

Mini Mysteries

Read-and-Solve Cartoon Fill-Ins

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Permission is granted to individual purchasers of this book to make enough copies to satisfy the needs of their own students and classes.

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NOTES FOR TEACHERS

The purpose of the Mini Mysteries copy masters is to provide materials to reinforce and increase reading comprehension skills. Each cartoon-format page presents a complete mystery - except for the solution. Students read and solve, and write their solutions in the spaces provided. Answers are provided on an answer sheet, but the student's wording may vary. Designed for the middle to upper grades, these mysteries are presented in probable order of difficulty. Each spirit master page is numbered to correspond with the table of contents.

Students will enjoy the challenge of Mini Mysteries. In general, you'll find they're very enthusiastic about writing the solutions. However, as with crossword puzzles or riddles, some people are extremely adept at such things, and some are not. Some mysteries may prove to be difficult for some students, while other mysteries may be easily solved.

Taking time to think through and go back over the clues should be encouraged. Ample discussion time should be provided to encourage students to share their solutions and the means by which they arrived at those solutions.

Here's how you can get very creative results: provide second copies to everyone, permitting your students to change key clues or events, thus producing alternate logical solutions.

This is not a handwriting exercise. Therefore, stress that students are not restricted to the small answer space; they can write their answers anywhere, including the other side of the paper.

Here are some suggestions:

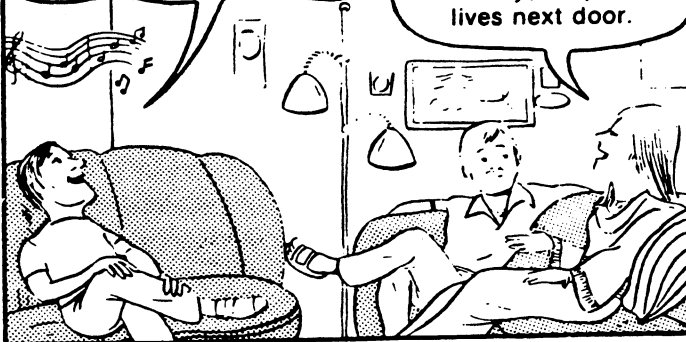
- Use copy masters on an individual basis for reinforcement of reading skills.
- Run off multiple copies and assign as a total class activity.

THE BROKEN PIANO MYSTERY

On his summer vacation, Tim Jackson was visiting friends in Sydney.

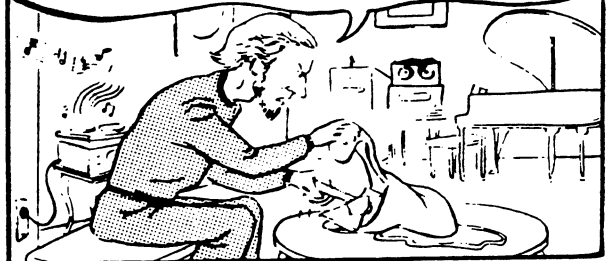
How often do you get these free concerts?

Nearly every night! Hans Key, the pianist, lives next door.



But in fact, Tim and his friends were not listening to Hans Key. They were listening to a *tape recording* of Key's music.

That so-called music critic, Peter Green, has insulted me once too often. Tonight I'm going to get even! With that tape playing all evening, everyone will think I was here all the time!



While Key was on his way to Peter Green's apartment ...

What happened to the lights?

It's another power blackout!

What luck! Now I can be sure no one will see me!



Meanwhile, the critic Peter Green had been attending a concert. By the time he got home, power had been restored.

What happened?



Key must have done this! I don't know anybody else crazy enough to wreck a \$10,000 grand piano!



The next morning ...

Green can't seriously believe that I had anything to do with it! Besides, I was playing my piano all evening. Ask the neighbours. They must have heard me.

How about that? Did you hear Key playing his piano all evening?



What we heard proves that Key wasn't playing his piano all evening. It must have been a tape recording because _____

