

## Using Synthesis to Describe a Mystery

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**Synthesizing** means combining parts into a new whole.

**You use synthesizing when**

- you use what you already know to figure out the meaning of a new word
- you combine several brainstorming suggestions to develop a solution to a problem
- you develop a consensus based on everyone's ideas
- you use information from several different sources in a project
- you adapt an idea from one form to another (for example, you create a play based on a novel or a dance based on a poem)

In what other situations would synthesis be important?

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**Essential Question:** Why are we fascinated by mystery?

**Synthesizing** means combining parts into a new whole.

**Directions:** Next to **Passage A** on the following screen, a reader has summarized the elements of a mystery that appear in the passage. This is a **tentative** statement because new ideas about mystery will be added. Note that the tentative statement after **Passage B** synthesizes or combines everything the reader has noted so far.

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Use the following steps to complete the chart.

- Read **Passage C** and write a tentative statement that includes all of the elements of mystery in the models.
- List any additional elements of mystery stories that you have learned from your reading.
- Use one or more sentences to write your own description of mystery stories in the last box.

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### Passage A

The victim, of course, would be Edgar's Uncle Daniel. Not only was he readily available, but he was a believer in Ralph Waldo Emerson's philosophy of self reliance, and in order to help Edgar achieve that happy condition, Uncle Daniel had decided to cut the youth out of his will in the near future.

*from "The Man Who Read John  
Dickson Carr," p. 138*

### Tentative Statement

Mysteries are stories that include a victim and a motive for a crime.

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### Passage B

The room was dim, too. Like the corridor, like the butler, like the night. Thick damask curtains hid what might have been windows; subdued lighting trickled down from small panels set into the ceiling.

*from* “Invitation to a Murder,” p. 126

### Tentative Statement

Mysteries feature a victim, a motive for a crime, and a setting that provides a suitable mood.

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### Passage C

Occasionally one of the detectives asked her another question. Sometimes Jack Noonan spoke at her gently as he passed by. Her husband, he told her, had been killed by a blow on the back of the head administered with a heavy blunt instrument, almost certainly a large piece of metal. They were looking for the weapon. The murderer may have

*continued*

### Tentative Statement

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taken it with him, but on the other hand he may've thrown it away or hidden it somewhere on the premises.

from "Lamb to the Slaughter," p. 117

**Tentative  
Statement**

Create a **synthesis statement** describing mystery stories.

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