

# Year 7 Murder Mystery

## Genre – Murder Mystery

A Murder Mystery is a genre (type) of play. The play typically begins with a murder. The audience follow a detective, or other professional, who solves the crime, or series of crimes. The purpose of the play is to solve the puzzle, the culprit is always revealed by the end.



## PLOT

The Millionaire Mr. Black held a lavish 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday party which colourful fabulous guests, but at some point during the evening, Mr. Black was murdered!! Killed in cold blood for his inheritance? His uncle Sir Hugh could have warned him who not to trust, but Sir Hugh is dead and buried!

## Style – Over Exaggeration

All theatre is slightly exaggerated. Even in naturalistic drama actors on stage speak slightly louder and make slightly bigger gestures than they would in normal life. OVER EXAGGERATION is a stylistic choice used in Pantomime, Physical comedy and Children's Theatre.

## Cross-Cutting

A cross-cut is a dramatic device that involves interrupting the chronological order of events to show scenes from the past or future.

## Roll-on-the-wall

A Role on the Wall sheet is a character creation technique. Facts about the character are recorded on the sheet. On the outside are things that can be seen e.g. walks with a limp. On the inside are things that cannot be seen e.g. what the character thinks and feels.

## Hot Seating

Hot-seating is when an actor "in character" is questioned by the other actors / character and must try to answer the way they feel the character would. This involves role-play, improvisation and good concentration

## The Given Circumstances

The **given circumstances** are the information about the character that you start off with and the play as a whole.

## Magic-If

The '**magic if**', technique is when the actor puts themselves into the character's situation.

## Objective

An **objective** is the reason for our actions. e.g. 'I wish to..

# Year 7 Spring Term

## Play Structure

**Scene 1** – The arrival of the guests (Mr. Black can be included in this scene)

**Scene 2** – The discovery of the dead body

**Scene 3** – Informal questioning by Police officer of characters A and B (characters A and B give clues and motives to who the murder is)

**Scene 4** – Cross-cut to a scene in the past showing characters A and B at the dinner party and over hearing heated discussion of character C with Mr. Black

**Scene 5** – Cross-cut to the present and the interrogation of character C by the Police officer. Character C confesses

**Scene 6** – Cross-cut to the murder and add in scene 2 (the discovery the body) after the murder

## Drama Vocab

**Stereotype:** A conventional image or characterization that is widely accepted.

**Philanthropist:** A person who seeks to promote the welfare of others especially by the generous donation of money to good causes

**Narcissist:** A person who has an excessive interest in or admiration of themselves

**Delinquent:** (typically of a young person) tending to commit crime, particularly minor crime

**Decadent:** Characterised by or reflecting a state of moral or cultural decline

**Patriot:** A person who loyally supports the country and is prepared to defend it against enemies

**Intrepid:** Fearless adventurous

**Eccentric:** unconventional and slightly strange

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Year 7	Initial	Beginning	Approaching	Secure	Exceeding	Outstanding	Mastered
Application of creative skills in response to stimulus to create Drama	Can offer a basic creative response to a stimulus	Can offer a generic range of creative responses to a stimulus	Can offer an appropriate range of creative responses to a stimulus	Can offer a considered range of creative responses to a stimulus	Can offer a relevant range of creative responses to a stimulus	Can offer a competent range of creative responses to a stimulus	Can offer an effective range of creative responses to a stimulus
Application of physical skills and techniques	Can apply basic physical and technical skills in response to performance material and style.	Can apply generic physical and technical skills in response to performance material and style.	Can apply appropriate physical and technical skills in response to performance material and style.	Can apply considered physical and technical skills in response to performance material and style.	Can apply relevant physical and technical skills in response to performance material and style.	Can apply competent physical and technical skills in response to performance material and style.	Can apply effective physical and technical skills in response to performance material and style.

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**MRS PEACOCK**

**The Social Butterfly**  
Flirtatious. Discreet.  
Greedy? Devious?

Her exact age is unknown, and that's just one of Mrs Peacock's secrets. Peacock rocketed from small-town girl to well-connected socialite. Little is known of her three husbands, other than they all died suddenly. Sir Hugh met his end just before becoming her fourth. Peacock has called in many favours to get this invitation to Black's party. What's on her mind: marriage or murder...?

**The Playboy**  
Charming. Witty.  
Unforgiving? Decadent?

As a suave con man, Green has fronted as a prince, a pilot, a doctor and an attorney. After years on the scam, trouble has finally caught up with him and forced him into hiding – as a reverend. Thinking that Sir Hugh was the only man to know his true identity, he is immediately concerned when he receives an invitation from Black. Determined to keep his secrets safe, Green accepts...



**REV. GREEN**




**MISS SCARLETT**

**The Femme Fatale**  
Beautiful. Seductive.  
Ruthless? Manipulative?

Miss Scarlett has always been beautiful, but recently also seems cold-hearted. Black and Scarlett had grown up together and been in all sorts of trouble over the years. As they got older though, their friendship became strained. Black suspected Scarlett had been influencing Sir Hugh's investments. In receiving her invitation to Tudor Mansion, Scarlett assumed all was forgiven...

**The Alpha Male**  
Patriot. Philanthropist.  
Liar? Narcissist?

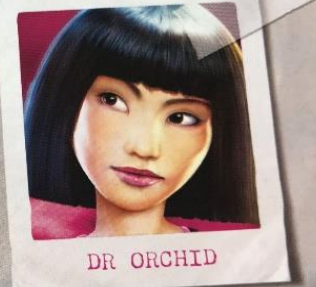
To the outside world, he is a hero. Colonel Mustard is a highly decorated, successful and popular officer. However, behind his medals of honour are rumours of black market deals and treason; rumours he's been paying someone to keep secret for too long. Mustard suspects Black of being his blackmailer, and eagerly travels to Tudor Mansion to search for evidence...



**COL. MUSTARD**

**The Genius**  
Mysterious. Adventurous.  
Ambitious? Delinquent?

Adopted as a teenager by Black, Orchid was privately schooled in Switzerland until her expulsion following a near-fatal daffodil poisoning incident. She was then homeschooled by the old housekeeper, Mrs White. Orchid decided biology was her future and, while researching her PhD in plant toxicology, unearthed a plant of incredible medicinal properties; a discovery she wanted to share with no one – especially her adoptive father...



**DR ORCHID**



**PROF. PLUM**

**The Intellectual**  
Intrepid. Eccentric.  
Obsessive? Paranoid?

Fearlessly tracking down desert tombs, ancient statues and lost cities, Professor Plum is an archaeologist with a thirst for adventure. Sir Hugh financed all his expeditions, until a huge disagreement ended their partnership. With no excavations on the horizon, Plum was bored. Black's invitation, when it came, filled him with hope. He was first to arrive at the party...