

MURDER MYSTERY · WHO KILLED MISS GREENSPOON?

Taken from (edited):

<https://www.eslwriting.org/esl-english-speaking-murder-mystery-game-activities-fluency/>

- Oral skills practice.
- Deduction.
- Divide the group into sub-groups of 12 students maximum.
- Each sub-group will need a full set of character sheets.
- Only the first 8 characters are essential for the game.

BACKGROUND:

During a high school reunion, the guests heard a loud scream at 8.45 pm. Five minutes later, Miss Greenspoon, the school's oldest English teacher was found dead. Someone had hit her on the head with a statue. Many items were found beside her body including a book, a handkerchief, and a picture of another teacher.

OBJECTIVE:

Find out who killed the English teacher.

TASKS:

1. Read the information about your character.
2. Talk to the other characters in the group and collect clues, asking:
 - a) *Who are you?*
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KEY [SPOILER ALERT!!!]:

Murderer: Robert Browman (the principal)

Why we know it: He was caught in a lie. He killed the woman because of a secret. Long ago, he had an affair with the English teacher. She had a baby but he wanted that to be a secret to protect his career. His son is Barry, the teacher. Miss Greenspoon was his mom. She was going to tell him who his father was. That is why Browman killed her.

His alibi is a lie because Barry Dean went to his office at the time of the murder and he wasn't there. He knew Miss Green spoon since college, so he had an affair with her at some point fathering Barry Dean, and didn't want the word to get out, since he would likely lose his job/ruin his reputation.

Further information: Robert Browman (murderer), Barry Dean (the one who proves it was Browman), Tom Wilkins (gave her the handkerchief), Roy Kingston (gave her the book), Kelly Winters (tells that Browman and victim were arguing). Ian Hammer proves it wasn't Tom Wilkins, who was seemingly alone in the bathroom.

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YOUR CHARACTER:

Character #1

Name: Roy Kingston. You are an ex-student.



Memories: She was a tough teacher. She said you had talent but you hated the extra work. But now you're grateful. You're a writer, you have just written a new book.

Alibi: You saw Miss Greenspoon about 7 pm. You gave her a copy of your new book and she was pleased. When you heard the scream you were talking to Jenny Star, another ex-student.

YOUR NOTES:

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Character #2:

Character #3:

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YOUR CHARACTER:



Character #2

Name: Jenny Star. You are an ex-student.

Memories: Miss Greenspoon was a terrible woman so you quit school. Now you work in a chicken factory. Your life is terrible and it's Miss Greenspoon's fault. You're glad she's dead!

Alibi: At 8 pm you saw her arguing with Mr. Browman. They were talking about someone with a name like Harry or Terry. You couldn't hear very well. When you heard the scream, you were talking to Roy Kingston.

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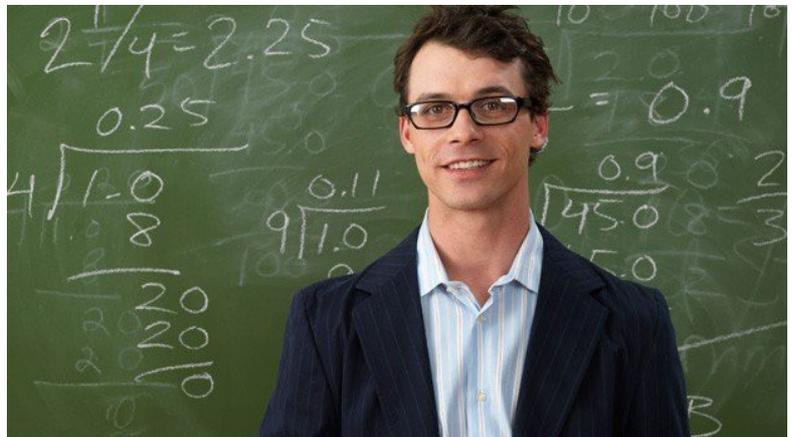
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YOUR CHARACTER:



Character #3

Name: Barry Dean. You are a school teacher.

Memories: She was a serious woman and she wasn't easy to like. Nobody at school knows this but she was your mother. She gave you up for adoption when you were a baby. You have spent your life looking for your father.

Alibi: About 7.30pm you were arguing with Miss Greenspoon. She wouldn't tell you who your father is. When you heard the scream, you were looking for Mr. Browman. But you could not find him. You went to his office and knocked on the door but nobody answered.

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YOUR CHARACTER:

Character #4

Name: Tom Wilkins. You are the school janitor.



Memories: She was a great lady and you couldn't understand why she was single. You wanted to have dinner with her but you were afraid she would say no.

Alibi: You saw her arguing with Mr. Dean. You never liked him. He was always upsetting Miss Greenspoon. You went to see if Miss Greenspoon was okay after talking to Barry Dean. She was crying so you gave her your handkerchief. When you heard the scream, you were in the men's bathroom. You cut your hand on some broken glass in the Sports Hall and needed to clean your hands.

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YOUR CHARACTER:

Character #5

Name: Sarah Johnson. You are an ex-student.



Memories: She was a scary teacher. Most students worked hard because they were afraid of her. You did well in English and you are training to be a teacher.

Alibi: At about 7:45pm, you were telling Miss Greenspoon about your studies but she wasn't interested. She kept looking around. Then she saw Mr. Browman and said she had to go. You thought she was a bit rude. When you heard the scream you were dancing in the Sports Hall.

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YOUR CHARACTER:

Character #6

Name: Robert Browman. You are the school principal.



Memories: You have known Miss Greenspoon since you were college students. You thought she was a wonderful woman. You will miss her very much.

Alibi: You were busy this evening. You didn't see Miss Greenspoon. When you heard the scream, you were working on the computer in your office.

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YOUR CHARACTER:

Character #7



Name: Elizabeth Moon. You are a school teacher.

Memories: She was a good teacher but she didn't have many friends. She seemed like a woman who had many secrets.

Alibi: You saw her walking to her classroom about 8:15pm. She was crying. She was wiping her eyes with a handkerchief. When you heard the scream you were drinking with teachers in the Sports Hall.

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Character #8

Name: Kelly Winters. You are a school teacher.



Memories: You just started at the school so you didn't really know Miss Greenspoon. She seemed to spend a lot of time with Barry Dean, who was much younger than her.

Alibi: You didn't see Miss Greenspoon that night. But other people said she had an argument with Mr. Browman. When you heard the scream you were talking to the new teachers in the Sports Hall.

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Character #9

Name: Jay Stanford. You are an ex-student.



Memories: She wasn't one of your teachers when you were at school but you always heard that she was strict.

Alibi: You saw Miss Greenspoon in the early evening talking with Tom Wilkins. You never liked Tom. He sometimes followed the female teachers. When you heard the scream you were getting something to drink in the Sports Hall.

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Character #10

Name: Jeff Perry. You are an ex-student.



Memories: She was very strict and not very friendly. Most of the students were afraid of her.

Alibi: You arrived at the party before 7pm. When you heard the scream you were In the Sports Hall dancing with an old school friend, Sarah Johnson.

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YOUR CHARACTER:

Character #11

Name: Ian Hammer. You are the school receptionist.



Memories: She was a polite woman but not very friendly. Secretly, you always thought that she had a love-hate relationship with Mr. Browman.

Alibi: You arrived late and you didn't see her all evening. When you heard the scream you were washing your hands in the men's room. You saw Tom Wilkins in the washroom. It looked like he had blood on his hands.

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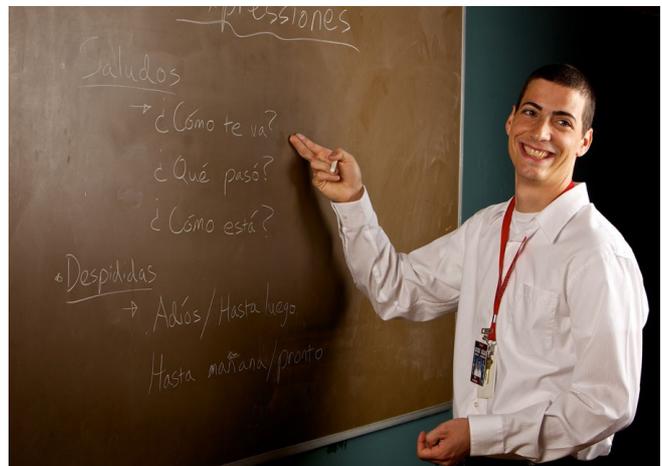
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Character #12



Name: Dick Kennedy. You are a Spanish teacher at the school.

Memories: You had a one-sided love affair with Miss Greenspoon. A few years ago, you dated her. One night she told you she had fallen in love as a young woman but it was a short relationship. She did not tell you anymore. The next day, she said she did not want to see you again.

Alibi: In the late afternoon, you were drinking at the bar and wondering why Miss Greenspoon seemed so stressed after talking to Barry Dean. When you heard the scream you were at the bar.

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