

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to write a mystery story using key elements of the genre.

Materials and Prep

- Pen or pencil
- Blank paper or notebook
- Imagination and creativity!

Activities

1. **Brainstorming:** Start by brainstorming ideas for your mystery story. Think about the setting, characters, and the central mystery. Write down any ideas that come to mind.
2. **Creating Characters:** Choose your main character, detective or sleuth, and give them a name, age, and unique personality traits. Think about their appearance and background.
3. **Developing Plot:** Outline the plot of your mystery story. Decide on the crime or mystery that needs to be solved, the clues that will lead to the solution, and any red herrings or false leads you want to include.
4. **Writing the Story:** Start writing your mystery story using the outline you created. Remember to include a compelling beginning to hook the reader, a middle where the detective investigates and unravels the mystery, and an exciting ending where the solution is revealed.
5. **Editing and Revising:** Once you have finished writing your story, read it aloud to yourself or someone else. Look for any mistakes or areas that can be improved. Make revisions to enhance the flow and clarity of your story.
6. **Sharing Your Mystery:** Share your mystery story with a family member or friend. Ask for their feedback and suggestions for improvement. Consider making any final edits based on their input.

Fifth Grade Talking Points

- "A mystery story is a genre of writing that involves a crime or puzzle that needs to be solved."
- "Mystery stories often have a detective or sleuth who tries to solve the mystery."
- "The setting of a mystery story is where the story takes place, such as a spooky mansion, a small town, or a bustling city."
- "Clues are pieces of information that help the detective solve the mystery. They can be hidden objects, witness testimonies, or even mysterious events."
- "Red herrings are false clues that can mislead the detective and the reader, making the mystery more challenging to solve."
- "The resolution is the part of the story where the mystery is solved and all loose ends are tied up."