

The Storybuilding Tool Kit – Mystery

ABC ME screening details: Friday 29 May 2020 at 1:25pm

This episode can also be viewed on [ABC iView](#).

Key learning areas: English

Level: Levels 4 – 6

About: Keep your readers in suspense and make every character a suspect!

Before the episode

1. Think of some mystery stories you have read or watched on TV. What particular event or item did the mystery centre on? For example, a missing person, a lost or stolen item or an unexplained event. Draw and list some of these ideas.

During the episode

1. Listen carefully for tips about planning and writing a mystery and take notes on the steps you might take.

After the episode

Use the visual organiser to plan a mystery and develop your ideas.

Planning a mystery narrative			
2. First, decide what your mystery will be about.			
3. Then draw each of your characters and create a possible motive for each character. Decide which of your characters will be the antagonist.			
4. Build the world for your story. When and where is the story set? Is your story realistic fiction, fantasy, science fiction? Do your characters have any supernatural powers?			
5. What clues will you leave for your readers and the characters in your story? How will your readers and the characters discover the antagonist?			
6. How will you wrap the story up?			

Follow-up activity: Write and illustrate your story in detail. You could also learn more about the Caesar cipher and write a coded message to include as a clue in your mystery story.

Teacher notes

This resource contains self-directed learning activities that students can complete while learning at home or in the classroom. The activities align with the Victorian Curriculum F-10 and can be modified to meet the needs of your students. Teachers could collect student work for feedback and assessment.

Learning intentions

- To identify the ways authors create a sense of mystery in their texts.
- To plan and create their own mystery stories.

Victorian Curriculum content descriptions

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Writing	Create literary texts by developing storylines, characters and settings (VCELT297)	Create literary texts using realistic and fantasy settings and characters that draw on the worlds represented in texts students have experienced (VCELT328)	Experiment with text structures and language features and their effects in creating literary texts (VCELT355)

Victorian Curriculum achievement standards

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Writing	Students create texts that show understanding of how images and detail can be used to extend key ideas.	Students create imaginative, informative and persuasive texts for different purposes and audiences.	Students understand how language features and language patterns can be used for emphasis.

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