



THE WORLD OF DETECTIVE FICTION IN KAU YAN

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



CHANTELLE
GOETZEE

For one memorable week, Kau Yan became a world of mystery and investigation as students stepped into the world of Detective Fiction. Inspired by the classic detective stories of Sherlock Holmes, our students spent English Week searching for clues, solving puzzles and taking part in many exciting activities.

One of the highlights of the week was the immersive detective experience, where students followed the mystery of the broken English trophy and the missing star. As hidden clues were uncovered and suspects questioned, students became part of the investigation and experienced first-hand the mystery and suspense of a real detective story.



2



The excitement continued with the escape room challenge, where teams raced across classrooms, searching for clues and completing a series of missions. Students had to think carefully and communicate clearly as they worked together to solve problems and progress through the challenge. The missions were designed as English-based tasks, requiring students to apply their language skills in a practical and meaningful way.

This issue celebrates the many unforgettable moments from English Week, along with students' reflections on theme of detective fiction. I hope you enjoy looking back at the highlights that made this year's English Week so special.



Experience our
English Week here



Lee Kau Yan Memorial School



During the English Week, our daily curriculum transformed standard English lessons into a dynamic, puzzle-solving playground where students unravel mysteries using language immersion:

THE DAILY CASE FILES

(Classroom Activities)

Day

1

The Mind of the Master Creator

Students explored a fascinating biographical text detailing how the brilliant British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (who started his professional life as a doctor) created the iconic detective. They discovered why Doyle boldly tried to kill off his creation ("Killed Holmes") to focus on other literary pursuits, learnt how Dr. John Watson narrates the stories, and discovered that Edgar Allan Poe actually penned the first modern detective story. A competitive 10-question Kahoot! challenge awaited to test their reading comprehension!

The world of Sherlock Holmes



Who is Sherlock Holmes?



Day

2

Who is Sherlock Holmes?

The mystery deepens as students dived into the lore of 221b Baker Street. They learnt about Holmes's complex world — from his faithful housekeeper Mrs. Hudson and his government-employed brother, to his dangerous archenemy Professor Moriarty and the jealous Inspector Lestrade. They also explored legendary tales like The Hound of the Baskervilles and modern adaptations featuring Benedict Cumberbatch, followed by another thrilling Kahoot! quiz.

3

Day

3

Deciphering "The Dancing Men"

Language and cryptography collide! Students watched a captivating animated YouTube story about a sequence of cryptic stick figures that bring confusion and terror to Mr. Hilton Cubitt and his wife Elsie. By following Holmes's use of frequency analysis to crack the code, students learnt how he unmasked the threatening figure from Elsie's past, Abe Slaney, while answering target questions based on the video.

The Dancing Men



Day

4

The Mystery Times Logic Puzzles

Wits were tested to the absolute limit with a series of perplexing, visual logic puzzles from The Mystery Times newspaper:

Case 1: A Date with Death: Students must decode a cryptic letter substitution cipher left in a diary to accuse the real murderer, Lucy!

Case 2: Poisoning at the Library: Students must solve a phonetic rebus puzzle drawn on a dying librarian's hand to locate a hidden antidote inside the book Peter Pan.

Case 3: Cracking the Code: Students must decipher a 4-digit safe code belonging to criminal boss Billy Broccoli by cleverly flipping his wife Lois's name upside-down.

The Mystery Times



Day

5

THE GRAND HIGHLIGHT ASSEMBLY

Oh no! Students, look! Disaster! During our English Week, someone damaged the trophy! The star at the top is GONE!

Indeed, Watson.



Another mystery, Holmes?



Students! We are searching for clues to solve this crime. There are clues hidden under your chairs.

The Case of the Broken Trophy

The excitement of English Week reached a fever pitch on Day 4 with our spectacular, interactive stage assembly program.

All students joined forces with the brilliant and legendary Sherlock Holmes—brought to life on stage by our talented, charismatic English Ambassadors. The case? It's all about a broken school trophy. By analyzing subtle, mysterious clues, participating in an audience-wide evidence hunts, and answering target Q&A questions, students used persuasive, fluent English to piece together the puzzle and ultimately unmask the cunning culprit who stole the star from the trophy.

Our students were deeply engrossed and were wildly enthusiastic about these dynamic games. They acquired valuable language skills in a deeply immersive, effortlessly natural environment—proving once and for all that learning English can be an absolutely exhilarating and joyful adventure!

The trophy has small, straight scratches on it.

You found it! Well, go on and read it.



That would suggest a thin, flat tool.

I am long and straight. I help you draw lines.



We need another clue!

Who has Envelope #2?

I am long and straight. I help you draw lines.



Hold out your hands... palms up...now move them up and down...and say...

You-suspect, come here do what Sherlock Holmes says.



12

The suspect is wearing a blue English Ambassador's Badge!

He's trying to escape! Security! Stop him!

Wait! We have the final clue! It's marked TOP SECRET!

11

I have been stealing bright star ideas for you instead of just "mobile phone games" and "homework".

How many stars did you steal???

It's Mr. Paul!

9

Well, that can't be any of you shorties!

I am also taller than you all! How did you think I reached that high shelf?

59? Seriously? Those are some giant feet! Well, go on then, read the next clue.

10

I'm innocent!

Who is the tallest here at Lee Kau Yan?

Mr. Liu!

5

7

My shoe size is the answer. Muah-ha-ha!

8

I am the Optimus of numbers and there are 15 of my friends on that ruler of yours.

BEYOND THE SHADOW OF SHERLOCK

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
(Source: Wikipedia)



Finding Success in What You Love

Doyle served as a medical doctor and surgeon to 2 sea voyages before he established an unsuccessful medical practice. During his time at sea, he was inspired to write the short story “J. Habakuk Jephson’s Statement” making the mystery of the Mary Celeste popular. Therefore, when I found out that Doyle disliked the very thing that made him famous, I had mixed feelings about it.

At first, I thought he was being ungrateful due to the fact that the Sherlock Holmes series had saved him from failure. Since his medical practice was unsuccessful, I’d expect him to be on the brink of bankruptcy. Fortunately, he was able to become famous through the series. Hence, I thought he was unappreciative to the very people who salvaged him. Nonetheless, after giving it some thought, Doyle’s discontentment actually made sense to me. Considering the fact that Doyle studied medicine, I believe he seemingly sought a more distinguished career path. Not to mention, Doyle considered himself a more “serious” literature type of writer, therefore viewing the Holmes stories a distraction from his important work. Thus, this makes his view understandable.

6

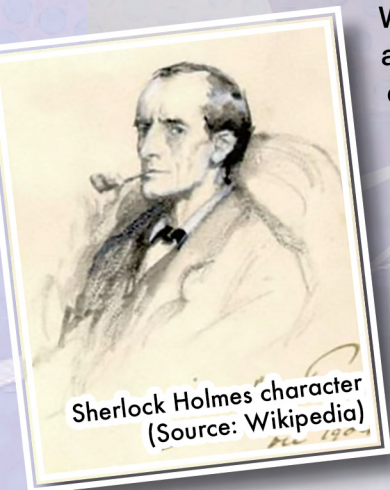
While Doyle’s choice might seem baffling to an aspiring writer today, it highlights a universal tension: the gap between natural aptitude and personal passion. Being exceptionally gifted at a craft does not automatically grant someone the internal fulfilment required to sustain it, especially when that talent feels like a distraction from one’s “true” calling.

For me personally, despite having a supposed ‘gift’ for teaching, I’m not a fan of the role. I lack the necessary patience and tend to get irritable far too quickly to be an effective mentor. Furthermore, I easily get stressed and queasy when I’m surrounded by loud noises, therefore I may never survive a noisy classroom filled with rowdy students. For that reason, I would prefer sticking to what I love and enjoy even if it means I might go through hardship rather than waking up every day and hating myself for choosing a career I don’t enjoy.

But that prompts the question, ‘Would one rather continue doing something that seems to be “distracting” if it brought success, or would one choose to follow their personal passion even if it meant being less famous?’ Since being famous is now being added to the equation, I won’t have to choose.

5B(11)

MAHTANI Gillianne Leop



Sherlock Holmes character
(Source: Wikipedia)



Detectives and Detective Fiction

STUDENT
VOICES

I believe detectives should always prioritise evidence rather than rely solely on instincts. This is because evidence is objective, verifiable and legally admissible, while instincts are subjective and prone to bias. For example, DNA samples, fingerprints or surveillance footage can prove a suspect's involvement in a crime, whereas a detective's 'gut feeling' cannot be used in court. Also, depending only on instincts risks wrongful convictions and undermines public trust in the justice system. Evidence ensures fairness and accountability. For instance, there have been cases where suspects were wrongly accused based on behaviour or intuition but later exonerated when new evidence, such as DNA testing, proved their innocence. Therefore, while instincts may guide detectives toward leads, evidence must always be the foundation of investigations and the ultimate basis for justice.

ID(03)

Ella, CHU Ho Fung

7

Do you agree that detectives should always trust their instincts rather than evidence?

In my opinion, detectives should not always trust their instincts rather than evidence. One reason is that instincts are subjective and easily influenced by personal bias, stereotypes, or emotions, which can lead to wrongful accusations and miscarriages of justice. For example, a detective might instinctively suspect a young man from a poor neighbourhood simply because of his appearance and background, ignoring physical evidence that points to a different suspect. This could result in an innocent person being wrongfully detained. Another reason is that evidence is objective, verifiable, and admissible in court. Relying on instincts alone would make cases unsustainable and undermine the integrity of the legal system. For instance, in a theft case, security camera footage or fingerprint evidence can definitely prove who was at the crime scene, whereas a detective's 'gut feeling' cannot be used to convict someone in a court of law. In conclusion, I think that detectives should not always trust their instincts rather than evidence.

ID(07)

Moie, LEE Hau Kiu

In my opinion, people like to read detective fiction because it is exciting and full of mystery.

To begin with, detective fiction lets readers solve a puzzle step by step which makes them feel excited and curious.

The detective fiction's truth is often hidden until the end. However, it will have clues. Therefore, readers can follow clues, guess what will happen next and find the truth at the end.

Also, the detective is very clever, but many people enjoy trying to find the criminal before the detective does, because they will have an achievement. For example, Sherlock finds small clues and catches the criminal. The story shows justice, because bad people will be imprisoned. Therefore, detective fiction is fun to read because it has mystery, danger, and a clear answer at the end.

All in all, people like to read detective fiction because it is exciting and makes them think. By reading detective fiction, we can also learn to use clues to solve problems in real life.

4A(06)

Tracy, LAU Tsz Tsik



Why do people like detective fiction?



In my opinion, people like to read detective fiction because it is exciting and makes us think.

To begin with, detective fiction is full of suspense and puzzles because readers can follow clues, guess the truth and solve crimes step by step. It is exciting and makes us think about who the criminal is or how to find the truth. The reason why the stories keep the reader curious until the end is because they are full of suspense. Therefore, detective fiction is fun and makes us use our brains.

In conclusion, people like to read detective fiction for its mystery. By reading detective fiction, we can also learn to be logical and careful.

4A(04)

Yoyo, HON Tsz Yiu



Heart-Pounding Escape Room Activities

One of our highlights was our captivating and intensely immersive Escape Room Adventures! We have meticulously designed three distinctly challenging, labyrinthine routes that will test students' wits. Teams must utilize their English vocabulary and sharp logic to solve clues and break free from these daunting, locked chambers. Now you can try it yourselves too!

(Source: <https://www.mypartygames.com/free-printable-diy-escape-room-witches-curse/>)

HEART- POUNDING ESCAPE ROOM ACTIVITIES

Polybius Square

Read these 7 pairs of numbers carefully and see which letter each pair represents. Form the answer word by using these 7 letters.

MISSION 1: POLYBIUS SQUARE



HINTS

The first pair of numbers is 13 = the letter "C", and so on. The answer word is a place where you can cook and bake at school.

Polybius square

13 34 34 25 15 42 54

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I, J	K
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

ANSWER: COOKERY (Room)

What could be the answers? Students are trying their best to solve the square!

HEART-POUNDING ESCAPE ROOM ACTIVITIES

Read the clues carefully from "down" to "across". Some letters are provided.

MISSION 2: CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Crossword Puzzle

HINTS

The answer word starts with the letter "F" and ends with the letter "R", it is a household electrical appliance that prevents food and beverages from going rotten.

Complete the crossword puzzle below

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

2. A small, round green or purple fruit that grows on a vine.
5. A yellow or white dairy food that is often melted on pizza or sandwiches.
7. The organ in your chest that pumps blood through your body.

Down

1. The part of your body inside your head that you use to think and learn.
2. A game, toy, or problem (like a crossword!) that tests your brain.
4. The hot, glowing, orange part of a fire.
6. The number that comes after six but before eight.

After completing the crossword puzzle, please locate the answer in each word above.

First letter of word 4;

Second letter of word 1, 7;

Fifth letter of word 2;

Third letter of word 3, 5

Fourth letter of word 6

- ANSWER: FREEZER
1. brain
 2. grape
 3. puzzle
 4. flame
 5. cheese
 6. seven
 7. heart

Read the blackened letters carefully; they are blurred by the messy lines. Get the clue by forming the letters together.

MISSION 4: THE HIDDEN CLUE



HINTS

Read line 1 first, from left to right, and so on. The first word is "next", and the final word is "plant"



MISSION 3: WHERE ARE THE WORDS?

Try to read the first letter of every ingredient. Starting from "U" in Umbrella Moss down to "G" in Glowroot to form a phrase.



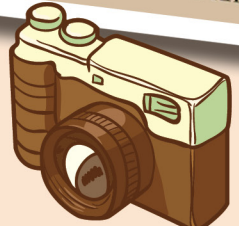
Where are the words?

Room 3

DEAR VISITORS, THIS IS A RECIPE FOR THE KEY TO THE NEXT CLUE. YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR FOCUS ON ALL THE INGREDIENTS.

UMBRELLA MOSS	3 SMALL SPRIGS
NETTLE LEAVES	5 LEAVES
DEW OF DAWN	2 DROPS
EYEBRIGHT	4 BLOSSOMS
RAINBOW DUST	1 PINCH
THUNDERLEAF	2 LEAVES
HONEYDEW DROPS	3 DROPS
EMERALD MOSS	2 SMALL CLUMPS
RUE	2 SPRIGS
UNICORN TEARS	1 DROP
GLOWROOT	1 SMALL ROOT

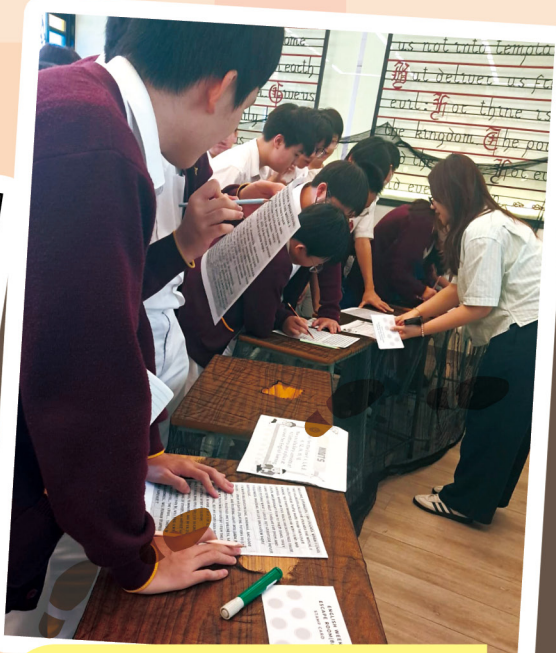
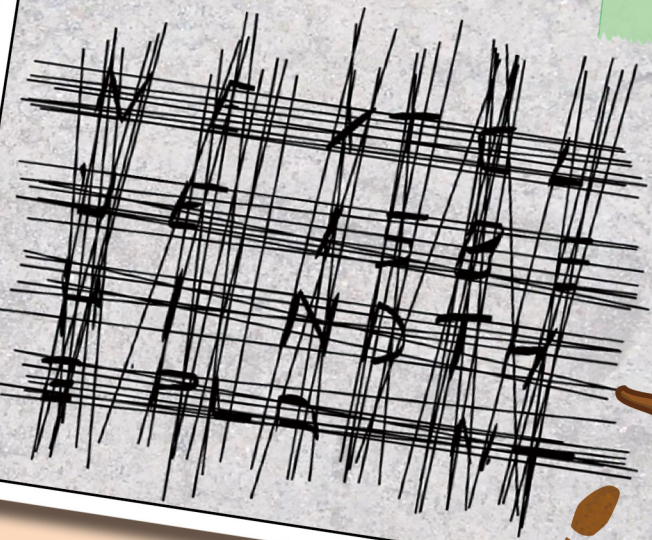
LAY THE UMBRELLA MOSS IN THE CLAY POT FIRST, WHISPERING YOUR INTENTION. ADD THE NETTLE LEAVES AND THUNDERLEAF WHILE STIRRING CLOCKWISE. DROP IN DEW OF DAWN, HONEYDEW DROPS, AND EYEBRIGHT IN THE ORDER OF SUNRISE. SPRINKLE RAINBOW DUST LIGHTLY OVER THE TOP. GENTLY CRUSH GLOWROOT AND EMERALD MOSS TOGETHER, THEN ADD THEM. FINALLY, ADD RUE AND UNICORN TEARS. STIR UNTIL THE POTION GLOWS SOFTLY AND A KEY WILL EMERGE.



ANSWER: UNDER THE RUG



LINES ON LINES REVEAL WHAT'S TRUE
LOOK CLOSELY TO FIND THE CLUE



Students are teaming up to find the words through the dashes.

ANSWER: NEXT CLUE IS BEHIND THE PLANT

The missing word

MISSION 5: THE MISSING WORD

Find the answer by using the information below.
The first letter has been done for you.

HINTS

It is commonly used for pull and push, and is 2 metres tall.

D

Room

Ending

ANSWER: DOOR

All students are thrilled at their dolls as reward for solving all the mysteries!