



READY TO WRITE A MYSTERY?

Step 1: Choosing a Mystery

Good mysteries have something to solve. This can be a crime (like a robbery) or something that can't be explained (like the lights keep turning off). Your mystery will focus on this.

Step 2: Picking a Location

Where does the mystery happen? Some ideas are museums, a place in the past, outdoors or parks, or a spooky house or graveyard. The location will help you figure out where your characters will be and what events can take place there.

Step 3: Creating Your Characters

Who is there? Think about who is solving the mystery or who was there when the main event happened. Maybe your main characters are a group of highschoolers or a brother and sister detective team!

Step 4: Starting the Story

Think about how the mystery begins. What happens before the mystery is solved? What clues might be found along the way? This is the journey to solving the mystery!

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It's time to reveal what really happened! Who did the crime or why did the event happen? What clues led to this answer? Who solved it? This is a big moment in your mystery.

Step 6: Wrapping it Up

What happens next? What do the people in your story do after the mystery ends? Is there a punishment for your villain?

Step 7: Putting It All Together!

You have all of the pieces! Now try writing the full story. Think about how the mystery starts and how the people in the story act at each step. Also think about what you'll call it!

Step 8: Spreading the News

The case is solved! Now it's time to spread the news. Write three or four sentences that could be used in a news story and tell all about your story, and then give them a title that will make people want to read it. Be sure to tell people who captured the villains or solved the mystery, who the villains were and what they did, how the villains were caught, and where the crime took place. You can even use the YpsiWrites news template to make it look like a newspaper.

7 Children's/YA Mysteries

The Buried Bones Mystery: Clubhouse MysteriesDraper, Sharon; 2006

The Lost Treasure of Tuckernuck • Fairlie, Emily; 2012

Trapped! • Ponti, James; 2018

Zora and Me: The Cursed Ground • Simon, T. R.; 2018

Murder is Bad Manners • Stevens, Robin; 2015

A Study in Charlotte • Cavallaro, Brittney; 2016

Truly Devious • Johnson, Maureen; 2018