

# Connections Activity

<b>Title/Skill:</b>	Murder Mysteries/ Riddles
<b>Connection Goal:</b>	Communication/ Listening skills
<b>Grade Level:</b>	9-12
<b>Month:</b>	November
<b>Time Needed:</b>	25 minutes

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**Handouts/Materials Provided:**

Murder riddles memorized or cheat sheet...students need nothing (10 riddles are attached below)

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**Summary of Activity for the Advisor:**

- The leader knows the answer to one of the riddles listed below.
  - The leader reads only the story and question to the group and then asks them to guess or ask Yes or No questions about the solution.
  - The leader can only say "Yes" or "No."
  - If time permits: The person who guesses correctly can take a riddle sheet and answer the class' questions or the teacher can do another one
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**Read/Review/Discuss/Do with students:**

Why was this difficult? What did you learn from this activity? What communication skills are necessary? How did you come up with the answer? How does open-mindedness play a part?

### STORY #1

There is a cabin on the side of a mountain. Three people are inside and they are dead. How did they die?

**Answer:** They were killed in a plane crash. The three people were the pilot, co-pilot, and navigator. They crashed in a snow storm.

**False Assumption:** That the cabin was a mountain cabin. It was actually the cabin of a jetliner.

### STORY #2

It is a hot August afternoon. The location is the living room in an old Victorian mansion. The 7-foot window is open and the curtains are blowing in the breeze generated by the thunderstorm that just passed. On the floor lie the bodies of Bill and Monica. They are surrounded by puddles of water and broken glass. Please close your eyes and picture the scene. Now change the picture. Neither Bill nor Monica has any clothing on. How did they die?

**Answer:** They suffocated. The storm winds blew open the window, which knocked their fish bowl off the table, and it crashed onto the floor.

**False assumption:** That Bill and Monica are human. They are actually goldfish.

### STORY #3

A man is walking down the street, sees a bar and enters. He asks the bartender for a glass of water. The bartender pulls out a gun and points it at him. The man says "Thank you" and leaves the bar. What happened?

**Answer:** The man who asked for the glass of water had the hiccups. The bartender pulled the gun to scare the hiccups away.

**False Assumption:** That the bartender pulled the gun in order to kill the man.

### STORY #4

A woman leaves home and makes three left turns. She returns home again. On the way, she passed two women with masks. Who were the two women?

**Answer:** The umpire and the catcher.

**False Assumption:** That the woman was walking on city streets. She really is on a baseball field.

### STORY #5

A man and his son were rock climbing on a particularly dangerous mountain when they slipped and fell. The man was killed, but the son lived and was

rushed to a hospital. The old surgeon looked at the young man and declared, "I can't operate on this boy: he is my son." How can this be?

**Answer:** The old surgeon was the boy's mother

**False Assumption:** That the surgeon was a man.

#### STORY #6

Preston and his men searched the frozen tundra for escaped convict Ben Barker. Just as they were about to give up, one of Preston's men spotted a body. Barker was found lying dead in the snow. There were no tracks leading to or from the body. The cause of death was partially due to the unopened pack on his back. Barker did not die of thirst, hunger, or cold. What was in Barker's pack that led to his death?

**Answer:** An unopened parachute.

**False Assumption:** That Barker's "pack" was a backpack, not a parachute pack. Also, he had arrived there somehow by land, not by air.

#### STORY #7

Two train tracks run parallel to each other, except for a short distance where they meet and become one track over a narrow bridge. One morning, a train speeds onto the bridge. Another train coming from the opposite direction, also speeds onto the bridge. Neither train can stop on the short bridge, yet there is no collision. How is this possible?

**Answer:** The trains were crossing the bridge at different times of the morning.

**False Assumption:** Sounds like the two trains had arrived there at the same time; it was just the same morning.

#### STORY #8

Justin Summers owns a vacation house in northern Ontario which has an A-shaped roof. One side of the roof faces north and the other side faces south. The prevailing winds from the north are usually quite strong. The strange thing is that the stronger the north wind blows, the stronger the resulting updraft on the south side of the roof. Therefore, if a rooster was to lay an egg on the peak of the roof during a strong northerly wind, on which side should the egg fall most of the time?

**Answer:** Roosters don't lay eggs.

**False Assumption:** That the rooster, being a chicken, was a hen.

#### STORY #9

There is an ancient invention still used in some parts of the world today that allows people to see through walls. What is it?

**Answer:** Windows.

**False Assumptions:**

The walls are totally solid and opaque. The walls are not part of a house.

Somehow, windows weren't "invented". Windows aren't that ancient.

"Some parts of the world" means only a few places, not commonly found.

STORY #10

Sly Hand, the famous magician, claims he can tell the score of any football game before it even starts. Many think he is psychic and possesses supernatural powers. How is it that he can be accurate about the score 99 percent of the time?

**Answer:** There really is no magic. The score of any football game before it starts is always "zero to zero".

**False Assumption:** That the "score" was the final score. Also, we don't assume any score exists before the game begins.

STORY #11

It is a stormy, snowy day. There is a man dead inside a shack. There are no windows and the only door is locked from inside. There is no way in or out. The man has a stab wound. There is a puddle of water and blood next to him. How did he die?

**Answer:** He stabbed himself with an icicle!

**False Assumption:** That the water was always liquid, and certainly not in the form of an icicle, not to mention that suicide with an icicle is not very common!