

Clues in the Gallery

Identify how clues and explanations shape a mystery.

6.8.A “demonstrate knowledge of literary genres such as realistic fiction, adventure stories, historical fiction, mysteries, humor, and myths;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle at least three details in paragraphs 1 and 2 that create a mystery, then number the clues 1, 2, and 3 in the order Mara uses them to solve the problem. These clues and the final explanation are features of a mystery.

The Missing Compass

- ① During the town museum's evening tour, the glass case holding a bronze compass stood empty. Rain tapped the roof, and visitors crowded near the door while Ms. Chen locked the galleries. Mara, a student volunteer, noticed a thin trail of muddy water beginning at the case and ending at the back door. The door was closed, but its lower hinge was scratched. On the floor beside the case, Mara found a torn green thread. She decided to follow the clues before anyone accused the wrong person.
- ② At the back door, Mara found muddy footprints that matched the narrow soles of the museum's garden boots, not the wide shoes worn by the visitors. A window above the supply closet was open, and rainwater dripped from its sill. Mara remembered that the groundskeeper, Mr. Ortiz, had carried the garden boots inside after checking the flower beds. Yet his boots sat dry beside the closet. Then Mara saw that a display label on the floor had a fresh smear of blue paint, the same color used on the repair cart.
- ③ Mara examined the repair cart and found the compass taped beneath its top shelf. One wet wheel was coated with mud and had made the thin trail from the display case to the back door as Nora pushed the cart. Nora wore a green sweater with a torn cuff, and blue paint from the cart marked her sleeve. She admitted borrowing the garden boots, taking the compass, and trying to roll the cart out the back door. The cart scraped the hinge, so she hid it in the supply closet instead.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What genre is this passage? Give two details that support your answer.

2 What detail connects the missing compass to the repair cart?

3 Why does Mr. Ortiz seem suspicious at first, and what detail makes Mara question that idea?

4 How does the final paragraph explain the muddy-water trail from the display case to the back door?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence ending for a new mystery. Include three clues in the first three sentences, then explain in the final sentence how each clue reveals the solution.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle at least three details in paragraphs 1 and 2 that create a mystery, then number the clues 1, 2, and 3 in the order Mara uses them to solve the problem. These clues and the final explanation are features of a mystery. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What genre is this passage? Give two details that support your answer.	It is a mystery. A valuable object disappears, and Mara follows clues to identify what happened.
2	What detail connects the missing compass to the repair cart?	A display label has fresh blue paint, the same color used on the repair cart.
3	Why does Mr. Ortiz seem suspicious at first, and what detail makes Mara question that idea?	The muddy prints match the museum's garden boots, which Mr. Ortiz brought inside. Mara questions him because his boots are dry.
4	How does the final paragraph explain the muddy-water trail from the display case to the back door?	Nora pushed the repair cart from the display case toward the back door, and its wet, muddy wheel made the trail.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A silver bell lay beneath the library desk. Wet bird prints crossed the return cart. A torn page from a bird book rested by the open window. The clues showed that the librarian's parrot had flown from its cage with the missing map: it dropped its bell, landed in spilled water, and tore the page while looking for its picture.

Accept answers that identify the passage as a mystery and support that choice with its unexplained event, clues, suspect, and solution. For the open task, accept a clear mystery ending if it includes three clues and a final explanation that connects all three clues to the solution.