

Clue by Clue: Murder of a Millionaire

[Clue by Clue: Murder of a Millionaire](#) is one of my favorite mystery activities. It's an original mystery reminiscent of Agatha Christie. A wealthy businessman having a dinner party at his country house is found murdered. The catch? The room was locked from the inside!

Who did it?

His wife, who found out he was cheating on her? The secretive maid? His own business partner? You give the students the clues one by one. By the end, they have all the information they need to solve it.

Murder of a Millionaire is the longest [Clue By Clue](#), with 22 clues. As with all clue by clue mysteries, students are given the situation to analyze. They are then given the clue cards, one at a time. In pairs or small groups, students analyze each clue to try to decide if it's relevant or irrelevant and what it means. It's a great way for students to practice critical thinking skills, such as evaluating evidence, synthesizing information from different clues, and also telling truth from lie and fact from opinion. (Check out my post on [Why short mysteries make awesome critical thinking activities](#) for more and a list of all my clue by clue activities).

Previews

Murder of a Millionaire

The Situation

Mr. James Mulligan, millionaire and CEO of Telecom, Inc., a multi-billion dollar telecommunications company was found dead in his private office in his home at 8:20pm last night.

The guests were:

- Brian
- Sarah,

Hints

- Who benefited
- Who did the
- Who benefited
- Did the bar

The Solution

The teacher's sheet contains the situation, hints, the solution, and follow-up discussion questions

The Teacher Sheet with the Situation, Hints and the Solution.

The Clues

1) Mr. Mulligan collected old weapons and kept them on his office wall. One sword was missing when he was found.

2) Dinner ended at 7:30pm, at which point Sarah went out to the balcony to watch the shooting stars. Sarah went to the kitchen to wash the dishes and she stayed there until 8:15pm when she heard the loud crash. She came running to see what had happened.

3) At 7:35pm, Mr. Mulligan and Mrs. Mulligan went to the office saying they had some private business. They went directly to the office.

4) The last person to see Mr. Mulligan was the secretary. She saw him go into the bathroom. After 10 minutes she heard the door and shouting for Mr. Mulligan.

5) The police found a note on the desk. It said, "I'm sorry, James and I have been seeing each other. I'm leaving you and it tonight. Please forgive me..."

6) Dinner had been served at 7:15pm. Mrs. Mulligan. After 15 minutes, the lights went out and the door was red.

7) The missing sword was found in the office and Mrs. Mulligan was the only person there.

8) Sarah told the police that she saw Mrs. Mulligan in the office. She may have another woman. Sarah said, "If I ever find out, I'll tell you."

Can your students use the clues to figure out what happened?

One page of the clues to cut out and give to the students one by one.

Download Murder of a Millionaire

So, head over to my Teachers Pay Teachers Store to [purchase Clue by Clue: Murder of a Millionaire](#) Mystery Activity!

Or check out the other [Clue by Clue Mystery Activities](#).

You can also visit my ever-growing section of [mystery activities and lesson plans](#) for other classroom resources, including a graphic organizer and story cards to help students write their own mysteries.