Lesson 3: Connect the Clues

UNIT: Detective Series

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi. It's Anne!

One time, my friend encountered a mystery on a field trip.

When she went to get her lunchbox, it was splattered across the ground. My friend wanted to know who did that to her lunch, but none of her classmates had been near the lunch boxes, and nobody had seen anything.

She took a picture of what happened.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you think happened to my friend's lunch? Why do you think that?

HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but I think one of the seagulls tried to eat her lunch. They were right here by her lunchbox. Plus, seagulls are well known for trying to steal people's food.

When detectives are trying to find the answer to a mystery, they first have to gather evidence, and then they have to explain how the evidence shows the solution to the mystery.

The explanation ties all of the ideas together.

Right now, you're reading a mystery story, "The Case of the Missing Grandpa."

Before we move on, think back to what happened so far in the story. It's okay if you don't remember everything that happened in the story. Think about the most important parts.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: As a class, work together to retell what has happened so far in the case of "The Missing Grandpa."

HOOK 3

Nice job retelling the story so far. In the last few lessons, you've been reading this story and answering questions along the way. When you write an answer to a question, you can give evidence from the story and add an explanation to tie your whole response together.

Here's a question you answered in the last lesson: "Who wrote Rohan's name on the envelope?"

I started my response to this question with a one-sentence answer and evidence. "Grandpa wrote Rohan's name on the envelope. For example, it says the name was written in familiar, loopy, cursive handwriting."

To tie these ideas together, I can add an explanation that shows how my answer and my evidence are connected.

I wrote, "This shows that the name was written in Grandpa's handwriting," because earlier in the chapter, Grandpa's handwriting is described as being loopy cursive.

I put all three of these parts together to make a response to the question.

DISCUSSION 3

Read this response.

Discuss: Which sentences show the answer, evidence, and explanation?

HOOK 4

My paragraph started with an answer to the question and some evidence from the story. But if I only wrote those two parts, they aren't really connected. Lots of people probably have loopy cursive handwriting.

But then I added an explanation of how I know that Grandpa's handwriting is loopy and cursive.

That means this evidence does show this answer—it's all connected together.

These three parts work together to make a complete response to a question.

Today, you'll read Chapter Three of "The Case of the Missing Grandpa."

Who knows what clues Rohan will find, or if he'll finally figure out where Grandpa is?

We'll have to read the next chapter to find out. The author has provided more questions and another letter that will help us find clues for the mystery.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

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

Let's read Chapter Three. If you'd like to read this story on your own, you can pause the video now, or you can keep watching to hear me read this story out loud. Follow along in your copy of Chapter Three.

Chapter Three

My heart pounding, I picked up the envelope and carefully put the clock back. I rushed to the desk and opened it using the letter opener on Grandpa's desk. I was shaking again, but not with nerves this time. I was so excited to have found another clue to the mystery. Inside the envelope was a single sheet of paper that read:

> *A clue to help you solve your mystery: Books are filled with secrets and adventures, but the best adventures can be found in knowledge.*

My mind was racing. I knew this was another clue from Grandpa: a riddle. The best adventures can be found in knowledge? What on earth did that mean? This note was supposed to be a clue, but it didn't have any helpful information on it at all. It felt more like generic advice your teacher tells you when you'd rather be reading a fantasy book

than studying about rock formations. I didn't have the faintest idea of what to do next or where to look.

I felt like my mystery had come to a standstill. I was about ready to give up, since this clue was too hard to figure out. But, in all the mystery books I had read, the detectives NEVER gave up just because they found a clue that was tough to crack. I thought about Dally, the main character in *The Secret Library.* Would she let one tricky riddle end her mystery? No way! I imagined what she would do. She would probably look at the clue closely, one part at a time. I decided to do just that.

I plopped down in Grandpa's chair at his desk and took a closer look at the first line of the riddle. “Books are filled with secrets and adventures.” That was certainly true, but I knew this riddle must be pointing me toward my next clue somehow. Perhaps the next clue was a book. After all, the first clue had been a book, too. I slowly twirled the desk chair, scanning the hundreds of books on the shelves that lined the room. It would take forever to check them all. I needed to figure out which one was the clue. I returned to the second line of the riddle.

"But the best adventures can be found in knowledge." Maybe that meant the book I needed was full of knowledge or information. That didn't seem to narrow it down very much. There were books about wars, books on how to fix cars, dictionaries, encyclopedias…I paused. My eyes fell on the encyclopedia set. Encyclopedias are books full of all kinds of information. They're kind of like the book form of Wikipedia. Grandpa had a set so big that every letter of the alphabet had its own book. Could that be the “knowledge” that the riddle was talking about?

I got out of the chair and walked to the encyclopedias. My nose was almost touching them. I put my hand on the first book in the set and started to pull it off the shelf. As soon as the book moved, I heard a deep “CLICK” sound from inside the wall. I jumped back from the bookshelf, startled. The bookshelf had moved ever so slightly toward me. I looked back and forth across the bookshelf, worried I had broken something. Then

reality settled in on me. The bookshelf was a hidden door! I could only imagine what might be inside. And I could only hope that Grandpa was inside wherever this secret door led. My hand was trembling in excitement as I put my hand back on the encyclopedia.

I pulled a bit more, sliding the bookshelf toward myself.

Stay tuned for Chapter Four of "The Case of Missing Grandpa."

STEP 4

The mystery continues, and Rohan is following the trail of clues.

Rohan has now discovered a hidden door in Grandpa's bookshelf.

I wonder where it goes.

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 5

Fold your Chapter 3 Continued worksheet in half like this. Flip it so that question number six is face up on your desk.

STEP 6

Question number six.

At first, Rohan is stumped by the riddle. How did Rohan motivate himself to keep trying?

Before we write, let's try answering this question out loud.

Discuss the answer with your partner.

You can look back in Chapter Three of the story if you want.

STEP 7

Maybe you said, “he thought about the character in his favorite book,” or “he remembered what other detectives would do.” You may have said something else, and that's great.

Write a complete sentence answer to the question using as many words from the question as you can.

STEP 8

Now that you have answered the question, you can go looking for evidence.

Find the part in the story where Rohan motivates himself to keep trying.

Underline a sentence or two that you think best shows your answer.

STEP 9

Add your evidence to your answer using one of the evidence sentence starters.

Remember to copy your evidence from the story exactly, and put it in “quotation marks.”

STEP 10

Now, you can add an explanation to your evidence.

One way to add an explanation is to explain what is happening in the quote in your own words. Another way is to explain why you chose the quote to show your answer.

Discuss with your partner. Try explaining your quote both ways out loud. You can use these sentence starters to help.

STEP 11

Pick which explanation strategy you would like to use. Then, write your explanation.

You can use the sentence starters on your worksheet to help. We've put some examples on the screen.

STEP 12

Nice job, writers!

You've answered the question, used evidence from the story, and explained your evidence.

Your answer to the question is all connected together.

Trace the dotted lines on your worksheet to connect all the parts.

Then flip your worksheet over.

STEP 13

Question number seven.

Why did Rohan think the encyclopedias were the next clue?

Discuss the answer with your partner.

STEP 14

Maybe you said, "Rohan thought the encyclopedias were the next clue because he figured out the riddle."

Or maybe you said, "Because they are full of knowledge," which is what the riddle said. You may have said something else, and that's great.

Now you can answer this question on your own. Follow the steps on your worksheet to make sure you include an answer, evidence, and an explanation.

Your teacher will tell you how long you have to write.

STEP 15

Share what you wrote with your partner. Double check to make sure you have an answer to the question, evidence, and an explanation.

STEP 16

Fantastic job, writers! You tied your answers and evidence together with an explanation.

Trace the dotted lines on your worksheet to show how all the parts are connected.

STEP 17

Fold your Chapter 3 worksheet in half, like this.

STEP 18

Unclip your case file.

Add your two new worksheets to your case file in the back.

You can use the page numbers to help keep your case file in order.

When you're done, put the paperclip back on your case file.

WRAP UP

Fantastic job, writers!

You have figured out two more pieces of this mystery. You used evidence and explanations to show how each answer is connected.

In the next lesson, we will read the final chapter of "The Case of the Missing Grandpa."

I can only imagine what Rohan will find behind the hidden door. Will it be an entrance to an attic, a closet, a tunnel, or something else? We'll have to wait until next time to see.

Make sure you put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe, and I'll see you next time!