

Tuesday 16th June 2020

Mystery Stories

Hi Yachts!

Let's start with another spelling challenge – which of the spelling words would fit into the sentences below?

February guide imagine important

We followed the _____ who showed us around the museum.

My birthday is in _____.

I tried hard to _____ what a pink, fluffy elephant would look like.

It is _____ that we wash our hands well at the moment.

Do you remember looking at **mystery stories** when we were still at school? Think about when we read *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd – what happened, how did you know that it was a mystery story?

In a mystery story, a surprise event occurs like a crime or a disappearance. The main character tries to solve the mystery using clues.

I have a mystery for you to solve now! Read the three extracts below and decide which one of them is from a mystery story. What clues did you use?

Extract 1	Extract 2	Extract 3
The Rat said nothing, but stooped and unfastened a rope and hauled on it; then lightly stepped into a little boat which the Mole had not observed. It was painted blue outside and white within, and was just the size for two animals; and the Mole's whole heart went out to it at once, even though he did not yet fully understand its uses.	Without thinking, Sophie grabbed a spare skateboard and slid it towards the beast. With a crash, the fleeing monster stomped down on to the rolling skateboard which sent him hurtling to the ground. Quick as a flash, Sophie threw herself on top of the beast and pinned it down. The fall had dislodged the beast's head which slipped off, revealing a familiar face underneath...	Plantains, wild-thyme, pallid leeks, Pigeons with their scarlet beaks, Oranges and saffron yams, Baskets, ruby guava jams, Turtles, goat-skins, cinnamon, Allspice, conch-shells, golden rum. Black skins, babel – and the sun That burns all colours into one.

We're going to use the mystery story below for our writing this week. Read it through then answer the questions about it.

The Time-slip Scarab

by Pie Corbett

Every year, Class 5 went to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum and this year was no exception. The guide stopped at each display to tell the children about the different artefacts. It was only when they reached the Egyptian display that Emily became interested. A scarab beetle caught her attention: glittering wings flickered in the light; greens and blues shimmered like an iridescent gemstone and elongated feelers stretched towards her.



As Class 5 meandered into the Viking section, Emily waited. As soon as they had gone, she reached out and touched the beetle. She felt a hot, stabbing pain and withdrew her hand as if she had been stung. A moment later and ... she was standing at the edge of a desert. Huge, sand-coloured pyramids jutted upwards; white birds circled above, calling; a vast river oozed by and tall palm trees lined its edge. Emily gasped for she knew exactly where she was.

A procession wound its way from the river towards Emily. At the front, a tall man dressed as Anubis (god of the afterlife), wearing a jackal's mask, strode towards her. Drums beat, rattles shivered and the procession sung a low chant. Six men carried a huge, golden stand on which there was a throne. A beautiful woman surveyed the procession from on high. She was the only person without a mask and she was staring right at Emily, pointing!

Without thinking, Emily dashed towards a door set into the closest pyramid. Inside, it was cool and as she ran down a passageway. Torches burned to light the way ahead. On the walls, she saw carved images - an owl, fish, warriors and hieroglyphs that were hard to comprehend. She could hear voices shouting and the sound of running feet behind her but the way ahead was blocked! Spinning round, she found the jackal standing in her path. The mask seemed to grin.

Something itched against her leg; a shiny beetle glittered. Emily recognised the greens and reds glimmering in the torchlight. She reached down, touched the beetle and once again felt a hot, sharp stabbing pain and...there she was, back in the museum with

Mrs Hardy striding towards her. "The museum has been closed for half an hour. We're all in the coach. Where have you been, young lady?"
"In Egypt," Emily stammered, but Mrs Hardy did not look at all pleased with her answer!

1. Who is the main character?

2. Where is the story set?

3. What is the surprising event?

4. How did you feel when the main character entered the pyramid?

5. How did you feel when something itched against the main character's leg?

6. Did you think the story would end that way? Why do you think the author ended it like that?

Challenge: Mystery stories often use **suspense** to build tension, scare the reader and keep the reader wanting to find out what will happen next. Where does the author use suspense in this story?
