

# The Mystery Club and the Case of the Missing Pearls

A Play for Students in Grades 3-5  
12 parts

Synopsis: Come join the Mystery Club Kids and solve the case. How did dear Mildred's pearls disappear and which suspects seem to be guilty? See if you can solve the mystery before the answer is revealed.

## Characters

Narrator

Mildred Monroe (older rich lady)

Danny Delivery (paper boy)

Shiny Clean (cleaning lady)

Maxwell Monroe (Mrs. Monroe's middle-age son)

Mr. and Mrs. Constant and Always Complaining (neighbors)

Brandy Styles (beautician)

Secretary to the Mystery Club (a kid)

Mystery Club Kids (Lizzy, Christy, and Sara)

## The Mystery Club and the Case of the Missing Pearls

Narrator: Welcome to our play *The Mystery Club and the Case of the Missing Pearls*. Our play opens with Mrs. Mildred Monroe, a sixty-eight-year-old, very wealthy widow who just returned from her 50<sup>th</sup> high school class, the class of 1952 class reunion.

Mildred: Oh my, my aching head. That dancing really tired me out. But at my age, look how I can still dance. (dances) Thank goodness for my knee replacements this year. Oh, now, where was I? Oh, yes, my aching head. Let's see now, a couple of aspirin should do the trick. (looks in the mirror) Not too bad for an old lady my age. Oh, dear, I'm so very tired...time to turn in. But I've got to be up for that luncheon at the country club tomorrow...now what time was that? Oh, yes, 11:00 sharp. (goes to sleep)

Narrator: The next morning...

Paper boy: (rings the doorbell) Mrs. Monroe, it's me, Danny Delivery, your favorite paper boy and skateboard expert. Mrs. Monroe, are you home? Oh, it's unlocked. I'll just go in. I know she likes to read the paper with her morning tea. I'll just set the paper right here. (glances at the headline) Hmmm...looks like the Mystery Club has cracked another crime. Well, better run...I mean, skateboard.

Cleaning lady: Good morning, ya'll. I'm Shiny, Shiny Clean. But ya'll can call me Shiny. My papa calls me Shiny, my mama calls me Shiny, even my little kitty knows me by the name Shiny...(sings a song about her name and laughs) Oh, I better get back to work...let's see now, where is that list? (finds list and reads jobs to do) First, I've got to polish the silver; then clean the golden toilets; the sinks need to be scrubbed; of course, I can't forget the dirty dishes; the carpet should be vacuumed; and last, the cupboards have to be rearranged. Oh, I almost forgot. The pearls...I can't forget to clean Mrs. Monroe's pearls. (laughs)

Max: (rings the doorbell)

Shiny: (opens the door) Oh, hello, Maxwell, you know me, Shiny. (sings the song about her name and laughs) And you can call me Shiny, too...(winks)

Max: Well, I'm just here to talk to my mother again about the will.

Shiny: (looks at her watch) I'm sorry, but Mrs. Monroe was up late at her class reunion last night and she is still asleep. But you can talk to me if you want. (laughs) You can talk all you want.

Max: Oh, yes, that reunion, well could you give my mother these papers from me? They're very important. It's all about the will, you know. It's the will that I'm not even in although I really don't know why.

Shiny: All right, Maxwell, but only for you. Well, bye for now. You take care now. Ya'll come back now, ya hear.

Maxwell: Yeah, yeah, (mumbles) thank you. Bye.

Neighbors: (doorbell rings and Shiny opens the door) Hi, Shiny, you remember us, the neighbors...this is my wife, Constant, and I'm Always Complaining. But you can call me Al. We want to talk with Mrs. Monroe.

Shiny: Good morning, please come in. Sit down. Let me go check on Mrs. Monroe. (leaves room)

Constant: (gets up and inspects the room) Oh, my, everything is a little dusty, don't you think?

Al: Well, I do believe so, but look at this chair, why it's do dumpy-looking.

Shiny: (returns) Mrs. Monroe is still asleep.

Constant: No wonder. She needs all the beauty sleep she can get.

Al: Oh, honey, now stop that, we're her neighbors. Now, back to the reason we came. Mrs. Monroe has yet to trim her half of the bushes this spring.

Constant: (nods to agree) It's starting to look like a jungle.

Shiny: The gardener hasn't come yet this year. His first day is next week. I'll make a note of it and make sure it is done.

Al: Fine, then.

Constant: Well, I guess it's fine. Just make sure...

(neighbors exit)

Beautician (Brandy Styles): (rings doorbell)

Shiny: (looks at her watch and opens door) Mrs. Monroe, your beautician is here. Time for your appointment. Oh, nice to see you, Brandy Styles.

Brandy Styles: I was in such a hurry. I forgot Mrs. Monroe's favorite shampoo. Would you mind if I checked in her bathroom to see if she has any? (Shiny nods) I'll be right back.

Shiny: Why sure you can, Brandy. But hurry, Mrs. Monroe doesn't want to be late, you know.

Brandy: Well, now, I'm all set...(mentions all of the things she has to wash and style her hair) Is Mrs. Monroe ready?

Mrs. Monroe: (screams) My pearls are gone! My precious pearls! My pearls! (faints)

Brandy: I better leave. I'll call back later to reschedule.

Narrator: Now that Mrs. Monroe's pearls have disappeared, she is in despair. While reading the newspaper, she notices the headline and an article about The Mystery Club.

Mrs. Monroe: (drinking her tea) There, there, now...I feel a little better...why, what's this? (reads headline) **The Mystery Club Cracks Another Case.** Hmm. (reads the article out loud) The Mystery Club catches the robbers who took one of (name of the artist) paintings at the museum. The robbers are put behind bars for life. (looks up) It says The Mystery Club has a slogan. (continues to read out loud) For any crime, big or small, contact the Mystery Club, one and all. Hmm...looks like a phone number... But I can't quite read it...at my age and all. (gets the magnifying glass to read the number) 756-2392. I guess I'll call right now...756-2392.

Secretary: Mystery Club, for any crime, big or small, contact the Mystery Club, one and all. How may I help you?

Mrs. Monroe: My valuable pearls are missing and I don't know where to find them. Should I leave them alone and maybe they'll come home? I don't know where to find them. (covers up phone) Hey, that sounds like something I have heard before...a nursery rhyme? Oh, how clever, how very clever of me!

Secretary: May I please ask who is calling?

Mrs. Monroe: It's me, Mildred Monroe, you know, the richest lady in all of Richinatti. Could you please come right away...my address is 100 Million Dollar Way. I'll be waiting.

Lizzy: Oh, here it is. Million Dollar Way...let's see...100 Million Dollar Way. Wow, that's a big house!

Christy: No wonder she lost her pearls! They could be anywhere.

Sara: (rings the doorbell)

Kids: Mystery Club at your service. (repeat slogan)

Mrs. Monroe: Oh, good. Glad you are here. Please come in and sit down.

Lizzy: Well, I'm Lizzy the President of the Mystery Club, and this is Christy and Sara.

Christy: Please tell us exactly what happened.

Mildred: Well, last night I came back from a party...oh, yes, it was a wonderful party... brought back memories of Monte and all...Monte is my belated husband who I adored...now what did I do there? Oh, yes, I danced. (dances) Not too bad for someone my age...I'll be sixty-nine in October. Well, I remember coming home and taking off my pearls and going right to bed.

Sara: What do the pearls look like?

Mildred: They were given to me the day of my wedding by my belated husband Monte who I adored. Monte was the love of my life!

Sara: The pearls?

Mildred: Oh, yes, back to the pearls. They were strands of differing lengths bought from the finest merchants in the Caribbean...no wait...was it Italy? Hmmmm, England? No, I know, from Paris. There were two strands with a matching pearl ring.

Lizzy: Mrs. Monroe, who has been in your house since midnight?

Mildred: Let me see. There was Shiny, my maid. She comes every day at 6:00 a.m. to clean my house. (pause) And there was Brandy Styles, my beautician who must have been here around 9:30...I had a luncheon at the Country Club and she was going to do my hair.

Christy: Anyone else?

Mildred: Yes, I remember that Shiny told me my son Maxwell had stopped by and had given me some papers to look over...you know, about the will and all.

Christy: Could we talk with Shiny?

Mildred: Well, I gave her the rest of the day off...too much excitement around here. You can catch her if you're lucky...she mentioned that she's going to the beauty salon. It's right down the street.

Lizzy: Well, you two see what you can find. I'm headed to the library to read about pearls. I'll meet up with you later...good luck!

Christy and Sara: Oh, good idea. See you later...we've got to find Shiny...(leave to go to the beauty salon) Oh, here it is, now where could Shiny be?

Shiny: Why, I'm Shiny. (says line about her name)

Sara: Mrs. Monroe's pearls are missing...do you know anything about this?

Shiny: Well, yes and no...I was standing and talking to Brandy Styles, her beautician, when Mrs. Monroe came running down the stairs screaming.

Sara: Screaming?

Shiny: Yes, she was screaming that her pearls were missing and she fainted.

Sara: Was there anyone else in the house? Well, I know that her son Maxwell stopped by.

Shiny: Let me see...I don't think so...well, wait a minute. Danny Delivery must have come in. I saw the newspaper on the table when I came to work. And the neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Constant and Complaining, wanted to speak with Mrs. Monroe. But they stayed only a short time. Mrs. Monroe was still sleeping.

Girls: Thank you for your time. Good-bye.

Lizzy: Hey, Sara and Christy! This is what I found out...(reads out loud from a book on pearls...) Pretty neat, huh?

Christy: Well, we know Shiny and also a newspaper boy, Danny something, stopped in earlier this morning...

Sara: And there were the neighbors...Mr. and Mrs. Complaining...they came by to see Mrs. Monroe, too.

Lizzy: Add them to our list of suspects. Did you say the newspaper boy was named Danny? It must be Danny Delivery. He's my brother Tony's friend. Tony told me that Mrs. Monroe leaves great tips...isn't that him now? (calls out to Danny) Danny? Danny? Is that you, Danny?

Danny: What? Did someone call my name?

Lizzy: Hi, Danny! You know me, it's Lizzy, Tony's little sister. This is Christy and Sara.

Danny: Oh, yeah, the Mystery Club Kids. What can I do for you?

Lizzy: Well, Mrs. Monroe has lost her pearls. Do you know anything?

Danny: Mrs. Monroe? No, she's really nice. I rang the doorbell this morning to collect my monthly tip, but no one answered. I remember noticing the door was ajar so I went in, but only to put the paper down on the kitchen table...I know how much Mrs. Monroe likes to read the paper with her morning tea.

Christy: Well, thanks, Danny. See you around. (to the girls) I don't think he did it. Hey, it's getting late and it's my turn to help cook supper tonight. Why don't you two see if you can find Brandy Styles and I'll meet up with you tomorrow morning. Good luck!

Sara: Well, I remember Mrs. Monroe mentioning that Brandy Styles might be at her beauty shop. Isn't that her over there?

Lizzy: How do you know?

Sara: My mom comes here all the time...sometimes, I come with her. Let's go check her out.

Sara: Ms. Styles, we're the Mystery Club Kids. (says slogan with Lizzy) What do you know about Mrs. Mildred Monroe and her pearls?

Narrator: Well, the Mystery Club Kids interviewed Ms. Styles right there at the beauty salon. The girls didn't find out much. They knew that the next day, they would have to try harder.

Lizzy: Hi, Christy? Where's Sara?

Christy: (looks at watch) Guess she must have overslept again...(rings doorbell)

Al: Now, who could that be so early in the morning? (opens door)

Lizzy and Christy: Good morning. We're the Mystery Club Kids. (say slogan) Do you know anything about Mrs. Monroe's pearls?

Al: Constant, it's some kids about Mrs. Monroe. Can't you come any quicker?

Constant: Do come in. Now, what was this about Mrs. Monroe...and some pearls?

Lizzy: Well, we know that you stopped to see Mrs. Monroe yesterday...something about the bushes not being cut. Do you know anything about what could have happened to Mrs. Monroe's pearls?

Al: I just wish she would cut her side of the bushes. It's been looking like a jungle.

Constant: Well, we went over there to ask her about the bushes and Shiny invited us in while she checked on Mildred. Come to think of it, we never did talk to her. Mildred was still sleeping...guess she was out late at a reunion or something like that. Doesn't that lady ever wake up...how much beauty sleep does she need? It doesn't seem to help her anyway.

Al: Oh now, Constant. Come, come now. Nope, we didn't see any pearls...just talked to Shiny...how can that girl be so happy all of the time?

Lizzy: Well, thank you very much. Have a good day.

Al and Constant: Good? What's good about today? What's good about any day.

(the girls notice someone at Mrs. Monroe's door; they go over to the house and peer into the window to try to see who it is)

Sara: Hey, wait up. Wait for me...Sorry, I overslept. I stayed up late last night thinking about the possible suspects.

Christy: Well, Sara. There was someone at Mrs. Monroe's door a few minutes ago...a larger man in his...I would say late thirties...let's go see.

Lizzy: Shhh, listen. They're talking about a will. Oh, the will! Maybe he's Max.

Sara: Yes, it looks like him. I remember the picture on the wall. There was Mildred, Monte, and their son, Max. Listen, their voices are getting louder.

Mrs. Monroe: Oh, Maxwell, I don't care about the will. It's my pearls...my pearls. All of this commotion has given me a bad headache again...oh, where could they be? Max, maybe someday you will understand that some things are more important than a will. Let me get some aspirin. (goes into the bathroom and opens the medicine cabinet) Oh, my pearls! I've found them! (puts them on and comes out into the living room)

Sara, Christy, and Lizzy: (the girls run into the house) You found them?

Mildred: Yes, they were here all along. I must have forgotten that I took them off before going to bed. I think I put them in the medicine cabinet by mistake when I took



the aspirin for my headache. Oh, I'm so happy, so very happy that I could dance!  
Maxwell, come dance. Everybody, won't you join me? (the cast dances and then  
bows to the audience)

## **Class Activities – Parent/Teacher Page (The Mystery Club and the Case of the Missing Pearls)**

### **Reading the Play**

- **Questions before reading**

Have you read any mystery stories? What are the characteristics of a mystery? What do you think this play *The Mystery Club and the Case of the Missing Pearls* might be about?

- **Words to preview**

reunion, precious, despair, adored, strands, merchants, beautician, ajar, commotion, will (noun)

- **Questions after reading**

Who are the suspects in this mystery? Who is trying to solve the mystery? How do the characters respond to the crime? What are some of the distractions for the Mystery Club Kids? How does the conclusion of the play fit with some of the characteristics of the main character? What could be another ending of the play?

### **Performing the Play**

This play is a mystery. The Mystery Club Kids are called to help solve the crime – Mildred Monroe’s pearls have disappeared! The main action of the play takes place at Mildred’s house. The neighbor’s home and the beauty shop are additional settings. Many of the characters are viewed as suspects until the “crime is solved”.

### **Extended Activities**

- The students write their own mystery stories and share them with the class. Students evaluate the clues leading to the conclusion of each mystery.
- Students rewrite the mystery play and add a different ending.
- Students research word plays and then analyze the author’s use of word plays in *The Mystery Club and the Case of the Missing Pearls*. Brainstorm additional word plays that could be added to the play (e.g., Brandy Styles, Mr. and Mrs. Constant Complaining).

## Student Activities

A. Characteristics of Mysteries. Fill in the blank to describe common characteristics of mysteries. Use these words: clues, mystery, settings, solved, conclusion, beginning, suspects.

A mystery has common characteristics that include a typical \_\_\_\_\_ and ending, a \_\_\_\_\_ to be solved, various \_\_\_\_\_ who might have committed the crime, and one or more \_\_\_\_\_ where the mystery takes place. In a mystery, there are \_\_\_\_\_ that need to be \_\_\_\_\_ and a final \_\_\_\_\_ that is drawn at the end of the mystery.

B. Understanding the plot. Number the events in the order they happened in the story (1-10).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mildred attends the reunion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The “suspects” are interviewed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Shiny Clean shows up to clean Mildred’s house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Monroe calls the Mystery Club Kids to report her pearls missing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maxwell drops off the will.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The pearls are found in the medicine cabinet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The neighbors, Constant and Al, visit to complain about the bushes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Mystery Club Kids visit Mildred and ask questions to try to solve the mystery.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Danny delivers the newspaper to Mildred’s house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The beautician drops by and has to reschedule the appointment.

C. Understanding the characters. Answer the questions. Use complete sentences.

1. Which character in the play you would like to be? Why?

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2. Fill in the blanks. Select a character from the play and answer the questions.

Character's name: \_\_\_\_\_

What nickname would you give your character? \_\_\_\_\_

What's your character's favorite food(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

What would be the title of the book he/she could write? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are 4 (adjectives) to describe him/her? \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and

\_\_\_\_\_.

D. Understanding the setting. Draw a picture to show how you imagine the setting of this play. Label the important parts.



