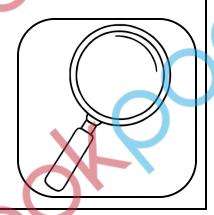
# Secrets and Suspense: What Makes a Mystery?

A mystery story is full of questions and surprises. It starts with something strange or unexplained happening. Readers look for clues to figure out what really happened. These clues can be hidden in the setting, the actions of a figure, or even in something someone said.

Suspense is what makes you want to keep reading. It is the feeling you get when you are not sure what will happen next. Authors use suspense to keep readers guessing. Sometimes, a mystery story will not solve every problem. The ending might leave you with more questions to think about.

Mystery and suspense stories help you become a better thinker. They make you notice patterns, listen closely, and use your imagination to fill in the missing pieces.



Student Name:

**Prosody:** 1 2 3 4

Comprehension: \_\_\_\_\_\_ / 3 correct

Date:

Secrets and Suspense: What Makes a Mystery?		Comprehension Questions:
A mystery story is full of questions and	(8)	<b>Literal Question:</b> What does suspense make you
surprises. It starts with something strange or	(15)	want to do?  Answer:
unexplained happening. Readers look for clues to	(22)	Keep reading to find out what happens.
figure out what really happened. These clues can	(30)	Student Answer:
be hidden in the setting, the actions of a figure,	(40)	
or even in something someone said.	(46)	CorrectIncorrect
Suspense is what makes you want to keep reading.	(55)	Information Operations
It is the feeling you get when you are not sure	(66)	Inferential Question: Why might a story leave some
what will happen next. Authors use suspense to	(74)	problems unsolved?  Answer:
		To make readers think and imagine answers.
keep readers guessing. Sometimes, a mystery story	(81)	Student Answer:
will not solve every problem. The ending might	(89)	
leave you with more questions to think about.	(97)	
Mystery and suspense stories help you become a	(105)	CorrectIncorrect
better thinker. They make you notice patterns,	(112)	Vocabulary Question: What does 'figure' mean in this
listen closely, and use your imagination to fill	(120)	passage?
in the missing pieces.	(124)	<b>Answer:</b> A person or character in the story.
		Student Answer:
Scoring Guide		
Text Level: F&P GRL S Grade Level: 4 Word Count: 12	24	
Total Words Read:	X	Correct Incorrect
Errors:		Notes:
WCPM: (total words read — errors = WCPM)		
WCPM: Below grade level At grade level Above grade level		

## How to Administer the Fluency Passage Assessment

## **Assess Oral Reading Fluency**

- Give the student a copy of the passage. Set a timer or stopwatch for 1 minute.
- Ask the student to begin reading. As the student reads aloud, assess prosody and mark errors and self-corrections on the evaluation copy using the following guides.
- Stop the student when one minute has passed. Take note of the last word the student read.
- Score the passage on the evaluation copy according to the Scoring Guide. Use the following chart to compare grade level norms for words correctly read per minute.

Marking Conventions	
Attempted Word = Substitution Error	✓ = Accurate Word Reading
∧ = Insertion Error	Attempted Word S/C = Self Correction
— Omission Error	R = Repetition
— = Omission Error	R = Repetition
T = Intervention Error (telling student the word)	

Prosody Rubric		2	3	4	
Expression and Volume	monotone or quiet	some expression	appropriate expression	varied, natural expression	
Phrasing	word-by-word reading	some phrase groupings	generally smooth phrasing	natural, meaningful phrasing	
Smoothness	frequent pauses, starts and stops	occasional breaks	mostly smooth reading	fluent and confident	
Pace	too slow or too fast	uneven pace	generally appropriate pace	consistent, conversational pace	

Grade Leve	el Norms (WC	PM) *	ノ				
Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring	Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring
First	0 – 10	10 - 50	30 - 90	Fourth	70 - 120	80 - 130	90 - 140
Second	30 - 80	50 - 100	70 - 130	Fifth	80 - 130	90 - 140	100 - 150
Third	50 – 110	70 - 120	80 - 140	Sixth	90 - 140	100 - 150	110 - 160

<sup>\*</sup> Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates

## Fluency Builder: Secrets and Suspense: What Makes a Mystery?

#### Passage Details

Grade Level: 4

Reading Level: F&P GRL \$

Word Count: 124

### High-Frequency Words

become, figure, listen, pattern, questions

#### Suggestions for Use

Increase Exposure to High-Frequency Words

- Before reading, introduce the list of high-frequency words in the passage.
- Find the words in the passage. Highlight or underline the words.

Illustrate and Label Extension Activity

• Have students draw and label items mentioned in the passage.

Link to Writing or Discussion

• Encourage knowledge transfer and personal connection by asking:

"Describe a time you solved a real-life mystery."

"How do clues help you understand a story?"

Use for Repeated Readings

Day 1: Teacher reads aloud, then echo read

Day 2: Partner reading

Day 3: One-minute fluency timing and WCPM tracking

Day 4: Performance reading (with expression!)