

Materials Needed:

- Paper (lined or unlined)
- Pencil or Pen
- Optional: Colored pencils or crayons for illustration
- Optional: Access to watch a short Scooby-Doo clip (like an intro or a scene) for inspiration

Zoinks! Let's Write a Mystery!

Like, hey there, mystery solver! Today, we're diving into the world of spooky mysteries, just like Scooby-Doo and the gang. Our mission, if we choose to accept it (and we totally should!), is to learn how to write our own exciting mystery stories.

Part 1: What Makes a Scooby-Doo Mystery? (Approx. 15 mins)

Think about your favorite Scooby-Doo episodes. What do they usually have?

- **A Spooky Setting:** An abandoned amusement park, a creepy castle, a foggy museum... Where does the mystery happen? Good descriptions make it feel real (and spooky!). Think about what you see, hear, smell, and feel in these places.
- **The Gang:** Fred, Daphne, Velma, Shaggy, and Scooby! Each one has a different personality. Velma is smart, Shaggy and Scooby are scaredy-cats (and hungry!), Fred is the leader, and Daphne is... well, sometimes she gets into trouble! Good characters make a story fun.
- **The Monster/Ghost:** Usually someone in a costume trying to scare people away.
- **Clues:** Footprints, dropped objects, weird noises... Velma always finds them! Clues help solve the mystery.
- **Suspense:** Moments that make you wonder what will happen next! Like when Shaggy and Scooby sneak around a corner...
- **The Unmasking:** Revealing who the 'monster' really is and why they did it.

Activity: Let's brainstorm! Think of a spooky place. What does it look, sound, and feel like? Write down 5 descriptive words (adjectives) for your spooky place.

Part 2: Create Your Characters (Approx. 10 mins)

Imagine a new mystery-solving gang, or maybe just one or two new friends for Scooby and Shaggy. Give them names and one or two unique traits. Are they brave, nervous, super smart, always hungry?

Activity: Write down the names of 1-2 characters you invented and one sentence describing their personality.

Part 3: Jinkies! Let's Write! (Approx. 25-30 mins)

Now it's time to write your own mini Scooby-Doo style mystery! Use the spooky setting and characters you brainstormed.

Steps for your Mystery Story:

1. **The Setup:** Introduce your characters and the spooky setting. Why are they there? What strange thing happens first? (e.g., They hear a weird noise, something goes missing).

2. **The Middle:** Your characters explore. Describe the spooky place using those descriptive words! They find one or two clues. Maybe they get chased (or think they do!). Build some suspense!
3. **The End (The Unmasking!):** Your characters figure out the mystery. Who was causing the trouble and why? Was it really a ghost, or someone in disguise? Tell us the solution!

Remember: Have fun with it! Use words like "Zoinks!", "Jinkies!", or "Ruh-roh!" Make your characters talk like they might in the show. Don't worry about making it perfect, just get your ideas down.

Wrap-up: Scooby Snacks! (Optional)

Read your story aloud! Try using different voices for your characters. If you like, draw a picture of your spooky setting or your 'monster'. Well done, mystery writer!