

INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

MYSTERY

GENRE

LIBRARY LESSON

MYSTERY GENRE RECOMMENDATIONS (GRADES 6-8)

DETECTIVE MYSTERY
Bully Up (Cass)
Crescent House (Moffat)
The Swath: A Dictionary of Scoundrel (Lacour)
Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer (Orloff)

MYSTERY GENRE RECOMMENDATIONS (GRADES 9-12)
DETECTIVE MYSTERY
Old Forester (Hillyer)
The Secretness at the Bottom of the Sea (Bradley)
A Study in Charlotte (Cavallaro)
Broken Things by Lauren Oliver (Jackson)
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder (Jackson)
Promise Boys (Brooks)
A Long Stretch of Bad Days (McGinnis)
The Agathas (Glasgow)
The Four Paleone (Pur)

LOCKED ROOM
Escapes From Mr. Lee (Lar)
Library by Chris O.
Tip Top Clark (Vogl)
Liz Czakos
The Wedding Game (Raskin)

PUZZLE MYSTERY
The Wearing Coat (Book Scavenger)
Fatal Word (Sant)
Clawing Vermin (Under the Egg)
The Ambrosini (The Blackfish)
As the Hat With the Knot (Pellegrino)

OTHER MYSTERY
I'd Tell You I Have to Go (Head Scout)
Who Could (Sackett)
The Shado

OTHER MYSTERY
Allegedly (Jackson)
Socks (Giamberini)
Firekeeper's Daughter (Boyd)
Helter Skelter (Mead)
Elaine (Little Badger)
Shut, Hide Your Fears (Best)
Diamond Peak (Delectable)
All These Bodies (Stake)
My Wife Lani (Lockhart)

CLUES AND RED HERRINGS



- Clues happen throughout mystery stories, but they are not always easy to recognize
- A good mystery will make some clues look like random objects rather than important clues
- The story's clues will lead you to suspect different people throughout the story's events
- A **red herring** is a false clue. It may seem important at the time it is found, but its purpose is to distract or mislead the reader or the detective.

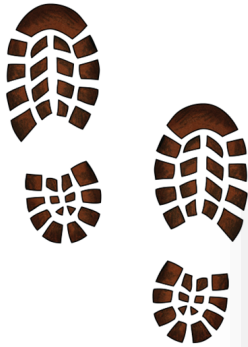
GRADES
6-12

Lesson + Scrolling Slideshow + Bookmarks



THREE FORMATS

MYSTERY GENRE CHARACTERISTICS



- A crime or unexplained event happens early in the story
- A sleuth, detective, or other person trying to understand what has happened
- Suspense
- Hook

SLEUTH OR DETECTIVE

- May be professional (paid) or amateur (not paid)
- Very observant; notices everything and misses nothing
- Intelligent; knows lots of facts about lots of things
- Understands human nature



- Usually physically fit and may have combat skills
- May have their own sordid past or trauma
- Strong moral and ethical code

All slides and bookmarks are editable
in Google Slides and PowerPoint.
Bookmarks also include editable PDF format.

PART I - WHOLE-GROUP LESSON



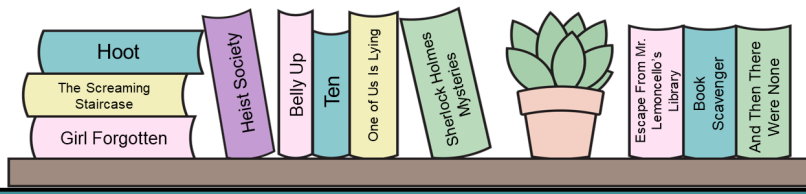
WHY SHOULD WE READ MYSTERIES?

- **Exercises our reasoning abilities** – Mysteries challenge our intellectual abilities. As you read, you try to solve the crime along with the detective.

MYSTERY SUBGENRES

There are many subgenres of mystery! How many have you read?

- detective mystery
- supernatural mystery
- locked room mystery
- environmental mystery
- spy mystery
- hobby mystery
- boarding school mystery
- murder mystery
- puzzle
- whodunnit
- noir
- heist (stolen objects)



Part I reviews genre and describes characteristics of the mystery genre, subgenres, and genre blends.

FOCUS ON THREE SUBGENRES

EXAMPLES OF DETECTIVE MYSTERIES

Middle School:

- *Belly Up* by Stuart Gibbs
- *Theodore Boone* series by John Grisham
- *Enola Holmes* series by Nancy Springer
- *Timmy Failure* series by Stephan Pastis
- *The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud
- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson

CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS

Young Adult:

- *Girl Forgotten* by April Henry
- *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by C. Alan Bradley

CHARACTERISTICS OF PUZZLE MYSTERIES

- Puzzle mysteries are solved through clue puzzles, riddles, scavenger hunts, or other games
- These may also be locked room mysteries, or they may involve multiple locations (especially international locations)
- May be a puzzle or game left by an eccentric and wealthy relative who died just before the story starts – the person who solves the puzzle wins a large inheritance, mansion, or other valuable prize
- Often have a group of people working together to solve the puzzles
- Clues may lead to hidden secrets or unexpected plot twists

Special emphasis on three subgenres: detective mysteries, puzzle mysteries, and locked room mysteries— Each includes characteristics and YA & MG sample titles

PART II - SCROLLING SLIDES

TRIVIA QUESTION

What famous detective lives at
221B Baker Street in London, England?

- a. Nancy Drew
- b. Alex Cross
- c. Sherlock Holmes
- d. Veronica Mars

(answer on next slide)

WOULD YOU RATHER?



Investigate a missing pet

OR



Investigate a missing
piece of priceless artwork

Part II includes classic mystery genre quotations, trivia questions, vocabulary, Would-You-Rathers, why we read mystery, and 5 tips for writing mysteries.

FUN FACTS & TRIVIA

WHY A RED HERRING?

A herring is a small, thin fish. Herring fish are silver, not red. So, why is a false clue called a red herring?

This term dates back to the early 1800s.

An English journalist named William Cobbett used the term to describe the media's premature reporting of Napoleon's defeat.



Cobbett compared the premature news stories to the practice of using a red herring to distract hound dogs.

LATIN ROOT -CULPA-

The Latin root *culpa* means "guilt." If you know the root word, then you know all these words have something to do with guilt:

- *Mea culpa* – my fault
- Culpable – guilty or deserving blame
- Culprit – person who is guilty
- Exculpate – to clear from guilt; to determine someone is not guilty
- Inculpate – to accuse; to show someone is guilty



5 TIPS FOR WRITING MYSTERY NOVELS

5 TIPS FOR WRITING MYSTERIES

Number 3: Use a niche setting.

- Setting means time and place.
- Mysteries often have a niche setting. This means the setting features unique or specialized places that are not typical settings in most fictional books.

EXAMPLES OF NICHE SETTINGS:

- a rare bookstore
- an abandoned mansion
- a creepy carnival or amusement park
- an Old West ghost town
- a vintage train journey



5 TIPS FOR WRITING MYSTERIES

Number 4: Use misdirection.

- In real life mysteries, detectives frequently make wrong turns. They follow the wrong clues. They are sometimes wrong.
- When authors misdirect the investigation, it helps build suspense and makes the investigation more realistic.
- You don't want your mystery to be too easy to solve! Misdirection and red herrings (false clues) help keep the mystery interesting.



ALL TEXT IS EDITABLE

TRIVIA ANSWER

"The Murders in the Rue Morgue" (published 1841) is widely considered to be the first modern detective story. Who is the author of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"?

- a. Edgar Allan Poe
- b. Mark Twain
- c. Emily Dickinson
- d. Agatha Christie

The story features a French detective named C. Auguste Dupin. He is a amateur detective who follows clues to solve the murders of two women in Paris.



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(images)**

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**MYSTERY GENRE
RECOMMENDATIONS
(GRADES 6-8)**

DETECTIVE MYSTERY

Belly Up (Gibbs)
Greenglass House (Milford)
*The Swifts: A Dictionary of
Scoundrels* (Lincoln)
Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer
(Grisham)
Sisterhood of Sleuths (Bertman)
*Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were
Made* (Pastis)
The Parker Inheritance (Johnson)
Murder Is Bad Manners (Stevens)
Quid Pro Quo (Grant)
Eye of the Crow (Peacock)

LOCKED ROOM

*Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's
Library* by Chris Grabenstein
Top Ten Clues You're Clueless by
Liz Czukas
The Westing Game by Ellen
Raskin

PUZZLE MYSTERY

The Westing Game (Raskin)
Book Scavenger (Bertman)
Final Word (Sumner Johnson)
Chasing Vermeer (Balliet)
Under the Egg (Fitzgerald)
The Ambrose Deception (Ecton)
The Blackthorn Key (Sands)

**MYSTERY GENRE
RECOMMENDATIONS
(GRADES 9-12)**

DETECTIVE MYSTERY

Girl Forgotten (Henry)
*The Sweetness at the Bottom of
the Pie* (Bradley)
A Study in Charlotte (Cavallaro)
Broken Things by Lauren Oliver
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder
(Jackson)
Promise Boys (Brooks)
A Long Stretch of Bad Days
(McGinnis)
The Agathas (Glasgow)
The Red Palace (Hur)

LOCKED ROOM

And Then There Were None
(Christie)
Ten (McNeil)
One of Us Is Lying (McManus)
In the Hall With the Knife
(Peterfreund)
All Your Twisted Secrets (Urban)

PUZZLE MYSTERY

The Inheritance Games (Barnes)
Truly Devious (Johnson)
Ready Player One (Cline)

OTHER MYSTERIES


Allegedly (Lockwood)

Editable list of recommended mystery books for Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12. Since the presentation focuses on detective mysteries, puzzle mysteries, and locked room mysteries, the bookmarks give multiple suggestions for each (plus additional titles).

MORE FOR GENRE LESSONS FOR SECONDARY LIBRARIES

INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

HORROR GENRE LIBRARY LESSON




HORROR SUBGENRES

- Gothic horror
- Psychological horror
- Body horror
- Supernatural
- Film horror
- Zombies
- Monsters

GRADES 7-12 Lesson + Scrolling Slideshow + Bookmarks

INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

HISTORICAL FICTION LIBRARY LESSON



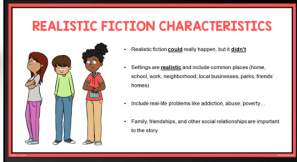
HISTORICAL FICTION SUBGENRES

- Documentary fiction
- Regency romance
- Steampunk
- Family sagas
- Alternate history
- Westerns
- Nautical and pirate fiction

GRADES 6-12 Lesson + Scrolling Slideshow + Bookmarks

INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

REALISTIC FICTION LIBRARY LESSON




REALISTIC FICTION CHARACTERISTICS

- Realistic fiction could really happen, but it doesn't
- Settings are realistic and include common places (home, school, work, neighborhood, local businesses, parks, beach, homes)
- Include real-life problems like addiction, abuse, poverty...
- Family, friendship, and other social relationships are important to the story

GRADES 6-12 Lesson + Scrolling Slideshow + Bookmarks

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FANTASY GENRE LIBRARY LESSON




FAIRY TALE FANTASY

- Based on classic fairy tales ("Cinderella," "Sleeping Beauty," etc.)
- Strong protagonists, particularly females challenging traditional gender roles
- Adventure, escape, belonging
- Renewal/redemption
- Themes may include identity, transformation, growing up, societal expectations, ways to rebel, family

GRADES 6-12 Lesson + Scrolling Slideshow + Bookmarks

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WHAT'S YOUR GENRE PERSONALITY?



QUESTIONS YOU READ BECAUSE...

A	You like spending all night in going to happen	B	You like the feeling of being in an unusual and a challenge	C	You like hearing about problems in the past and how they were solved
D	You would enjoy an all earth whenever possible	E	You like to be scared	F	You like watching the battles of the war like a war and fighter
G	You love supernatural stories that help you bring the pages	H	Your favorite author genres make you read	I	As young adults and think nothing else to do
J	You like to read about other people's problems	K	You like fun scenarios	L	Reading a scenario

GRADES 6+ Reading Quiz with 12 Personalities

INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

I HAVE... WHO HAS...?

GRADES 4-7



I HAVE:
sports fiction

WHO HAS...?
a fiction story set in a historical time and place

Book Genre Review Game