



TOPIC: Language Arts  
Creative Writing  
GRADE LEVEL: 5 - 12  
Adaptable  
TIME: 45 min.

### **MINI MYSTERIES**

**OBJECTIVE:** The student will create original, short mystery stories to be solved by other class members.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

1. Paper and pencil for each student.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Explain to the students that they will write a mini mystery of approximately two pages in length. The mystery should take about two minutes to read.
2. The mysteries will be unsolved but must include sufficient information to lead to a logical deduction. The stories can, however, contain misleading clues, double plots, and twists of plot that could lead an investigator on a merry chase if he/she doesn't pay close attention.
3. Allow the students enough time to outline the plot to their mystery and then write it in detail, but not to include the final solution. Students can work individually, in teams of two or small groups.
4. When the mysteries are completed, have the students exchange papers. Instruct them to read another student's story, and based upon the stated details, solve the mystery.
5. Next, have the writer and the solver of each mystery confer. They should discuss if the solver came to the same solution that was intended by the writer and, if not, why not.
6. If time allows, ask for volunteers to share their mysteries using the solution that evolves as being the most logical.