

# 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 peeled 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 "An Acute Case of Larceny" 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. Why do you think I did this?

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## 2. THE SUSPECT

The woman from the Board of Health asks my family two questions. What is significant about them?

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In the eighth paragraph, I uncover something surprising. What is it and what makes it so shocking?

At the end of the story, I ask the woman from the Board of Health for her ID. Why?

In the last paragraph, I turn over her hand. Why do you think I did this?

Now write things you observed about the woman from the Board of Health: her appearance, what she's wearing, her personality, her body language, etc.

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### 3. OTHERS' INTERACTIONS WITH THE SUSPECT

Write anything you observed about the way the suspect interacts with the other people in the restaurant.

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### 4. OTHER DETAILS

Describe the effects of Verdigris Fever on the plump, red-faced man.

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Record anything you found unusual about how he is treated once he's diagnosed with Verdigris Fever.

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Record anything you found interesting about his wife and how she behaves when he's diagnosed.

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### 5. YOUR THOUGHTS

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

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### 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