

Lesson | Deciphering Clues

Encourage teamwork and critical thinking in your classroom by challenging students to solve a mystery, like Mira does!



Objective

Students will work together to interpret clues and uncover the solution to mysterious riddles.

Standards

CCSS ELA

SL.K.1 Have collaborative conversations
SL.K.3 Ask questions to get information
SL.K.6 Express ideas clearly

SEL

Listen, communicate, cooperate
Identify problems and solutions

Time

30 minutes

Materials

- Cardboard box
- Mystery object (e.g., musical instrument, magnifying glass)
- Solve the Mystery! activity sheet
- Fun Family Scavenger Hunt! family activity sheet
- Can You Find It? family activity sheet at scholastic.com/mira

Find more activities online at scholastic.com/mira.

Priya and Mira



1 Display a box containing a mystery object. Challenge the class to figure out what is inside by asking questions and moving the box around. Encourage them to ask questions about how the object is used, who uses it, what it feels like (texture), etc. Once students have solved the mystery, congratulate them on their detective work.

2 Talk about a detective's job. Explain that a detective uses clues to solve a mystery.

3 Introduce students to the concept of figuring out clues with a simple exercise. Describe something they can easily see in the classroom, and ask them to point that thing out (e.g., a blue chair, a plant, a yellow block, etc.).

4 Divide the class into small groups and give each group a Solve the Mystery! activity sheet, which contains five pictures that are the answers to the five riddles below and in the next column. Explain that, in groups, students will do detective work to find the answers to the riddles that you will read out loud:

- What is shaped like a rectangle and lets you see right through a wall? (window)
- What goes down but never up? (rain)
- What is orange and rhymes with parrot? (carrot)
- What is full of holes but still holds water? (sponge)
- What has four legs but does not walk? (table)

Prompt students to explain how their answers fit the riddles. Help them "think about their thinking"—*how* did they find the answer? (e.g., looking at each picture and checking if it fits *both* parts of the riddle or not).

5 Invite students to gather around the Be a Detective! poster. Explain that they will now be detectives in their classroom and find the colors, shapes, and numbers on the poster.

6 Wrap up with reflection. Ask: *How did it feel to work together and solve a case?*

Bring the Learning Home

To extend the lesson, send home the "Fun Family Scavenger Hunt!" and "Can You Find It?" family activity sheets. Find them at scholastic.com/mira.

Mikku and Chikku (Mongooses)



About the Show Set in the India-inspired land of Jalpur, the series follows the brave and resourceful Mira, a commoner who is appointed to the role of Royal Detective by the Queen. Mira travels throughout her kingdom to help royals and commoners alike. Each episode centers on a mystery-solving adventure.

Solve the Mystery!

Teachers: Read students the riddles in Step 4 of the Deciphering Clues lesson, and have them point to the picture of the correct answer below.

