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Gender Reveal

“What Is It?”

Host Guide

by Stephanie Chambers

It is easy to prepare and run a gender reveal party. This kit is a series of puzzles. There are no characters to play. But if you want, you could ask people to dress up as their favorite role model / mentor or favorite children's book character or as an animal. Ask them the character they intend to play. You would then decorate the room accordingly (see *Décor suggestions*). This is optional.

Preparing for the party

1. Work out the guests that you want to invite.
2. Decide where and when you will be having the party and who you will be inviting.
3. Send an email to each guest. Include the date and time, and if it is to be an online party – the video service (e.g. Zoom) you intend to use. Attach the invitation JPG. You have a choice of two different invitation pictures.
4. **Do not send them the Handout page or this host guide or the Parcel Preparation PDF or the What Is It? Details PDF.**
5. The **What Is It? Details** are in a separate PDF. Print it out but don't read them and just fold them and put them in an envelope to read at the end of the party. Write "What Is It?" on the envelope.
6. The **Parcel Preparation** is a separate PDF. If you want to fully participate, you should have someone who isn't going to be at the party prepare the parcel according to the details in this PDF.
7. For **Activity No. 1**, make sure you have a slice of bread or toast (dark bread looks best) and some butter to put on it for each guest. And make sure they have a knife to butter it with and to cut it.
8. For **Activity No. 3**, make sure you have 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano, 1 teaspoon dried marjoram, 1 teaspoon dried thyme, 1/2 teaspoon dried basil and 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary. Make sure you also have a bowl in which you will have them mix all of these and fork for them to mix it with. And a glass jar to put it in once it is mixed and a funnel to help them get it in the jar. You can give to someone to take home with them.
9. Decorate the room just before the party (see *Décor suggestions*). This is optional.
10. Prepare or arrange for food for the event (see *Menu suggestions*). This is optional.
11. Decide whether you are going to have prizes for the party (see *Preparing prizes*). This is optional, but recommended.
12. Print out multiple copies of the **Handout** so that you can give each guest a copy of it.

Décor suggestions (optional)

If you are having book characters:

- Bookcases filled with their character's books and/or books on the table (if possible, at least one copy of each character's book)
- Make cakes look like their books
- Play a variety of music suited to some of the characters
- Print a page from the character's book and use that as a placemat
- Play the soundtracks to movies from their books (e.g. Aladdin, Peter Pan, etc) as people arrive.

If you are having famous people:

- Decorate to suit the era of most of the characters
- Put lots of glitter about to make it look like a VIP event
- Have photos of the famous people they are playing as placemats and/or posters on the wall
- If some are musicians, you may like to play some of their music as people arrive.
- Play music to suit their era.

If you are having animal characters:

- Have some of the food the animal eats next to where that person is sitting. For example, nuts in their shells near the Squirrel, bananas near the Ape etc.
- Have photos of the animals they are playing as placemats and/or posters on the wall
- Have stuffed toys of their animals
- Have small replicas of Noah's Ark.

Menu suggestions (optional)

You can serve whatever you want. If the characters are from a particular era, you could serve food to suit that time period. Or 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). Or you could make dishes with the foods the animals like to eat. For example, banana fritters for the Apes. 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 of your meal between each activity.

Preparing prizes (optional)

This is optional, but you may like to have some prizes available to give to the people:

- with the best costume
- who did the best job of revealing their secret skill
- who worked out what was in the parcel.

You can reduce the number of people you have to give a prize to by asking for more details on how they worked out what was in the parcel.

If you do have prizes, you should let people know they exist just after you read out "*The Rules*".

Tip: Don't assume that only one person will work out what was in the parcel. You can divide up whatever is in the parcel amongst the winners. If no one guesses correctly, divide the prize up amongst everyone.

If you have a color printer and some T-shirt transfers, you may like to download one of our special T-shirt graphics (i.e., "I Had The Best Costume"). See <https://www.merrimysteries.com/partytips/murder-mystery-party-prizes/> for details. It is free to download.

Running the party

We suggest that you run the party as follows:

1. If you are hosting an online party, send everyone details of how to connect to the video program you are using. In some cases, you may have to email everyone a link.
2. When everyone has arrived, read **The Rules** to everyone (see at the end of this document).
3. Hand everyone their **Handout**. Have everyone introduce themselves to the group by saying their character's name or their real name if they aren't playing a character.
4. There are five letters in the name of the item in the parcel. We will work out each of the letters. Then we will rearrange them to form the word.

As host read out each clue and wait until they finish it before moving on to the next one. Do not use a phone or computer.

HOST IMPORTANT NOTE: In all of the following puzzles, there are hints you can give your guests. But only give them a hint if they are really struggling for some time and are stumped. If you don't want to see the hints yourself, carefully put a blank page over top of each page and then reveal each item as you need it.

5. **Do Activity No. 1. For our first letter:** Your host will give each of you a slice of bread or toast (brown bread looks better). Put butter on it. Cut it into 3 strips. Discard or eat one of the strips. Cut one of the remaining strips into 3 equal pieces. What letter can you make?

Hint: Keep the big one vertical.

6. Serve the First Course of your meal or have dips available. Generally we don't recommend you continue with the activities while people are eating unless you are pressed for time.

7. **Do Activity No. 2. For our second letter:** Currently Gold costs \$59.64 per gram. The mass density of gold is 19.32 grams per cubic centimeter. This thing you are trying to guess has a density of only 0.03 to 0.16. Sometimes it costs more than gold. So it is not as dense as gold. What is it?

Hint: It is red in color.

Hint: It is sometimes called red gold.

Hint: It is harvested by hand.

Hint: Each flower provides only around 0.006 grams of it.

Hint: You cook with it and eat it.

Hint: It has a subtle flavor.

Hint: It makes your food look yellow. Sometimes you soak it in milk for a while before you add it to the meal.

Hint: It comes in strands.

8. Serve the Second Course of your meal (*if applicable*).
9. **Do Activity No. 3. For our third letter:** xxxxxx.

10. What do you think is in the parcel? Please write down what you think is in the parcel on your handout page along with any reasons you have as to why this is the correct answer. Based on this, what gender is the baby? Think of a well known nursery rhyme.
11. [Optional] You may also like to also write down who you think had the best costume.
12. After everyone has said what they think is in the parcel, unwrap it. Open the **What Is It?** envelope and read it out.
13. Hand out the prizes.

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The Rules

These are to be read out by the host to the whole group at the beginning of the party:

At this party we are going to be using this Merri Mysteries kit to solve some puzzles together and work out what is in the parcel. You have to work out what is in the parcel without touching it.

Now I will introduce you to everyone. When it is your turn, say your name (or your character's name if applicable).

If you work something out, keep it to yourself. Just tell everyone you are finished working it out.

At the end of the party you will be asked to write on your **Handout** page what you think is in the parcel. And after we reveal what this actually is, we will reveal the gender of the baby.

The people who work out what is in the parcel will receive its contents as their prize.

Optional: There is also a prize for the person with the best costume.