'. What can we ask?' (Example: 'When did Lily look for Mittens?')

Student: (Asks a 'When' question and finds the answer, e.g., 'In the afternoon.')

- **WHY:**

Parent/Teacher: 'Our 'Why' Clue Finder is next. This can sometimes be tricky! What 'Why' question makes sense?' (Example: 'Why was Lily sad?' or 'Why did Lily wonder if Mittens ran away?')

Student: (Asks a 'Why' question and finds the answer, e.g., 'Lily was sad because her kitten was missing.')

- **HOW:**

Parent/Teacher: 'Last one: 'How'! What 'How' question can we solve?' (Example: 'How did Tom help?' or 'How was Mittens found?')

Student: (Asks a 'How' question and finds the answer, e.g., 'Tom helped by calling for Mittens loudly. They found Mittens by hearing a tiny meow.')

Case Closed & Detective Celebration!

Amazing work, Super Sleuth! You used all your 'Clue Finders' to ask questions and find the answers in the story. You've successfully understood all the key details of 'The Case of the Missing Kitten'!

Remember, you can use these 'Clue Finder' questions with any story you read to understand it better. You are now an official Story Detective! (Optional: Award 'Detective Badge').

For Future Cases (Differentiation & Extension):

- **Extra Support:** Focus on just 2-3 question words (e.g., Who, What, Where) to start. Provide sentence starters for questions. Read the story multiple times.
- **Extra Challenge:** Use a longer or more complex story. Ask the student to write down both the questions and answers independently. Have them create their own short story and then list the 5W+H questions and answers for it. Ask 'Why do you think...?' questions that require inference if the direct answer isn't in the text.