



SGN
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WHO IS THE SILENT KILLER?



Can you solve the mystery?
Your role-play script for
Our 'Whodunnit?' game



Introduction...

Our drama involves a narrator and five members of the Plum family: Mum, Dad, Sally (aged 14), Jake (aged 9) and Grandma. They're all witnesses who can help solve the mystery of the silent killer.

Their photos are on the clue cards we've made for you to download, so the volunteers for each role can see who they are!

As your group acts out the story, the aim is to use the clues each character gives to try to guess who or what is behind the strange events. You'll see there are several places to pause for discussion – this is when you might want to use your clue cards and crimeboard to aid your detective work.

By the final pause, we hope your group will have identified the true culprit...



Lets get started

Narrator:

Our mystery involves the Plum family – Mum and Dad, Sally and Jake, Grandma, and Poppy the dog. It all started when Mum, Dad, Sally and Jake went on holiday, leaving Grandma at home to look after Poppy. They had a fantastic time... but when they came home, they were in for a nasty shock. Grandma was unconscious on the living room floor, and next to her, poor little Poppy was dead.

What could have happened while they were away?
Who or what killed Poppy and left Grandma unconscious?

We'll start our investigation by talking to our key witnesses.
First, Grandma...

Clue card 1

Grandma:

It was very strange. I was eating some lovely mackerel for my lunch and I started to feel queasy. I had to leave half of it – I put the plate on the floor for Poppy to finish. Then I started with a headache and felt a little dizzy. That's when I must have fainted. The next thing I remember, I was being carried into the ambulance.

I'm so glad they were able to make me better at the hospital and didn't keep me in – but so sad about Poppy. What could have happened to her? Who would do such a terrible thing?

Narrator:

Now we'll hear from Dad...

Clue card 2

Dad:

The house seemed perfectly normal when we came home after our holiday. All the windows and doors were closed. And then, there they were, both on the floor. We were all devastated. We're heartbroken about Poppy, but obviously delighted that Grandma is okay now.

Listening to what she just said, I remember I felt a bit like that before we went away – light-headed, also slightly nauseous. I thought I was coming down with flu, or maybe eaten something that had disagreed with me. But then I felt fine once we were relaxing on our break, so I forgot about it. Maybe it isn't important – just thought I'd mention it.



CLUE 1



Grandma's witness statement



CLUE 2

Dad's witness statement



Narrator:

So, was Dad also a target of this crime?

There are more clues to come, but can you guess who or what might have made Grandma unconscious and killed Poppy? Any ideas?

[Pause here for discussion]

Now, what do Sally and Jake have to say?

Clue card 3

Sally:

I can't believe we won't see Poppy again.

Jake:

Me too.

Sally:

What's in your pocket? Grandma's pill bottle! Where did you get that?

Jake:

I found it under her bed. But look, there are only two pills left.

Clue card 4

Narrator:

Could the pills be a clue? Now let's hear from Mum, our next witness...

Mum:

Whenever we go away, I always check the whole house before we leave. Everything seemed fine this time. I just had to turn down the gas fire – Grandma always has it on too high.

I even checked the batteries in the smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm. One needed replacing, and I wrote myself a note to buy a new one, and put it on the fridge.



CLUE 3

Sally and Jakes conversation



CLUE 4

Mum's witness statement



Narrator:

There are still more clues to come, but can you guess now who our silent killer might be?

[Pause here for discussion]

We've heard from all the witnesses – now what clues are there around the house?

Clue card 5

All the windows were closed, so no sign of a break-in. But why was there so much condensation?

Clue card 6

When Grandma came home from hospital, Mum cooked her dinner, and noticed the flame on the hob was yellow, rather than the usual blue.

Clue card 7

Grandma had turned the fire up to maximum after Mum, Dad, Sally and Jake went on holiday. She hadn't noticed the black soot stains on the wall behind the fire. Remember, Mum had turned the fire down as it had been on too high before they went on holiday.

Clue card 8

The gas boiler needs a service. As you can see from the label, it's missed its yearly service.

So we've seen all the clues. Can you remember them all?
Was there something fishy about Grandma's lunch?
Or does the almost-empty pill bottle hold the answer?
Or do some of the other clues add up to solve the crime?

Who or what was the silent killer?

[Final pause for discussion, and identifying the silent killer]



Conclusion

Hopefully your group worked out that the silent killer was carbon monoxide.

You can now use our 'stop the silent killer' leaflet to facilitate a discussion about CO safety. Think about the clues that helped to identify CO as the culprit: the symptoms of CO poisoning experienced by Grandma and Dad, the batteries in the carbon monoxide alarm, the condensation on the windows, the yellow flames on the gas hob, the soot stains on the wall behind the fire, and the gas boiler service being overdue.

Discuss the six main symptoms of CO poisoning: headaches, nausea, dizziness, breathlessness, collapse, and loss of consciousness. Ask the group to think about potential sources of CO around their homes. Do they know when their appliances were last serviced and do they have a working CO alarm?