



English Language Arts

Grade 10

Days 1 & 2

Genre: Mystery

Task: Read and annotate three or four short mysteries.

Directions:

Read 3-4 short story mysteries from one or more of the following links/sources:

- https://www.teenink.com/fiction/thriller_mystery
- <https://www.storystar.com/stories-subcategory/2/teens?sortby=&category=2&subcategory=2&theme=31&subject=&s=&author=&state=&country=>

*These web sites are not controlled or approved by the NYC Department of Education

While you read and annotate:

- Identify the mystery to be solved. What could be possible motives or opportunities for the incident to have occurred?
- How does the setting affect the story? Does it add to the suspense or create opportunities for multiple locations for events to happen?
- Watch for clues – which can be something that a character does, says, or an object that is found. Some authors use foreshadowing or flashback techniques to provide clues. When you think something may be a clue, ask yourself if it gives information about a suspicious character, or answers “why” something would happen.
- What perspective is the author writing from? Have multiple perspectives been included?

Days 3 & 4

Genre: Mystery

Task: Write a short mystery.

Day 3 Directions:

Create and write a short mystery story. Today, brainstorm and draft your plot outline.

Day 4 Directions:

Revise and finalize your short mystery.

While you write:

- Create your plan:
 - Decide on the mystery/problem that needs to be solved. Mysteries are often best written by thinking of the ending first.
 - Create your characters and setting. Writers write about what they know. Choose a setting and types of characters that you know well.
 - Think about what role each character will play in your short story.
 1. Decide whether your crime solver will be a professional detective (police, private investigator, FBI agent, etc.) or an amateur detective (curious teenager, inquisitive neighbor, etc.)
 2. Decide who the criminal is and his or her motivation?
 3. Finally, choose who the other suspects will be and what possible motives they might have.
 4. To help add depth to the characters, create a list of personal attributes (i.e. favorite food, common habits) or draw a picture that you can refer to during writing.
 - Develop a list of key event/clues that will help the reader solve the mystery. Be sure to include one clue that points to the solution of the mystery. One writing strategy is to let the reader know some clues before the main character discovers them. Be sure to space out your clues and possibly add some clues in a list of possibilities that might add some misdirection or complexity.
- Good mysteries show and don't tell. Use action, dialogue, inner thinking, and description to convey your story.
- Many websites offer writing prompts, such as <http://www.build-creative-writing-ideas.com/free-creative-writing-prompts-mystery.html>

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Days 5 & 6

Genre: Informational

Task: Read and annotate several informational articles.

Directions:

Read 5-6 news articles on topics that are of interest. Scan the headings before selecting the articles and try to read multiple articles of the same subject.

Read several news articles from:

<https://news.google.com/>

http://galesupport.com/novelGeo/novelGeoLink.php?loc=nysl_me_nycitysl&db=STND

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While you read and annotate:

- Scan the headings to find topics of interest and find articles on similar topics. Try to read articles that may present the topic from multiple perspectives.
- Be cognizant of bias, values, or ethics that may be communicated in the articles.
- Is the article presenting an in-depth consideration of the subject or a superficial look at the topic? Does it answer the 5 W's with extended information on the why or how? Do you know more about the issue after reading than you knew before reading? What information are you still wondering or confused about? Is there some contradiction in different articles?
- How did the author choose to structure the writing (sequentially, cause/effect, problem/solution, etc.)?



Days 7 & 8

Genre: News Article

Task: Write a news article.

Day 7 Directions:

Using what you have learned from reading various news articles, construct a news article on a topic that is of interest to you. To be effective as a writer, ensure that you write the article so that your intended audience will be interested in the topic also. Today, research, brainstorm, and draft your article.

Day 8 Directions:

Today, revise and finalize your article.

While you write:

- Remember to give your article an engaging headline and your own byline!
- In the first paragraph include who, what, when and where.
- In the subsequent paragraphs elaborate upon the why and/or how.
- If possible, include a photo/artwork with a caption.
- Using a newsletter template in a word processing program will assist with the article formatting.
 - <https://templates.office.com/en-us/newsletter-tm02686615>



Days 9 & 10

Independent Reading

Directions:

Read a book of your choosing. Write the title and author below.

** A note to parents and guardians: Talk with your children about the books they are reading.*

If you would like an e-book, go to <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral>

Title: _____

Author: _____

While Reading:

Jot down your ideas about what you're reading.

After Reading:

After reading several of the next chapters in your book...

For Fiction: write a one page response analyzing the characters, and their motivations. Consider the conflict, setting, relationships of characters and any other significant details that you find important.

For Non-Fiction: write a one page explaining what you learned and how it confirmed, challenged or changed your thinking today. Tell your reader how you became smarter about that topic.