

For our oldest writers it is time to challenge the conventional, to encourage thinking outside the box and to make writing even more sophisticated.

The Mark of the Writer

Writers often work like detectives, trying to find the whole story by piecing together many different elements and sections of a story like clues. This week we will look at the genre of mystery stories and ways that we can make our writing engaging and captivating for our readers. We will start with stories that start in medias res (in the middle of the story), look at the subjective viewpoints of characters, journalistic writing and much more to tell a big mystery story by the end of the week!

Monday
<p>Bold Beginnings Detective stories, mysteries and thrillers often have a bold beginning to lure readers into the story. We will look at how stories can start in medias res where readers have to pick things up from a story already in progress. We will also look at how to hook readers with an intriguing premise or set up that demands attention.</p>
Tuesday
<p>First Person Narrative Stories with a strong point of view is often intriguing as it allows writers to get into the head of the characters. Today we will jump around different characters and try to tell the same story with different points of view.</p>
Wednesday
<p>Hard-hitting Headlines We will do some more specific genre writing by looking at newspaper articles, blogs and other published news formats to help tell the story. This will help us tell the story from a different angle and be more objective in our storytelling.</p>
Thursday
<p>In-between the Lines One of the hallmarks of a good detective story is the snappy banter between characters. Good dialogue is a great way to give insight into character, convey a lot of exposition and speed up the pace of a story. We will look at several situations where the back and forth between characters make a lot of impact.</p>
Friday
<p>Wrapping Up the Story Today we will be wrapping up our detective story and try to tie up all the loose ends. Who was the culprit, who were the red herrings, what will happen to the characters and how will the mystery be resolved? It is time to make some strong choices in our storytelling and make sure we resolve the story in a memorable way.</p>