

TEXT	'MISSING: PAGE THIRTEEN' from <i>THE GOLDEN SLIPPER, AND OTHER PROBLEMS FOR VIOLET STRANGE</i> (1915)
AUTHOR	Anna Katherine Green
THEMES	Houses and homes (unit 4), film (unit 12), life experiences (unit 13)
VOCABULARY	Crime, trying to explain and solve a problem
WRITING	Students write an invitation.
SPEAKING	Students present an invention to their group.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Anna Katharine Green (1846–1935) was an American poet and novelist (see portrait on the Worksheet). She was one of the first writers of detective fiction in America. Her stories are skillfully plotted and she emphasises legal accuracy. Although Green has been called 'the mother of the detective novel' she remains largely unknown. The reasons for this are mainly due to publishing practices. Many women writers produced excellent detective fiction in the late 19th and early 20th century. However, most of this writing appeared in magazines. Writers became better known and recognised once their work appeared in anthologies. But as most publishers and editors were men, there was a strong tendency to only include male writers. Anthologies therefore created a distorted picture of the work being produced at the time. Fortunately, writers like Anna Katherine Green are now being republished and appreciated as innovative writers of detective fiction.

WARMER

Find a film trailer of a typical 'country house' detective story – an Agatha Christie story, for example – like her novel *Murder on The Orient Express* which was made into a film in 2017. Check students understand the words *detective* and *private detective* as these appear in the worksheet questions. Watch the trailer(s) with the students and talk about the characters they see – are they old, young, rich, poor, beautiful, etc? What is the crime? (There are several topic-related words you might have to define during these activities, as students are almost certain to want to use words like *suspect*, *guilty* and *innocent*, so you might create a vocabulary list to deal with emerging vocabulary.)

ABOUT YOU

The questions build on the Warmer by asking students to think about detective stories or learn a little more about the genre. You could point out that police investigation films and TV series are the modern equivalent of the kind of detective stories written a hundred years ago.

Go through the introduction and establish the situation and characters.

- 1 Students read the text and discuss the question. Ask for suggestions and ideas about who might have taken the page and why. You could take a class vote on whether or not Mr Cornell took the page as he is the most likely suspect.

2

Possible answers

- 1 Because the room is bare and there's nowhere to hide it.
- 2 She thinks someone in the room has the paper.
- 3 Because he was reading it when he fell asleep.
- 4 Ask for suggestions. You might want to establish that he has a reason to steal the paper. Does this make him the one who took it?

VOCABULARY

3

Answers

- 1 bare
- 2 discovery
- 3 doubt
- 4 copies

4

Answers

- 1 E
- 2 D
- 3 A
- 4 C
- 5 B

WRITING

- 5 Using the prompts, students write their invitations. They can also illustrate them if they wish.

SPEAKING

- 6 This is a very simple version of a 'balloon debate' activity. First of all, elicit the difference between a *discovery* and an *invention*. Allocate each student an invention – *the internet, electricity, antibiotics, the wheel, the washing machine, the telephone*, etc. They spend some time thinking about what they are going to say. You could write some aspects for them to think about: How does it make life easier/healthier/better? How has it changed the way people live? What can people do with this invention that they couldn't do before?

MIXED ABILITY

There are several ways of combining mixed ability students with this activity. One is to give stronger students more difficult topics to present (*the washing machine/the microscope*) and weaker students the easier (*electricity/antibiotics*). Another is to pair weaker and stronger students, but insist that both speak during the presentation.