Lesson 1: The Case of the Missing Grandpa

UNIT: Detective Series

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

One time, when I was a kid, I lost a book from the library. I hadn't taken it out of the house, and we searched the house from top to bottom but never found it. I felt like a detective on a mystery case looking for clues as to where the book might have gone.

Mysteries are all around us. Some mysteries are hard to solve, like my missing library book. I may never find out what happened to it. Other mysteries are easier to solve, like who made this huge mess of toilet paper. I think I know the answer. Maybe you do too.

Here's a mini mystery for you to solve.A girl has had friends over for a play date, and someone ate the blue lollipop she was saving. As a detective, how would you figure out who ate the lollipop?

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: How would you figure out who ate the lollipop?

HOOK 2

Maybe you'd ask everyone if they ate it.

Or maybe you'd look for clues, like the lollipop wrapper or the stick.

Or maybe you'd ask everyone to stick out their tongues to see who has a blue tongue.

Maybe you thought of something else, and that's great. Mysteries can happen in your life and they also happen in stories.

I like mystery stories because I love when the main character pieces together the clues of the story. As a reader, I can gather clues and try to solve the mystery too.

My friend is an author of mystery stories. She likes to write her stories using a typewriter, like this one.

She doesn't write her mystery stories all at once in a book.

Instead, she shares one chapter at a time, so readers can try to figure out the mystery along the way.

She also sends letters to her readers, encouraging them to be detectives and find clues.

This author just started a new mystery story. It's about a boy named Rohan who goes to his grandpa's house for the summer. It seems like a normal trip to grandpa's house, but something is about to happen that will send Rohan on a grand mystery adventure.

Chapter one is available right now and a letter from the author. You can be a detective for this new mystery story. Today, you will read chapter one and find clues in the story.

I'll get you started step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies. You'll get more supplies later on.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Get your Chapter 1 Continued worksheet. Fold it in half like this.

Put the folded worksheet next to your Chapter 1 worksheet so you can see all of chapter one.

STEP 4

Let's read chapter one. If you'd like to read the story on your own, you can pause the video now. Or you can keep watching to hear me read the story aloud.

Follow along in your copy of chapter one. Chapter one:

I pressed my cheek against the window of the car glumly as we arrived at Grandpa's house. Going to Grandpa's house was my least favorite part of summer. I liked Grandpa well enough, but his house was super boring. There were no toys around, and everything there was a hundred years old. Plus, it smelled weird. When Grandpa lived in the city, we used to go on all sorts of adventures together. We would go to parks, museums, and the huge city library.

Then Grandpa moved to the countryside.

There isn't really anything to do out here. Grandpa was waiting for us on the porch as we arrived. My mom helped me get my suitcase out of the car and gave me a huge hug.

“You be good with Grandpa. OK?” she said.

I nodded and gave her another hug. “You'll find something fun to do here. You always do.” I wasn't so sure.

As she pulled the car away, she called out the window of the car. “Rohan, make sure you keep an eye on grandpa for me!” I smiled at her joke, and Grandpa chuckled. We both knew I was staying here so he could keep an eye on me. I dragged my bag down the hall, flopping it into the room I'd be staying in. It smelled extra musty in here for some reason.

I looked at the drooping velvet curtains and the dusty figurines on the dresser. There was a ceramic mermaid, some fancy teacups, and a few old books. I'm sure grandpa could have given me a history lecture about any of these trinkets.

I took a deep breath, reminding myself that it wouldn't be so bad. Grandpa's cooking was pretty good, and we played games like checkers together sometimes.

Besides, if there was one thing that grandpa and I had in common, it was loving a good book. I opened my bag and pulled out my favorite book, *The Secret Library*. I was just settling down to read when I heard my name.

“Rohan!” It was Grandpa. Reluctantly, I put my book down and walked to his study. It was a dimly lit room at the end of the hallway. Every wall was covered in bookshelves where he kept his most prized books and ancient memorabilia. He even had a phone in there with the spinny thing in the middle that you used to use to dial back in… the Middle Ages or something.

All around the room, there were old compasses, a statue of the head of some composer, and random odds and ends that he had added to his collection over the years. I'd probably be in trouble for even thinking about touching any of it. Grandpa was sitting at his desk and typing something on his typewriter. “Hey, Grandpa,” I said, standing in the doorway to the study.

“I picked out a book for you, kid. I think you'll enjoy it.” He handed me a book with a red tattered cover. “*The Secret of the Old Clock*,” I read dutifully. Geez, even Grandpa's books are about old stuff.

“Give it a try,” he said. “I think you'll like it. It's sort of like that other mystery book you like.”

“The Secret Library?” I replied.

“Yeah,” he said. “Let me know what you think, will ya?”

“Sure,” I said as I headed out with the book. There was no way this book was as cool as *The Secret Library*. I didn't really wanna read it, but Grandpa probably spent a lot of time picking this book out for me. It would make him happy if I at least tried it.

I dragged a few cushions out of my room and into the hallway to plop down and read the book. I pulled back the raggedy cover of the book and skimmed the first chapter. It didn't seem that interesting. I flipped through the rest of the book. I would rather be reading my book instead. I got up to hand it back to Grandpa and tell him it wasn't for me.

When I walked into the study, Grandpa wasn't there. I stood for a moment. There were no other doors out of the study, and I had been lying in the hallway, so there's no way grandpa could have left the study without me knowing.

He was just… gone.

Stay tuned to read chapter two of “The Case of the Missing Grandpa.”

STEP 5

The mystery begins and Grandpa is missing.

We can't solve the entire mystery yet, but we can figure out some clues.

Get the Class Letter. Have one person in your class read the letter out loud. When you're done reading, move on to the next step.

STEP 6

We will need to answer questions about the story today in complete sentences. When I'm talking with someone, I usually don't answer them in complete sentences. If I get asked, "What is your favorite snack?" I would probably say, "cheese."

But as a writer, if I wrote down the word cheese, no one would know what it meant. Instead, I can use the most important words from the question to make a complete sentence. Check it out.

My favorite snack is cheese. If someone read that, they would definitely know what I meant.

I can check to see how many words I used from the question. I used “favorite,” “snack,” and “is.” You might notice I didn't use every word from the question, and that's okay. I used the most important words from the question so that my sentence makes sense.

Let's practice making complete sentence answers. Discuss with your partner by answering in a complete sentence: What is your favorite snack?

STEP 7

Maybe you said something like, "My favorite snack is popcorn."

Or maybe you said, "Brownies are my favorite snack to eat. Or maybe you said something else and that's great. It's okay if you didn't use every word from the question. You can just use the most important words to make a clear answer.

Now, it's time to put these skills to work in finding clues in the mystery story.

Unfold your Chapter 1 Continued worksheet.

STEP 8

Find question number one.

Let's try answering this question out loud.

Discuss with your partner: What is Rohan's favorite book? You can look back in Chapter One of the story if you want.

STEP 9

You probably said the answer is The Secret Library.

But hang on a minute. This isn't a complete sentence yet. We can use the words in the question to make it a complete sentence.

We've highlighted some important words on screen that could help you make a complete sentence answer.

Discuss with your partner: How would you answer this question in a complete sentence? Remember to use the highlighted words in your sentence.

STEP 10

Maybe you said, "Rohan's favorite book is The Secret Library."

Or maybe you said, "The Secret Library is Rohan's favorite book in the story." You may have said something else and that's great.

Write your sentence response in the lines next to number one. When you use one of the words from the question, you can check it off. Like this.

STEP 11

When writers include the title of a book in their writing, they underline it. Underline The Secret Library in your sentence.

STEP 12

Find question number two.

What are two reasons why Rohan thinks Grandpa's house is boring?

Before you answer, take a few minutes to review Chapter One and find parts where Rohan describes why he thinks the house is boring. When you find answers to this question, you can underline those parts of the story.

STEP 13

Discuss with your partner: What are two reasons why Rohan thinks Grandpa's house is boring?

STEP 14

Maybe you said “there are no toys,” or “everything in the house is old.” or maybe “the only thing to do there is read.”

You may have said something else, and that's great. You can choose two reasons and write your answer to the question in a complete sentence.

Don't forget to use the words from the question in your sentence and check them off as you write them.

STEP 15

Find question number three on your worksheet. Why does Grandpa think Rohan might like The Secret of the Old Clock?

Look back in Chapter One to find the part where grandpa gives Rohan the book. Underline any parts that show you the answer to this question.

STEP 16

Discuss with your partner: Why does grandpa think Rohan might like The Secret of the Old Clock?

STEP 17

On your own, answer number three on the lines. Check off words in the question as you write. If you include the title of the book in your sentence, make sure you underline it.

STEP 18

Take turns with your partner sharing the sentences you wrote. If you want, you can make changes.

STEP 19

Nice job, writers. You used clues from the story to answer the first three questions.

To build your case file, get these supplies.

STEP 20

To start building your detective case file, get your Case File worksheet. Fold it in half like this, then write your name on the line.

STEP 21

Fold your Chapter 1 worksheet and your Chapter 1 Continued worksheet in half like this.

STEP 22

Open your case file and place the first chapter of the story and your answered questions inside.

Be sure to use the page numbers to keep your case file in order.

Use a paperclip to hold your case files together.

STEP 23

The papers in your case file are VIPs, Very Important Papers. Your teacher will tell you where to put them so you will have them for the next lesson.

WRAP-UP

Amazing job, writers. You have completed the first challenge for Chapter One of The Case of the Missing Grandpa.

I can only imagine where Grandpa might be. Is he hiding somewhere?

Is he leaf blowing on the roof?

Did he go skydiving?

We'll have to wait for the next chapter of the story to find out more.

In the next lesson, we'll read chapter two of the mystery and use evidence to gather even more clues about the story.

I'll see you next time.