

Name _____

Date _____

A Mystery

"Something is very wrong," says the detective.

"I know!" says Ms. Gervis. "It is wrong that someone has stolen from me!"

The detective looks around Ms. Gervis' apartment. The soft morning light hits the living room carpet, turning it a bright cherry red. "That is not what I am talking about, ma'am. What is wrong is that I do not understand how the robber got in and out."

Ms. Gervis and the detective stand in silence. Ms. Gervis' eyes are full of tears. Her hands are shaking.



"The robber did not come through the window," says the detective. "These windows have not been opened or shut in months."

The detective looks at the fireplace. "The robber did not squeeze down here."

The detective walks to the front door. She examines the latch. "And since there are no marks or scratches, the robber definitely did not try to break the lock."

"I have no idea how he did it," says a bothered Ms. Gervis. "It is a big mystery."

"And you say the robber stole nothing else?" asks the detective. "No money, no jewelry, no crystal?"

"That's right, detective. He took only what was important to me," Ms. Gervis says with a sigh. "There is only one thing I can do now."

"And what is that?" the detective asks with surprise.

"I will stop baking cakes," Ms. Gervis says. "They are mine to give away. They are not for someone to steal."

"You can't do that!" says the detective with alarm. "Who will bake those delicious cakes?" "I am sorry. I do not know," says Ms. Gervis.

"I must solve this case immediately!" says the detective.

- 1) When reading a story, it is important to note the *setting*. The setting is characterized by the identification of the time, place, and mood of the events of the story. The setting helps to establish when, where, and under what circumstances the story is taking place. Using this information, what is the setting of this story?
- A. the predawn hours of a cheerful bakery
 - B. a worrisome morning at the police station
 - C. a comical afternoon in Ms. Gervis' house
 - D. a tense morning in Ms. Gervis' apartment
- 2) Which of these words best describes how Ms. Gervis feels at the beginning of the passage?
- A. upset
 - B. tired
 - C. hungry
 - D. confused
- 3) What makes the detective sure that the robber did not come through the windows?
- A. The windows are locked.
 - B. The windows face the police station.
 - C. The windows have not been used in months.
 - D. The windows are too small for a person to fit through.
- 4) In addition to the questions the detective asks Ms. Gervis in order to solve this mystery, what other question would it be helpful to ask?
- A. Why did Ms. Gervis decide to put a red carpet in the living room?
 - B. For how long has Ms. Gervis been a baker?
 - C. Does Ms. Gervis ever leave her door unlocked?
 - D. How old is Ms. Gervis?
- 5) What does the detective seem to think will happen if she solves the mystery?
- A. Ms. Gervis will resume baking cakes.
 - B. Ms. Gervis will bake her extra cakes.
 - C. Ms. Gervis will give her a secret recipe.
 - D. Ms. Gervis will give her money and jewels.

6) Finish this story using your own words. Who is responsible for the crime? How does the detective catch him or her?

Answers and Explanations

1) D

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

Near the beginning of the passage, it says, "The detective looks around Ms. Gervis' apartment. The soft morning light hits the living room carpet, turning it a bright cherry red." We can understand from this that the setting is in the morning in Ms. Gervis' apartment. Later in the passage, it says that Ms. Gervis' "eyes are full of tears" and that her "hands are shaking." This lets us know that the atmosphere is tense. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 4, the passage says, "Ms. Gervis and the detective stand in silence. Ms. Gervis' eyes are full of tears. Her hands are shaking." This lets us know that Ms. Gervis feels upset. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

Ms. Gervis does not know how someone got into her apartment, but she is shaking and crying because she has been robbed, not because she is confused. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

3) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In the middle of the passage, the detective says, "The robber did not come through the windows." Then the detective says, "These windows have not been opened or shut in months." We can understand from these statements that the detective believes that the robber didn't come through the windows because the windows had not been used in months. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

The detective is attempting to figure out how the robber got into the apartment to steal Ms. Gervis' cake. In the middle of the passage, the detective determines that the robber did not come in through the windows or the fireplace, nor did he or she try to break the lock on the door. So, we have a mystery: How did the robber get into the apartment without coming through the windows, fireplace, or breaking the lock on the door? Knowing if Ms. Gervis ever leaves her door unlocked would let us know more about how the robber got into the apartment. Therefore choice **(C)** is correct.

The questions posed in choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)** are irrelevant to solving this mystery. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

Near the end of the passage, Ms. Gervis says that she will stop baking cakes. This alarms the detective. The detective wonders, "Who will bake those delicious cakes?" Then, the detective decides to "solve this case immediately!" We can understand from this that the detective wants to solve the case immediately because she thinks that Ms. Gervis will bake cakes again if the case is solved. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Ms. Gervis has simply said she will no longer bake cakes because they are not made to be stolen. She does not offer extra cakes for solving the mystery. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(C)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.