

## New Ending

### GUIDELINES

**Objective:** Students write a different ending for a mystery.

This creative writing assignment allows students to analyze the resolution of a mystery and write their own ending. As they read their mysteries, students will most likely believe that there will be a different outcome. This is their chance to write the ending that they anticipated.

To get students started on this project, ask questions such as:

- \* Did you think the mystery would end differently and why?
- \* Could the clues have pointed to a different conclusion?
- \* Did characters who acted suspicious turn out to be innocent?
- \* Did characters who seemed innocent turn out to be suspicious?

Have students find the part in the book that they will use as their starting point. Explain that the transition should be smooth from the author's writing to their own. You might have students copy a paragraph from the book at the beginning of their writing assignment. Then, encourage them to write in a style similar to the author's.

After students have written a rough draft, you may want to have them revise their writing in class. Ask students to read their drafts and make sure that they have thoroughly explained their new ending. Are there any unanswered questions? If so, students should explain anything that is still unclear.

Set aside a time for students to read aloud their final drafts to the class and answer any questions their classmates might have. Remind them not to give away the real ending.

# Mystery

## New Ending

Did the ending of your mystery surprise you? How did you think it would end? Imagine that you are the author of the mystery and your editor has asked you to rewrite the ending. How would you change it?

### MATERIALS

lined paper

### DIRECTIONS

- 1 Find a mystery that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Think about how the book ended. If you could go back to the point in the book before the mystery was solved and rewrite the ending, what would happen? How would things have turned out differently? Find the part of the book that you will use as a starting point. Write the page number of your starting point. Briefly describe what has just occurred in the book.

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- 3 Write a rough draft of your new ending. It should be at least one page.
- 4 Read your rough draft and make sure it solves the mystery in a way that makes sense. Did you tie up all the loose ends? Revise your rough draft to make your writing stronger. (Add dialogue and description. Change passive verbs to active verbs. Check your spelling, punctuation, and grammar.)
- 5 Write a neat copy of your final draft, and add a title.

DUE DATES
Book approved _____
Book finished _____
Project finished _____

RUBRIC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mystery

# New Ending

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

	POSSIBLE POINTS	POINTS EARNED
1 Did you have your book approved by the due date?	5	
2 Did you hand in your project on time?	10	
3 Did you write a rough draft that was at least one page?	15	
4 Did you revise your rough draft?	15	
5 Did you write a neat final draft?	15	
6 Does your new ending make sense?	15	
7 Is your writing thoughtful and interesting?	15	
8 Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?	10	

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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