

WRITE YOUR OWN MYSTERY

OBJECTIVES

- Use context clues •Problem solving with word problems •Creative writing •Citing evidence* •Writing a cohesive text*

*Indicates STEM and/or Common Core objectives

GRADES

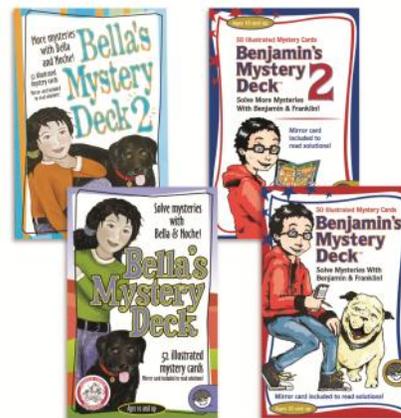
5-6

ESTIMATED TIME

50 – 60 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

- [Bella's or Benjamin's Mystery Deck](#)
- Paper
- Writing utensil



SETTING THE STAGE

Do a riddle as a class to get students into a critical thinking and problem solving mode.

Example Riddles:

1. You are on a boat. On the side of the boat there is a ladder with six steps. Each step is one foot apart from the next. It rains and the water rises six feet higher than before it rained. How many Steps on the ladder are underwater? [Answer: None- the boat rises with the water so all steps stay above the water.]
2. A man was driving a black truck. His lights were not on. The moon was not out. A lady was crossing the street. How did the man see her? [Answer- it was a bright, sunny day]

PROCEDURE

Divide students into small groups.

Give each group a card to solve.

WRITE YOUR OWN MYSTERY

PROCEDURE

After the small group solves the card, they can check their answers using the mirror provided with the decks.

Small groups will work together to write their own short mystery.

Student-written mysteries should have:

- Complete sentences
- Dialogue
- Introductions (set the stage)
- Clues that are a part of the text (nothing should be stated outright)
- Paragraphs when necessary
- At least three characters

Student-written mysteries can be shared with the class and other groups can try to solve them.

- Sharing with the class may bring about feedback for groups and they can tweak their mysteries.

FOLLOW UP

Discuss student-written mysteries.

- How many details did you include in your story?
- What clues did you think would make it easiest to solve your mystery, or hardest?
 - How did you come up an idea for a mystery?

Was it more difficult to solve a mystery or write a mystery?

What evidence did you gather from your mystery that explained the solution?