

WHODUNNIT SHORT STORY

STUDENT HANDOUT

Get ready to step into a world of imagination and mystery! You will craft your own fun story complete with interesting characters, cool places, and exciting mysteries to solve. As you play *Neighborhood Hide & Seek*, you will be able to follow a trail of evidence to crack a mystery case. Then you will share all about the adventure in a narrative short story. Good luck, gumshoe!

CHARACTERS

Each puzzle card from *Neighborhood Hide & Seek* has different peoples' faces on them. These will be the characters in your story! Write the names you want to give them here.



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SETTING

Lay out the first 12 puzzle cards from *Neighborhood Hide & Seek* in order as shown below to create one big map. The cards show some details of where your story is taking place.



Now look around the background and describe the setting: Where is your story taking place?

PROBLEM

What is the main problem in your story? What mystery are we trying to solve? What did someone do? You can choose one of the ideas below or make up your own.

- Tracks Evasion - Leaving muddy footprints on the carpet but trying to hide it.
- Resisting a Rest - Skipping nap time to play.
- Kid Napping - Taking a nap when they were supposed to be doing something else.
- Cookie Jar-ceny - Taking too many cookies from the cookie jar.
- Pie-racy - Eating pie that was made for someone else.
- Counterfeit Crayons - Breaking crayons and putting them back in the box.

EVENTS

Let's start your story by finding the first clue. Solve puzzle #1 and find the character that was revealed as the solution of the puzzle. Now you get to use your imagination and get creative!

Who is the character that you found? What are they doing?

What's the clue?

How does the clue link to the problem you chose?

As you solve each of the puzzles from *Neighborhood Hide & Seek*, each solution will reveal a solution character. For each puzzle, repeat the process you did above: Write down what character you found, record what they were doing, describe a clue to add to the story, and say how it links to the problem. The clues can be whatever you want! Each of the puzzles and clues will become a part of your story, so have fun with it. Start by combining the character, activity, clue, and link to the story for the first puzzle in the first box.

Write down the character, activity, clue, and link for each puzzle.

Puzzle 1

Puzzle 2

Puzzle 3

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Puzzle 4

Puzzle 5

Puzzle 6

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Puzzle 7

Puzzle 8

Puzzle 9

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Puzzle 10

Puzzle 11

Puzzle 12

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SOLUTION

Now that you have collected enough clues, you get to reveal “Whodunnit!” It doesn’t have to be the character with the most clues. It can be whatever character you want as long as the clues are good enough. So think about what clues and which character you will reveal in your story.

What clues do you think are the best, and why?

The big reveal! Which character do the clues point to the most?

CONCLUSION

Now that we know who caused the problem, we need to wrap up the story. Every story is better with a happily-ever-after, so this is where you get to make things right. In the box below, describe what the revealed character does to fix the problem that they caused.

PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER

Congratulations, now you have your very own mystery short story! All you have to do is put the pieces together into one narrative. When you are ready to write the sequel to your story, *Neighborhood Hide & Seek* has three more sets of puzzles to choose from. Are you up for the challenge?

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