



New Year 7 Summer Activity

Enter if you dare!

Whalley Range English Faculty

In the English Faculty, we're very excited to begin the new school year, with you as our new Year 7 students.

In September, we will be studying detective stories. We will also be writing our own detective stories.

To get you ready for this work, we think it would be great if you came to Whalley Range having already worked on your detective reading skills and also created your own detective!

Work through the activity here and create your own detective!

The Mystery of the Disappearing Diamonds

Read through the story, complete the tasks and then create your own detective story, using the resources on the next page!

The Davenport family live in a vast, secluded mansion in South Manchester. The mansion is palatial and is truly something to behold. The Davenport estate owns many priceless paintings, sculptures and many antique artefacts. The family also own a range of jewellery and expensive cars.

The family have a substantial collection, as you can see, there are paintings and sculptures everywhere! Look closely at the pictures below. Make a list of the items you notice that could be of value.



It was midsummer (the longest day of the year) and the house was ready for festivities, the annual Davenport Summer Solstice Ball. Every year, there was a massive party held in the mansion for the friends and business acquaintances of the family. There were hundreds of guests and the party was swinging until the early hours. It was around 2 o'clock in the morning when Mrs Davenport made the unexpected discovery....

The safe door was open and a priceless diamond necklace was gone! Once the police arrived in the morning, the family tried to draw up a list of the visitors to their home. It was impossible! There were so many people in the house to narrow it down. They started to think about who could have known about the jewellery and who could have committed the crime.

The Mystery of the Disappearing Diamonds

As you can see, the Davenport family need a great detective to find their missing diamonds! It's now your turn to create a story which answers all of the questions that the Davenport family have. The first step will be to create a great detective

Task 1

Mind map what you know about detectives. If you don't know very much, it would be a good idea to ask someone at home, or to do some research.

Task 2

Design your detective. Use the sheet on the next page to design the detective.

Task 3

Plan your story. You can do this in lots of different ways, but it would be useful to try and answer these questions first: Who could have stolen the necklace? What possible motive could they have? Where would your story start? What kind of person do you think the criminal might be? How would you make sure that the story answers all of the questions (you might choose to leave it on a cliff-hanger)?

Task 4

Time to write. Remember to really focus on the vocabulary that you use and really think about how you describe the settings and the way your character moves.

Task 5

Read your story back. Is there anything that you could improve? Ask somebody at home if you can read them the story and ask them for some advice.

Task 6

Bring the story to Whalley Range in September. Your new English teacher would love to see it.

The Mystery of the Disappearing Diamonds Detective Design Sheet

Before you begin writing, it's a good idea to give your character a back story. Answer the questions before you begin writing.

What do they look like?

How do they walk around?

What's their relationship like with their family?

What is their face like?

What do they sound like?



Where do they live?

How old are they?

How did they become a detective?