

# UNSOLVED

## WRITING ACTIVITIES (OPTIONAL)

These fun activities have been designed to get your students thinking about creating suspense and atmosphere, as well as considering their content and style when faced with a 100-word limit!

You can use them in various ways, such as choose one crime and complete all the activities, do each activity focusing on a different type of crime, or split your students into 4 groups and they each do one activity! (The story starter postcards can also be used.)



### Exhibit A - Setting The Scene

Pick one of the 8 story starters (provided below and in the pack) for this activity. Read it out to your students then ask them:

- Where is this happening? (The setting)
- Who is their main character? (The protagonist)
- What has happened/will happen next? (The plot)
  - Why? (The motive)

#### Two-minute challenges:

Your students can be inspired by the story starter or follow on from it:

- Is their character on the right or wrong side of the law? Why?
- Write the opening sentence to their mini saga using action.
- Write the opening sentence to their mini saga using dialogue.
  - Which opening style do they prefer? Why?

### Exhibit B - Crime Scene Investigation

Your students need to imagine their character is at a crime scene:

- Where is this happening? (The setting)
- Who is their main character? (The protagonist)
- What has happened/will happen next? (The plot)
  - Why? (The motive)

#### Two-minute challenges:

- Describe a clue found at the crime scene.
- Write a short paragraph describing how their character feels.
- Write a sentence about where the crime has been committed using imagery to create atmosphere.
- Write a newspaper headline for the crime and a short paragraph to explain what has happened.

### Exhibit C - Courtroom Drama

The courtroom has lots of character and plot potential! Will students be the judge? A juror? A witness? A lawyer? (The defendant has been purposely missed out!)

- Who is their main character? (The protagonist)
- What has happened/will happen next? (The plot)
  - Why? (The motive)

#### Two-minute challenges:

- Write a short paragraph from your character's point of view that challenges the defendant's alibi for the crime.
- Write a short paragraph from the defendant convincing the reader of their innocence.
- Give students the same story starter - ask them to write two opening sentences - one from the defendant's point of view and one from a witness'.

### Exhibit D - Evade Or Serve Justice?

Justice isn't always served... your students could use this opportunity to explore different points of view and tackle the themes of justice / injustice:

- Who is their main character? (The protagonist)
- Where is the character? (The setting)
- What has happened/will happen next? (The plot)
  - Why? (The motive)

#### Two-minute challenges:

- Write a short paragraph from a prisoner's point of view who has been wrongly accused.
- You are a juror seeing crime scene evidence for the first time, write a short paragraph about how you feel.
- You're a witness in a 30-year-old cold case, there's been a new lead which shows the wrong criminal has been convicted of the crime. Write a short paragraph about what you would do.

## STORY STARTER IDEAS

**YOUR STUDENTS COULD USE ONE OF THESE TO START OR INSPIRE THEIR WORK!**

(THEY NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN THEIR 100-WORD LIMIT!)

• **People think the dead can't talk...**

• **A shadow at the door...**

• **"Guilty!"...**

• **It just didn't add up...**

• **I'd found a clue...**

• **The suspect was gone...**

• **The lie detector results were back...**

• **I had an alibi...**