

Find the thief!

Communicating – Empathy and Language

Purpose

To improve investigative skills.

Age range (years)



Subjects

English, Drama,
Psychology



Background

Spies often have to keep secrets or conceal their motives. They also have to uncover other people's secrets.

Steps

1. Warm up with this game about spotting lies:
Students form a circle. One by one students say three things about themselves, one of which is a lie. The others guess which is the lie, saying why.
2. Use the scenario (on page 2) to play 'Find the thief'. Give three students the roles of suspects, using the details given on page 3.
3. The three are sat together while the rest of the class adopt the role of detectives. They must interrogate the three students who are playing roles. Can they expose the thief?
4. After the class has reached a decision the real thief reveals their identity.

Discussion

- If the thief was exposed what gave them away?

- If the thief kept their cover, how was this achieved?
- Ask the thief: 'what was it like lying to the detectives?'
- Ask the detectives: 'how did it feel, knowing you were being lied to?'

Broaden the discussion:

- Is it ever OK to lie?
- Why might spies need to lie?

Extension

Develop drama scenes where characters want to keep secrets. Examples might include:

- You have won so much money you need never work again! Now go to work as normal...
- You have just passed your exams and can go to the best college/school. But your best friend didn't get in...
- You have secretly spent some of your birthday money on a new game your parents disapprove of. Your mother offers to take you shopping to spend your birthday money...

From the World news:

Jewellery Theft!

By Josie Bowen, Celebrity correspondent

A large stash of jewels has been stolen from the UK's most famous (and some would say most annoying) screen icon while they spent the night at a top London hotel.

The thief, disguising themselves as a hotel employee, pretended to deliver room service. But when the door was opened, they pulled their victim out into the hallway, quickly stepped into the room and locked the door behind them. By the time staff managed to gain entrance to the exclusive suite, the thief was long gone.

In a sad testament to the arrogance of the victim (who we cannot name for legal reasons) the star in question cannot remember if the thief was male or female! Apparently they 'never pay much attention to servants'.



The fashionable hotel where the theft occurred



This priceless sapphire is rumoured to be amongst the many jewels taken

Jewellery theft – role cards

SAEED DARABI

Aged 35. You are a cinema projectionist, living alone in a small flat. You love films, especially 1960's crime movies, and it is possible you might want to act out one of them!

Your alibi:

On the night of the robbery, you were screening an old film, *To Catch a Thief*, which lasted around two hours. Other staff saw you arrive but not what time you left.

Remember: stay in role!

MARY WHITE

Aged 22. You are a Media Studies student at University, sharing a flat with three others. You are very keen to make a career in film or television.

Your alibi:

On the night of the robbery, you were having a drink with a friend in the hotel bar, hoping to catch sight of the film star and somehow further your career.

The bar staff served you several drinks.

Remember: stay in role!

JOSEPH JONES

Aged 42. You work for a large international bank in London and live with your wife and three children. All three go to private school. You have two cars and recently bought a new big house.

Your alibi:

On the night of the robbery, you spent half the evening at home, then went swimming at the sports club. You have an entry ticket to the club to prove it – although the time on it may not fit with your story.

You are the thief! Your motive for the robbery is money!

Remember: stay in role!