


Detective/Mystery

Definition:

A story in which a crime is committed and the perpetrator is unknown.

Key Features:

The main character tries to solve the crime. Clues are found to help with solving the mystery, though some clues are found to lead us away from the truth and surprise us at the end.



Mystery Story Checklist



Did I include...	✓
a title to make the reader want to read my story?	
a beginning to introduce character(s)?	
an unknown setting or a surprise event?	
a build-up to give hints and clues about what is going to happen?	
a dilemma where something goes wrong?	
a brief resolution which solves the mystery?	
detailed descriptions to create suspense?	
dialogue to advance the action?	
short, snappy sentences used for effect?	
flashbacks to reveal missing information?	

An example of a mystery story

Kitty put down her plate and stood up. Cautiously, she walked towards the bookcase. It was ajar. The misty haze was coming from inside the bookcase. Kitty reached out her hand and touched the antique pine. It was freezing cold. She edged nearer and nearer. She couldn't see beyond the bright lights. "Hello," she whispered. No-one answered. Every nerve in her body warned her not to go any further. Closer and closer she moved.

Her body froze. She tried to call for help. She couldn't. Her lips wouldn't move. She started to panic. Where was she going? What if nobody noticed she had gone? She closed her eyes. Tears started to roll down her cheeks.

Her throat was dry, her tongue thick and heavy in her mouth. She opened her eyes and couldn't believe what she was seeing.

The magnificent trees stood tall and proud, while a blanket of snowdrops danced towards to glittering ground. Kitty shivered. As she steadied her gaze towards the majestic trees in front of her, she noticed that icicles, which were hanging from every branch, glistened like liquid diamonds. Patches of misty light shone through the gaps in the trees with a trail of fresh footprints heading towards the clearing. She felt uneasy. The hairs on the back of her neck prickled with dread. She took a deep breath and followed the footprints.

Could you use these ideas to write your own mystery story?

Key Words

Robbery	Detective
Kidnap	Spy
Clues	Victim
Suspect	Mystery
Suspicious	Millionaire

Settings

Police Station
Mansion
Jewellery Shop
Quiet Village

