

The other night, when many characters were out of their books enjoying a sojourn in the night air, a crime was committed, grim and grave, right in our own library. As a result, his Majesty King Henry VIII — that famous monarch from the English history books — has disappeared.

The suspects are:

Alice (from *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) I saw a White Rabbit looking at its watch and I followed it. I fell slowly down a deep well, so I had plenty of time to look at the jars of "Orange Marmalade" and such. I came to a bottle saying, "Drink Me," but "the bottle was not marked poison," so I drank it. I "shut up like a telescope" till I was only "ten inches high." Then I found a cake marked "Eat Me" and I ate it and grew very tall. My feet were so far away. King Henry said he didn't like little girls. He said his wives had too many of them and only one boy. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a little girl with pigtails in your hair and rosy cheeks.

Huck Finn (from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain) I'm a good boy — honest. Me Pap — he kidnapped me, but I escaped. Jim had run away too. So we floated down the river on a raft at night and slept and fished all day. I got mixed up with con artists — "the Duke and the King." But King Henry was a worse King. "He used to marry a new wife every day, and chop off her head next morning." He kept trying to latch on to me, said I could be his son, but I wouldn't have a bar of it. Sometimes I'd hide in the library repair shop. *Dress suggestions:* A country bumpkin with bits of hay sticking out of your old clothes and a beaten up old hat.

Cinderella (from *Cinderella* by various authors) My mother died and my father remarried. She treated me as a slave. My stepsisters saw me covered in cinders after cleaning the fireplace and, my name being Ella, they gave me the nickname of "Cinder-ella." We were invited to the Duke's ball. You all know the rest. King Henry thought that if I had no slippers, that the Duke's son would not find me and I would be free to marry him instead. *Dress suggestions:* Dress like a princess in a tiara or as a servant covered in cinders.

Pinocchio (from *Pinocchio* by Carlo Lorenzini ~ Carlo Collodi retold by James Riordan) When I was a puppet I lied a lot, and my nose became so long I "could not move without banging it against the walls or door." An evil fox and a cat hung me in a tree to die, but the Good Fairy saved me and taught me to be good. Later I became a donkey and ended up rescuing my father Geppetto from the belly of the dogfish. King Henry thought that I was a silly puppet and he tried to fool me into being his slave. *Dress suggestions:* A red jacket with a white frill-necked shirt. Make a pencil nose out of cardboard and string.

Little Red Riding Hood (from *Little Red Riding Hood* by Charles Perrault) The Big Bad Wolf locked my grandmother in the cupboard. So I said to the Wolf, who was dressed in my grandmother's nightgown, "Why, Granny...what big eyes you have got." And the Wolf said, "The better to see you with, my child." You have probably all heard the story. The King kept asking me to lend him my red riding hood. *Dress suggestions:* A red hooded cape (or a red hoodie) with a dress beneath. Carry some little cakes or cookies.

Peter Pan (from *Peter and Wendy* by Sir James Matthew Barrie) I live on an island inhabited by lots of fairies like Tinkerbell. I taught the three children of the Darling family to fly so they could return with me to the island. We were trying to stop the evil pirate Captain Hook from going about his wicked ways. There is also a crocodile that follows us about that has a clock inside his belly going tick, tick, tick. King Henry was impressed with my victory over Captain Hook. *Dress suggestions:* A green cap, a green outfit, and a toy sword.

Goldilocks (from *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by various authors) I ate porridge at the bears' house. The bears hadn't locked their front door, so that's permission to eat their porridge, isn't it? I went upstairs to find a bed to rest on. King Henry kept saying I was a spoiled little girl and that if I was his child, he would lock me in the tower. The King had a large chair that he liked to sit on. I suppose it reminded him of his throne. Whenever he found me sitting in it, he got very angry. *Dress suggestions:* Cute little-girl clothes. Tie a ribbon in your golden hair and don a blue dress, a frilly white apron, red shoes, and yellow socks. Carry a large satchel.

Aladdin (from *The Adventures of Aladdin* by various authors) I met a stranger and I found myself in a "chamber... (filled with) pots of gold." He dropped his ring. Terrified, I "twisted it round and round ... Suddenly a great genie with clasped hands appeared." I told the genie I wanted to go home. My mother was a little disappointed I had returned with only the old lamp. But she started to polish it and "out shot another genie." Things went pretty well after that. King Henry ordered me to give him my genie but I refused. *Dress suggestions:* Wear Middle Eastern clothes (e.g., baggy trousers). Add sequins and jewels.

Décor and Food (optional)

Décor suggestions

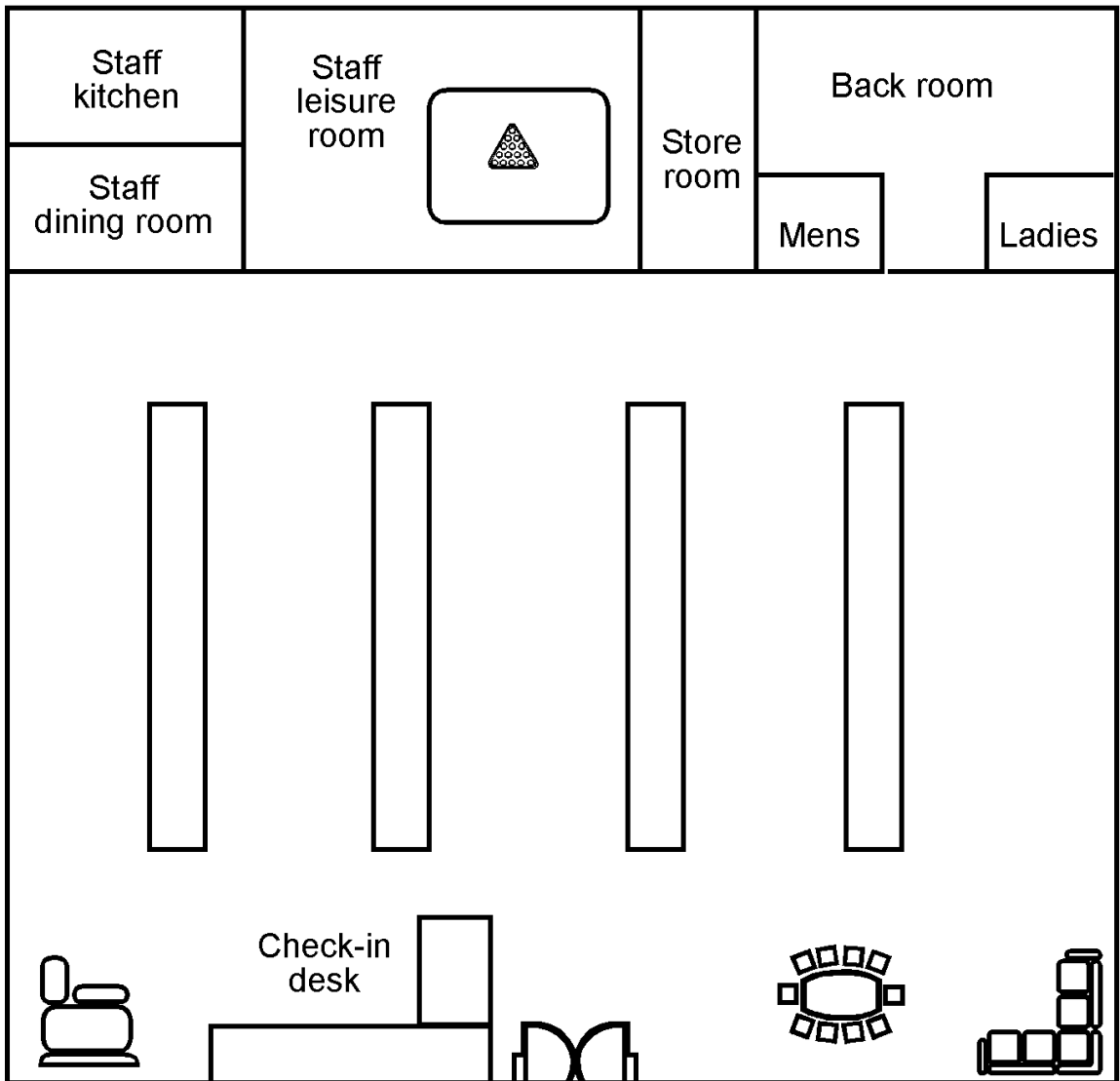
To make your place look like a library:

- Bookcases filled with books and/or books on the table (if possible, at least one copy of each suspect's book) or make cakes look like their books
- Placemats printed on paper to look like open books
- Play a variety of music suited to some of the characters. For example, the soundtracks to Aladdin, Peter Pan, etc.

Menu suggestions

You can serve whatever you want. You might aim for an olden day feel (e.g., you could serve meat or vegetable pies, a roast and Yorkshire pudding for main course, and bread and butter pudding for dessert). Search for recipes on the Internet. If it is a children's party, it is best to serve normal children's party food, as that is what they are familiar with. You may like to eat a course between each act.

The Library



Name Tags (optional)

Alice

**Huck
Finn**

Cinderella

Pinocchio

**Little Red
Riding Hood**

**Peter
Pan**

Goldilocks

Aladdin

Notes (optional)

Facts which could be important			
Suspect	Motive	Why they could have done it	Why they couldn't have done it
Alice			
Huck Finn			
Cinderella			
Pinocchio			
Little Red Riding Hood			
Peter Pan			
Goldilocks			
Aladdin			