

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
- ☐ **Detective:** Character trying to solve the mystery
- ☐ **Witnesses:** Characters who saw the crime being committed

SETTING:

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

PLOT:

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

- ☐ A problem that needs to be solved
- ☐ An event that cannot be explained
- ☐ A secret
- ☐ Something that is lost or missing
- ☐ A crime that has been committed

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.)

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.)

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

