

YEAR 8 FORENSIC SCIENCE

“The body in the library”

Scenario

A body is found in the library at the end of Period 4 on Tuesday. It is a Year 9 boy who has been hit on the head with a blunt instrument. The body is discovered by Mrs O’Connell in the Fiction area. A coroner’s report puts time of death at recess/Period 3.

The murderer is Mrs Mary Rudolph. In a fit of rage, she has killed the student for not returning an overdue book. There are two other prime suspects: Mr Fergus Stewart, the Yr 9 Co-ordinator, who is annoyed by the behaviour of the student, and Jack, the boy’s friend, who had a fight with the victim.

Murderer	Mrs Morony
Key suspects	Mr Smith Jack, Yr 9
Witnesses	library staff other boys

EVIDENCE	DETAILS	FORENSIC WORKBOOK LINKS
1. Crime scene		
Murder weapon	metal bookend with fake blood, hair and fingerprints This will be hidden on a library bookshelf near the body (probably in the mystery/suspense section as Mrs Rudolph has a sense of humour)	fingerprints DNA – blood DNA - hair
Blood spatter	blood droplets near orange lounge chair	DNA – blood
Books and note	victim’s books with the overdue notice placed inside a book	
Post-it note	handwritten post-it “meet me in the library” Red herring! Actually from another student	handwriting - check against suspects
Footprints	We will print out different types and place near body outline – only one women’s shoe (since the carpet gets vacuumed each morning)	footprints – check against suspects
Diary	belonging to a Yr 11 student , placed under a nearby chair. Red herring!	facts – check his alibi
Jumper fibres	fibres from Joeys jumpers	fibres
Scarf fibres	fibres from a scarf belonging to Mrs Rudolph	fibres
2. Security footage		
	We will set this up from the bag room of the Resources Centre and get from Gary Evans or else film it.	security images
Mrs Morony	seen giving the victim a letter/note before school	determines key suspect
Mr Smith	seen chastising the victim before Period 2	“
Jack	seen physically wrestling with victim at recess	“
3. Witness written statements		
Mrs O’Connell	her statement on discovering the body: body was warm and soft	check alibi, and cross-check with medical report
Mr Smith	his written statement and alibi	check facts

4. Interviews		
library staff	Miss Hill – remembers seeing Mrs Rudolph in fiction area in recess or Period 3	interviews and body language
	Ms Reim – recalls seeing Max enter the library to get a book	
	Ms Gillespie – on the telephone	
	Mrs O’Connell – was in a meeting	
	Mr Gleeson – in the hall (actually having a coffee in staff room)	lying
	Mr Saysin – in AV area with headphones on	
Jack (student)	lies during interview because of fighting with Max	lying
5. Other information		
Coroner’s report	death caused by blow to temple also found other bruising on upper arms (from fighting)	
Bookit Reservation System	what classes were in the library at the time of death? was anyone in the Fiction area?	checking facts