

“A Mystery”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



“Something is very wrong,” says the detective.

“I know!” says Ms. Gervis. “It is wrong that someone has stolen from me!”

The detective looks around Ms. Gervis’ apartment. “That is not what I am talking about ma’am. What is wrong is that I do not understand how the robber got in and out.”

Ms. Gervis and the detective stand in silence. Ms. Gervis is upset.

“The robber did not come through the window,” says the detective. “These windows have not been open or shut in months.”

The detective looks at the fireplace. “The robber did not squeeze down here.”

The detective walks to the front door. He examines the latch. “And the robber **definitely** did not use the front door.”

“I have no idea how he did it,” says a bothered Ms. Gervis. “It is a big **mystery**.”

“And you say the robber stole nothing else?” asks the detective. “No money, no jewelry, no crystal?”

“That’s right, detective. He took only what was important to me,” Ms. Gervis says with a sigh. “There is only one thing I can do now.”

“And what is that?” the detective asks with surprise.

“I will stop baking cakes,” Ms. Gervis says. “They are mine to give away. They are not for someone to steal.”

“You can’t do that!” says the detective with **alarm**. “Who will bake those delicious cakes?”

“I am sorry. I do not know,” says Ms. Gervis.

“I must solve this case **immediately!**” says the detective.

Questions:

- 1) Where does this story take place?
- A. in a bakery
 - B. at the police station
 - C. in Ms. Gervis' house
 - D. in Ms. Gervis' apartment
- 2) If Ms. Gervis is upset, which best describes how she would look?
- A. She might smile a lot.
 - B. Her eyes might be teary.
 - C. Her clothes might be dirty.
 - D. She might be sitting down.
- 3) What makes the detective sure that the robber did not come through the window?
- A. The windows are locked.
 - B. The window faces the police station.
 - C. The windows have not been used in months.
 - D. The windows are too small for a person to fit through.
- 4) "And the robber **definitely** did not use the front door." Choose the best way to rewrite this sentence.
- A. "And the robber may not have used the front door."
 - B. "And the robber probably did not use the front door."
 - C. "And the robber was not able to use the front door."
 - D. "And the robber certainly did not use the front door."
- 5) Which questions should the detective have asked about the front door?
- ▼ Check all that are correct.
- A. Is the door old?
 - B. Is the door made of wood?
 - C. Does someone else have a key?
 - D. Does Ms. Gervis leave the door unlocked?
- 6) What does Ms. Gervis do with her cakes?
- A. eats them
 - B. sells them
 - C. hides them
 - D. gives them away
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Questions (continued):

- 7) What does the detective seem to think will happen if he solves the mystery?
- A. Ms. Gervis will start baking cakes again.
 - B. Ms. Gervis will bake him extra cakes.
 - C. Ms. Gervis will give him her secret recipe.
 - D. Ms. Gervis will give him money and jewels.

- 8) What is a **mystery**?
- A. something that is wrong
 - B. something that happens at night
 - C. something a robber leaves behind
 - D. something that cannot be explained

- 9) What else was stolen from the apartment?
- A. crystal
 - B. jewelry
 - C. money
 - D. nothing

- 10) If something is said with **alarm**, how is it said?
- A. with fear and panic
 - B. with bells and whistles
 - C. with smiles and laughter
 - D. with sadness and tears

Do you like mysteries? What is your favorite kind of story? Explain.
