

Knowledge Organiser: Writing – Suspense and Mystery Stories

Key Learning

- To understand the key features of suspense and mystery stories
- To include an exciting beginning to hook the reader in
- To include a mysterious setting or surprise event
- To give clues in a build-up about what is going to happen
- To include a range of dialogue to advance the action
- To include a resolution to solve the mystery
- To write using short, snappy sentences to add some effect
- To include a flashback to reveal missing information or ideas

What should I already know?

- The main features of different genres including traditional tales, fables and legends, and adventure stories

Key Vocabulary			
suspense	mystery	flashback	

Powerful Verbs

analysed, bellowed, concealed, creaked, deduced, examined, inquired, investigated, mumbled, pounded, quivered, scrutinised, scuttled, shrieked, shuddered, sneaked, trembled, whispered

Organisation for your writing

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Feature	Tick	
You have included story language		
throughout the text.		
Your story has a clear complications		
and events which are developed		
throughout.		
Your story opening and conclusion		
shape the story.		
Language links one paragraph to the		
next to help the reader.		
Your paragraphs are varied in length		
and structure.		
Your paragraphs are organised		
correctly for cohesion		

Suggested Texts

- Snaggletooth's Mystery Gene Kemp
- The London Eye Mystery Siobhan Dowd
- No Such Thing as Dragons Philip Reeve
- Cosmic- Frank Cottrell Boyce
- Flood Child Emily Diamond

