

Detective's Notebook

Imagine that you are a detective-in-training, learning from the great Tanya Torrence. One thing you've learned is that she is also a master of observation. She knows to keep her eyes and ears open because anything could be a clue. Tanya keeps her observations in her head, but many detectives record their observations in a notebook. This helps get them in the habit of paying attention to detail. It also helps them keep track of little things that might turn out to be important later. To help you see how she solves her cases, Tanya has provided the prompts below for your "detective's notebook."

Directions: Read "The Case of the Missing Dogs" one time. (Don't read the solution yet!) Then go back and read it again, filling in as much as you can below. You don't need to write in paragraphs or even complete sentences—just get the information down clearly. Finally, review your notes. Can you crack the case?

1. THE ACCUSATION

In the last paragraph, I tell my dad to call the police and to find a new housepainter. Why?

2. THE SUSPECT

In the seventh paragraph, Andy does something suspicious. What does he do? What's strange about it?

At what time does Dawn say she found Trickster? What's significant about this? _____

At the end of the story, Dawn asks my family for the reward. What's special about the amount she asks for?

Do you think Andy and Dawn know each other? If so, what might their relationship be?

(Remember to back up your inferences with details from the story.) _____

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3. OTHERS' INTERACTIONS WITH THE SUSPECT

Write anything you observed about the way the suspects interact with my family (and Trickster).

4. OTHER DETAILS

What color is Andy painting our house's shutters? What is significant about this?

Mrs. Shugart recommended Andy's services to my mom. Why is this detail important?

Do Tori and I ever hang up the reward posters? Why is the answer to this question important?

5. YOUR THOUGHTS

Write down any questions, suspicions, or deductions that you have.

DETECTIVE'S GLOSSARY

- deduction [di-DUHK-shuhn]:** something that is figured out from clues
- accusation [ak-yoo-ZEY-shun]:** saying that someone has done something wrong
- suspicions [suh-SPISH-uhns]:** thoughts that something is wrong or bad