presents...

“Mystery In The Library”

Sample of one of the school Meet and mingle versions for 17 to 30 guests (A)

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition
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The Suspects

The other night in the library, 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 Henry VIII – that famous monarch from the English history books – has disappeared. Gathered are the characters who were present in the library at the time of the nasty deed. Fortunately Master Sherlock Holmes is here to investigate, so the perpetrator of this heinous crime will no doubt be revealed as the night proceeds.

Alice (from Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland by Lewis Carroll) “Wonderland was not my imagination. It was a wonderful dream – a dream filled with strange creatures.” I saw a White Rabbit looking at its watch and I followed it down a rabbit hole. I fell down a deep well, but I fell slowly 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. Dress suggestions: Dress as a little girl with pig tails in your hair and rosy cheeks.

Huck Finn (The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain) I’m a good boy – honest. Me Pap – he kidnapped me, but I escaped. But before I left, I killed me a pig and made it look like I’d been murdered. Then I hid on Jackson Island, but I found out I wasn’t alone – Jim had run away. So we floated down the river on a raft at night and slept and fished all day. On the way I got mixed up with some con artists – “the Duke and the King” I called ‘em cause they pretended to be royals so I’d wait on them. But King Henry was a worse King than the one in my book. “He used to marry a new wife every day, and chop off her head next morning. And he would do it just liken he was ordering eggs.” “Fetch up Nell Glynn”, he says. They fetch her up. Next morning, “Chop off her head!” And they chop it off. “Fetch up Jane...” and so on. King Henry, why he was a plain villain. He kept trying to latch on to me, said I could be his son, but I wouldn’t have a bar of it. Dress suggestions: A country bumpkin with bits of hay sticking out of your old clothes and a beaten up old hat.

Cinderella (from Cinderella) I am a merchant’s daughter. Then my mother died and my father remarried a widow with two grown daughters. Alas, when I met them, they treated me as a slave rather than as a stepsister. My step-sisters saw me covered in cinders after cleaning the fireplace and, my name being Ella, they gave me the nickname of “Cinderella”. After working all day on my chores, I often wondered if I would ever be happy again. The ladies of my household were invited to the Duke’s ball. But my step-mother said I could not go unless my chores were done.

Pinocchio (from Pinocchio by Carlo Lorenzini - penname Carlo Collodi retold by James Riordan) When I was a puppet I lied a lot, but the Good Fairy taught me not to and to be good. ‘How stupid I was as a puppet. And how glad I am to be a real live boy.’ When I lied my nose became so long I ‘could not move without banging it against the walls or door.’ Geppetto sold his coat to buy me a spelling book for school. I sold it to go to the puppet theatre. Then I saved a puppet from being burnt by the showman and the showman gave me coins for my father. A fox and a cat told me they could multiply my money in “The Field of Miracles”. A bird and the ghost of the cricket tried to warn me not to. The evil fox and cat hung me in a tree to die, but the Good Fairy saved me. But I still let them fool me into burying my money so it would grow. They stole it. Later I became a donkey and ended up rescuing Geppetto from the belly of a whale with the help of the Good Fairy. King Henry thought that I was a silly puppet and he tried to fool me into being his slave. But the Good Fairy warned me that he was an evil man. Dress suggestions: A red jacket with a white frill-necked shirt. Make a pencil nose out of cardboard.

Snow White (from Snow White by The Brothers Grimm) My step-mother was jealous of my beauty and asked a huntsman to do away with me. He took pity on me and let me run away into the forest and I came to the house of the dwarfs. I ate their porridge. They found me later asleep and asked me to stay and take care of them. But I am not a porridge thief like you Goldilocks. I only took a little from each bowl as I was fainting from hunger. And since then I have kept house for them, so I have repaid my debt to them. My step-mother plotted to get rid of me. She dressed as an ‘old pedlar woman’ and sold me some lace for my waist. Then she laced me up so tight, I `lost ... (my) breath, and fell down as dead.’ Fortunately, the seven dwarfs soon returned and cut the lace in two, so that I could draw breath. The Queen knew I wasn’t dead because her mirror told her so, so she came again with a poisoned apple. The dwarfs thought I was dead. A prince saw me and carried me away. Then the apple fell out of my mouth and I came back to life and we married. King Henry kept trying to get me to marry him, but I refused. Dress suggestions: Old-fashioned clothes such as a drawstring sash at the waist, puffy sleeves, flouncy skirt. Black hair, red lips, white skin.

Fortunately, my Fairy Godmother came to my aid and – well, you all know the rest of the story. King Henry was fascinated by my glass slippers. I think he thought that if I had no slippers, that the Duke’s son would not find me in my fairytale and then I would be free to marry him instead. Dress suggestions: Dress like a princess with tinsel/glitter or as a servant covered in cinders.
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. Then Captain Hook plotted to do away with me and he captured Wendy Darling, but I was able to save her. 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.

**Little Red Riding Hood** (from *Little Red Riding Hood* by various authors) I was on the way to visit my Grandmother when I met the wolf. We chatted about how I was visiting my Grandmother and I told him where she lived. Then he left me and I went to my Grandmother’s cottage. When I came inside my Grandmother’s cottage, I found that she looked very different from her usual self. The Big Bad Wolf locked my Grandmother in the cupboard. So I said to the Wolf who was sitting in bed 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,’ imitating her voice. I won’t bore you with the rest as you have probably all heard the story. Most versions of the story end happily with me being saved from the wolf’s clutches by my father and the woodcutters. King Henry had a chair in the library that he liked to sit on. It was large and 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.

**Aladdin** (from *The Adventures of Aladdin* by various authors) I met a ‘mysterious stranger who said he would pay me a silver penny if I went down a manhole for him’. I found myself in a ‘large chamber... (filled with) pots of gold.’ ‘Put out the flame and bring me the lamp!’ he said. When I hesitated, he left me in there, dropping his ring in the chamber as he did so. Terrified, I put the ring on my finger and ‘twisted it round and round’. ‘Suddenly the room was flooded with a rosy light and a great genie with clasped hands appeared on a cloud’, and said he was at my command. I told the genie I wanted ‘to go home’ and immediately I found myself there. I told my mother of my adventures. She was a little disappointed I had returned with only the old oil lamp. But she started to polish it and ‘out shot another genie’. He said that we had set him ‘free after centuries’ and that he would be our servant. Things went pretty well after that and I married a beautiful princess. King Henry had a chair in the library that he liked to sit on. It was large and I suppose it reminded him of his throne. Whenever he found me sitting in it, he got very angry. Dress suggestions: A red hooded cape with a dress beneath (possibly also in red). Carry some little cakes or cookies to take to your grandmother.

**Robin Hood** (from *Robin Hood* by various authors) I am a wealthy man who has been forced to become a thief. I steal from the rich and give to the poor. The poor of England were being asked for too many taxes. The taxes were required to fund various political battles overseas. I simply gave back to the poor the money that they had had unfairly taken away from them in the first place. Little John and I met on a plank across a river. But he would not let me pass. He was a large man. He did not see why he should make way for me and so we did battle. He used his staff, but I was victorious in our skirmish. Afterwards, he came to know me and to be one of my main supporters. Dress suggestions: Dress in period clothes, a cape and a mask.

**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 didn’t get much porridge anyway. Great Big Bear’s porridge was too hot, Middle-sized Bear’s porridge was too cold. So I had to eat Tiny Little Bear’s and his bowl is so small. Then I tried to find a comfortable chair to sit on, but Great Big Bear’s chair was too hard, Middle-sized Bear’s chair was too soft and Tiny Little Bear’s chair collapsed on me. I was getting tired after all this, so I went upstairs to find a bed to rest on. Great Big Bear’s bed and Middle-sized Bear’s bed both weren’t right for me. But Baby Bear’s tiny bed was perfect, so I got in. I didn’t even take my shoes off. 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 chair in the library that he liked to sit on. It was large and I suppose it reminded him of his throne. Whenever he found me sitting in it, he got very angry. Dress suggestions: A red hooded cape with a dress and a blue dress, a frilly white apron, red shoes and yellow socks.

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4 Investigators (optional extra roles)

Master Sherlock Holmes (from *Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) I am a man with such superior detective skills that I have become world famous. I already know a lot about each of the suspects, just from looking at their appearance. For example, I can tell Alice is a little girl with a very fanciful imagination and Aladdin is from the Far East. But, I am not a great reader of fiction, I prefer to do chemical experiments and I also play the violin. This certainly does not seem like a normal case. It is more like the Mr Angel case. You may like to read about it in my diary, if you get time. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned clothes, carry a magnifying glass and a pipe.

Dr Watson (from *Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) I am a skilled doctor but I am also a bit of a cynic and a non-believer until something is proved true. I have great respect for Sherlock Holmes. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned clothes.

Mrs Bookworm (The librarian responsible for the cookie cupboard) – Although I try to be helpful, a lot of the children are afraid of me. I think it is because I am always telling them to be quiet in the library. *Dress suggestions:* Spectacles, a chain around your neck with a key attached but hidden inside your blouse. A dress or skirt and blouse, but make sure whatever you wear has large pockets stuffed full of things.

Miss Marple (from Agatha Christie novels) – I am just an ordinary woman with a penchant for finding out the truth. Nothing goes unnoticed by me. Things are not what they seem. *Dress suggestions:* Old-fashioned clothes – very prim and proper. Carry your knitting.

16 Witnesses (optional extra roles)

Queen of Hearts (from *Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) Oh there is so much to tell – all about the tea cups and my shouting “Off with his head!” or “Off with her head” and all the other people Alice met in Wonderland, but it would take too long. Alice comes into the library and looks at the children’s books. *Dress suggestions:* Wear white & stick big red cardboard hearts on your clothes.

White Rabbit (from *Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) “Silence in the court!” I am a very busy rabbit. “Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!” *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a white rabbit. Wear a waistcoat and have a pocket-watch hanging out of it. Consult it often. Also wear spectacles. Add a white fluffy bottom and some rabbit ears.

Mad Hatter (from *Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) “If you knew Time as well as I do,” `you wouldn't talk about wasting IT. It's HIM.' “It's always tea-time, and we've no time to wash the things between whiles.” *Dress suggestions:* Wear a very large hat. Also carry a pocket watch in your waistcoat and a tea cup. Dunk the watch in the cup from time to time. Ask riddles you don’t know the answer to.

The Fairy Godmother (from *Cinderella*) After working all day on her chores, Cinderella often wondered if she would ever be happy again. The ladies of her household were invited to the Duke’s ball. But Cinderella’s stepmother said she could not go unless her chores were done. Fortunately, I came to Cinderella’s aid and – well, you all know the rest of the story. *Dress suggestions:* Dress like a fairy complete with wings and a wand with which to grant wishes.

Tinkerbell (from *Peter and Wendy*) There is also a crocodile that follows us about that has a clock inside his belly going tick, tick, tick. I used my magic fairy dust to help Peter Pan and Wendy and the others to fly. On the island there are lots of fairies. “When the first baby laughed for the very first time, the laugh broke into a thousand pieces and they all went skipping about and that was the beginning of the fairies.” *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a golden fairy with a little bell you always ring as you move about.

Maid Marian (from *Robin Hood*) Although I am a lady, I am also able to fight like a man. I love Robin dearly. *Dress suggestions:* Although you are a lady when you want to be, you should don trousers, a frilly shirt and carry a bow and arrow or a sword.
The Grandmother (from Little Red Riding Hood) The Big Bad Wolf locked me in the cupboard. So Little Red Riding Hood, said to the Wolf who was sitting in bed dressed in my nightgown, ‘Why, Granny...what big eyes you have got.’ And the wolf said, ‘The better to see you with, my child,’ imitating my voice. I won’t bore you with the rest as you have probably all heard the story. Most versions of the story end happily with Little Red Riding Hood being saved from the wolf’s clutches by her father and the woodcutters. Dress suggestions: A long nightgown with a bed-jacket and a bonnet on your head.

The Wolf (from Little Red Riding Hood) When Little Red Riding Hood saw me dressed in her Grandmother’s bonnet, she said “O, Granny, what great--big--teeth--you’ve--got!” And I said, "The better to eat you up!" Dress suggestions: Dress in a bed-jacket with a bonnet on your head but add some ears and large teeth so everyone knows you are a wolf.

The Genie (from The Adventures of Aladdin) I helped Aladdin to become a prince. I live in Aladdin’s magic lamp. Dress suggestions: Wear middle eastern clothes (eg baggy trousers) and a turban. Carry the lamp in which you live.

Characters from other books

Oliver Twist (from Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens) – At the workhouse, I lived on “the smallest portion of the weakest food possible.” Later I went to London. The people I lodged with turned out to be none other than a gang of thieves, but I did not realize it till later. King Henry was a bloodthirsty tyrant who always got what he wanted, but “thinking it might be dangerous to express (my) feelings more openly”, I said nothing. Dress suggestions: Dress as a pauper with lots of holes in your clothes and grime. A bit of soot on your face would not go astray.

Cleopatra (from Antony and Cleopatra by William Shakespeare) – I am queen of that fair country Egypt. O! my oblivion is very Antony (Marc Antony), and I am all forgotten. He married Octavia, Caesar’s sister to please Caesar. My anger at hearing this, was such that it would “melt Egypt into Nile!” King Henry, swept away by my beauty, tried to catch me in his noose, but by his fetters I’ll not be bound. Dress suggestions: Wear loosely draped material to form a toga. Make your face white with powder. You may like to draw Egyptian symbols or pyramids and the like on your clothes.

Puss in Boots (a fairytale by various authors) I was given to the youngest son of a miller. He wasn’t very happy to get just a cat. So I convinced him to give me some boots and a bag and told him I could be pretty handy. Over a period of time I caught prey, which I gave to the King to gain favor for my master. The King happened to have a very beautiful daughter. She and my master fell in love so it was up to me to make him rich so he could marry her. I did this by tricking a rich ogre to turn into a mouse which I promptly ate leaving all the estates and castle to be taken over by my young master. After that I led a really restful life. Dress suggestions: A large hat with a large feather (like a peacock’s) in the band. As big a pair of boots as you can find. An old fashioned, three-quarter length coat.

The Monster (Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley) – But even though Frankenstein had spent so much time and effort creating me, he found me so horrible, he ran in revolt. I reeked of the dead that had been used to create me. I met King Henry in the library. I found him more horrible than people found me as a monster. Dress suggestions: Wear clothes that look stitched together and draw some stitches on your brow.

Scarecrow (from The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L Frank Baum) I was very upset because I didn’t think I had the intelligence to be able to capture the Wicked Witch. But we did succeed and so we returned to see the Wizard, only to find out he wasn’t really able to do anything. But he did point out to us that we already possessed what we sought. I already had a brain. I just had to start using it. Dress suggestions: Dress as a scarecrow with bits of straw coming out of your torn and tattered clothes (eg check flannel shirt and blue overalls).

Dorothy (from The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L Frank Baum) After I was captured by the flying monkeys and I defeated the Wicked Witch of the West – I came back to the Wizard – only to find out he had no powers at all. He offered to take me back to Kansas in his balloon, but then took off without me. Fortunately, someone told me to use my magic slippers. Dress suggestions: A blue dress with a white blouse underneath. Add white sox and magic red shoes. If you can, add long black hair tied in two bows.
Name Tags

Suspects

Alice (suspect)
Huck Finn (suspect)
Cinderella (suspect)
Pinocchio (suspect)
Snow White (suspect)
Peter Pan (suspect)
Little Red Riding Hood (suspect)

Robin Hood (suspect)

Goldilocks (suspect)

Aladdin (suspect)

20 optional witnesses and investigators

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“Mystery In The Library”
by Stephanie Chambers

These are the:

Clues

What I can reveal

Staple their Group A clues here

Staple their Group B clues here

What I need to do

Talk to everyone, not just the suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
Alice

What I can reveal

King Henry said he didn’t like little girls. He said his wives had too many of them and not enough boys – only one boy in fact.

Pinocchio and I often team up for a game of hide and seek. It’s lots of fun, isn’t it Pinocchio?

One time I was hiding and the King came along with Snow White when the King caught sight of me. I’d forgotten that I’d come out of my book when I was ‘nine feet high’ and hiding wasn’t easy.

He called me a spy, made me bend down and pulled my pig tails till tears I cried.

I was still ‘nine feet tall’. Thankfully Pinocchio stopped me in time so that my tears didn’t cause any flood damage.

What I need to do

1. Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.

2. If an investigator asks you whether King Henry treated you badly, say “At night, I liked to skip around the library, singing tunes to amuse myself. The King yelled at me and said I gave him a headache. I told him to not be angry about it. I offered to show him some of the comic books. I was sure they would make him smile. To this he replied gruffly, that Kings had more important things to think about than comic books.”
**“Mystery In The Library”**

**Huck Finn**

**What I can reveal**

I didn’t want to cause no trouble, so at first I ‘always called King Henry ‘Your Majesty’ and ... didn’t set down in his presence till he asked..’ me to. ‘This done him heaps of good, and so he got cheerful and comfortable’ and it made me feel ‘mighty good over it, because it would have been a miserable business to have any unfriendliness’. But then the King made poor little Alice cry. ‘Seeing her setting there... with her eyes... and the tears in them, and I wished I could do something for her.’ The King asked me to do a little fencing with him, so we clanged our swords about a bit and seeing as I was angry with him, I was determined to win. The King, being round in the belly like a pig, was pretty easy to beat, so I ended up whacking the sword into his middle. But it was a blunt sword, so it didn’t draw blood or anything. Now the King thought that he should always win. So when I whipped him, he became hotter than a piece of chilli. I thought he was going to kill me. ‘And me a shaking all over and ready to sink down in my tracks I was that scared’, so he made me promise to help him.

**What I need to do**

1. Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
2. If an investigator asks you why King Henry wanted you as a son, say “Some people think I’m a rascal. But I don’t know if that’s true. ‘The widow said I was coming along slow but sure and doing very satisfactorily. She said she warn’t ashamed of me.’ King Henry said he wished he’d had a son like me rather than the delicate Prince Edward, but how could I trust a man who killed not only his enemies, but his wives as well.”

**“Mystery In The Library”**

**Cinderella**

**What I can reveal**

King Henry was fascinated by my glass slippers. I think he thought that if I had no slippers, that the Duke’s son would not find me in my fairytale and then I would be free to marry him instead.

The King said if I continued to avoid him, he would see to it that I would be made to clean and scrub the library floors.

He left me so distraught that when I returned to my book, the other characters kept asking me if I was ill.

**What I need to do**

1. Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
2. If an investigator asks you how you stopped the King from stealing your slippers, say “I admit that as I am quite petite and he is such a large man, it was not always easy to avoid him. I ran away as quickly as I could. He, being portly, was not very fit and he never caught up with me. If by chance he caught hold of me before I ran, I yelled and Aladdin would come to my assistance. I am lucky to have such friends. On other occasions, my tears would bring my Fairy-Godmother to my aid. She often brought with her a pumpkin which she turned into a chariot and carried me away.”
3. If you see Aladdin, say “I am lucky to have such a kind friend as you Aladdin and one with so much charm.”
4. If you see Snow White, say “Snow – you’re like the sister I wish I had rather than my step-sisters in my book.”
Questions for the investigators to ask

You should divide these 10 questions amongst the investigators. Staple the questions on the clue pages for the investigators. Please make sure they are all given out.

Alice: Did King Henry treat you badly child?

Huck Finn: So the King wanted you as a son did he? Didn’t he know what a rascal you are?

Cinderella: You do look a bit distraught Cinderella. I can well understand that it was no fun being chased by King Henry. Someone please give the lady your handkerchief if you would be so kind, so she can wipe her brow. How did you stop the King from stealing your slippers?

Pinocchio: So how did you stop King Henry from making you his slave?

Snow White: Why did you turn down the King’s marriage proposal?

Robin Hood: So it was a political battle between you and King Henry?

Peter Pan: So you and King Henry used to discuss war strategies?

Little Red Riding Hood: Before your incident with the wolf, I heard you were a very fearless little girl?

Goldilocks: What did King Henry do when he found you in his chair?

Aladdin: So you refused to give the King your genie. How did he take that news?

Group A Clues

You should divide these 42 clues amongst the investigators and witnesses. Staple the clues on the clue pages for the investigators and witnesses. Please make sure they are all given out.

I heard Alice say “When people are found guilty in court they are locked away. But King Henry wasn’t a real person any more, just a book character, so he couldn’t be dealt with by a court. I decided to take the matter into my own hands, but I didn’t go around shouting ‘Off with his head’ or anything silly like the Queen of Hearts. I’m more clever than that.”

Alice knew she had to get King Henry to like her so that she could perform her trick on him. So she apologized for hiding while he was talking.

Alice said she would make it up to King Henry by polishing his boots. The King chatted with her while she polished.

King Henry told Alice that Aladdin was a selfish man and that he was going to teach him a lesson and that Huck was going to help him. Aladdin had always been very kind to Alice, so she didn’t want him to be hurt, so later she told you, didn’t she Aladdin, of what the King had said?

I heard Huck Finn say “King Henry said he wanted me to get Aladdin to play a game of billiards. He didn’t say, but I guessed it was so that Aladdin would have to put down his lamp in order to play.”

The King wanted Aladdin’s genie, so King Henry came up from behind a bookcase where Huck and Aladdin were playing and stole the lamp. Huck had read Aladdin’s book, so he knew that Aladdin had another genie in reserve.

Huck knew that Aladdin would rub the ring on his finger and ask his other genie to get his lamp back. But as soon as the King got the lamp he rubbed it and asked the genie for his wishes, even before Aladdin had realized it was gone.