

Name: _____

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: _____

Date: _____

Secrets and Suspense: What Makes a Mystery?

A mystery story is full of questions and (8)

surprises. It starts with something strange or (15)

unexplained happening. Readers look for clues to (22)

figure out what really happened. These clues can (30)

be hidden in the setting, the actions of a figure, (40)

or even in something someone said. (46)

Suspense is what makes you want to keep reading. (55)

It is the feeling you get when you are not sure (66)

what will happen next. Authors use suspense to (74)

keep readers guessing. Sometimes, a mystery story (81)

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)

better thinker. They make you notice patterns, (112)

listen closely, and use your imagination to fill (120)

in the missing pieces. (124)

Comprehension Questions:

Literal Question:

What does suspense make you want to do?

Answer:

Keep reading to find out what happens.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Inferential Question:

Why might a story leave some problems unsolved?

Answer:

To make readers think and imagine answers.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Vocabulary Question:

What does 'figure' mean in this passage?

Answer:

A person or character in the story.

Student Answer:

_____ Correct _____ Incorrect

Notes:

Scoring Guide

Text Level: F&P GRL S Grade Level: 4 Word Count: 124

Total Words Read: _____

Errors: _____

WCPM: (total words read — errors = WCPM) _____

WCPM: Below grade level At grade level Above grade level

Prosody: 1 2 3 4

Comprehension: _____ / 3 correct

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	1	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 Level Norms (WCPM) *							
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

* 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 5

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!)