

PICTURE STORY

Past Simple: *Frank woke up.*

Divide the class into small teams of two to three players and appoint team secretaries. The team secretaries, helped by the rest of their team, have to write down what happened to Frank. The team to do this in the shortest time is the winner.

ANSWERS: Frank woke up. (c) He heard a noise. (i) He switched on the light. (a) He got out of bed. (o) He put on his dressing gown. (j) He opened the bedroom door. (h) He went downstairs. (m) He listened at the door. (n) He opened the door. (f) He saw a cat outside the window. (g) He went upstairs. (b) He took off his dressing gown. (e) He got into bed. (d) He switched off the light. (k) He went to sleep. (l)

DETECTIVE STORY: THE SAWDUST MYSTERY

Past Simple: *Was he murdered? Did he kill himself?*

Write up these clues:

The story

A man is lying dead on his bed.

On the floor is a stick and some sawdust.

Another man opens the door, looks in, smiles and goes away.

Make sure the the class understand all the clues. Explain that they must play detectives and find the solution to the mystery. The class then asks you questions to try to find the solution to the problem. They can only ask questions which have Yes/No answers, e.g. *Was he murdered? Did he kill himself?* Give hints to elicit questions, e.g.

Ask questions about how the man died.

Ask questions about the stick. What it was used for. It's size.

Ask questions about the sawdust. Where it came from.

Who produced it.

Ask questions about where the dead man worked.

Ask questions about the other man.

The solution

The dead man was the smallest circus midget in the world. He is lying in his caravan. He was blind and because he could not see he had the habit of measuring himself every morning with a special stick (exactly his own size) to make sure that he had not grown in the night. The other man was the second smallest circus midget in the world. He was very jealous of the dead man for being the smallest and, although he didn't personally know the dead midget (he worked for a different circus), he learnt of the measuring habit, crept into the caravan, sawed the stick in half and took away one piece. The smallest circus midget in the world woke up in the morning, felt for his stick and measured himself. To his horror he found he had grown in the night, thought he was no longer the smallest and shot himself. The other man came to the caravan, opened the door, smiled to see his trick had worked and went away — now the smallest midget in the world.

DETECTIVE STORY: SUICIDE! BUT HOW?

Past Simple

Presentation as for THE SAWDUST MYSTERY.

The story

The police broke into a room and found a man hanging from the very high ceiling. The room was completely empty except for a pool of water. The room had been locked from inside. There was no window. It was obviously suicide but how?

The solution

The man had built a platform of ice blocks. The ice melted.