

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 "The Case of the Pasteboard Pretenders" 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 imply that the Mickey Mantle baseball card is a fake. Why do you think I say this?

2. THE SUSPECT

What does the owner of Cards 'n' Comix want? _____

How much does a 1951 Topps Mickey Mantle baseball card usually sell for in catalogs? _____

How much does the store owner offer for it? What's interesting about that? _____

What does the store proprietor say about how old the card is? _____

Now write things you observed about the store proprietor: his appearance, his personality, his body language, observations about the way he runs his store, etc. _____

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Detective's Notebook page 2

3. OTHERS' INTERACTIONS WITH THE SUSPECT

Write anything you observed about Stuart's interactions with the store owner.

4. OTHER DETAILS

Describe the Pete Rose and Mickey Mantle baseball cards.

Record anything you found surprising or unusual about these cards.

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