

Ingredients for a Mystery

When cooking up a mystery, authors use this tasty recipe.

Directions: Check all of the ingredients found in the mystery you read.

CHARACTERS:

- ☒ **Suspects:** Characters believed to have possibly committed the crime *A regular in the diner*
- ☒ **Detective:** Character trying to solve the mystery *Bunny Brown and Jack Jones*
- ☐ **Witnesses:** Characters who saw the crime being committed

SETTING:

- ☒ This is the location where the mystery takes place.

The Grill Next Door

PLOT:

When reading a mystery, the story usually includes one of the following:

- ☒ A problem that needs to be solved *The monkey is missing.*
- ☒ An event that cannot be explained *Why did the monkey disappear*
- ☐ A secret
- ☒ Something that is lost or missing *between 8 am and 9:00 am*
- ☐ A crime that has been committed *The monkey by the cash register is gone*

CLUES:

- ☒ Clues are hints that can help the reader and the detective solve the mystery. They can be things people say or do, or objects that are found that provide important information.

(Check the box if the mystery you read had clues.) The differences between the "Regulars" were clues.

RED HERRINGS:

- ☒ These are distractions or false clues that may lead the reader or the detective off track. Red herrings often make it more difficult to solve a mystery. *(Check the box if the mystery you read had a red herring.)*

The Fox with the book and the Sheep with the lunch box

RECIPE FOR A MYSTERY:

Most mysteries are set up the same way. The structure of a mystery usually looks like this:

- ☒ **Beginning:** Characters are introduced and the reader learns about the problem
- ☒ **Middle:** Detectives work to solve the mystery by interviewing suspects and gathering clues
- ☒ **End:** The mystery is solved

