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The Mystery of the Missing Mummy

Narrative

Warm up Questions:

- What features tell us that this is part of a play script? (stage directions in brackets, speakers all on left hand side of the page, no speech marks....) Give examples from the text.
- How many actors are needed for this part of the play? (three)
- Who are the characters they would play?
 (P.C. Williams, Professor Lamb, Inspector Moors)
- Where is this scene set? (the museum)
- Show what time the scene is set on a clock. (midnight)

Main Questions:

- 1. Draw what the weather is like outside. (thunderstorm)
- 2. What time did the professor lock the museum? (10pm)
- 3. How do you know 'Bill' was not really a cleaner? (he didn't clean the place there was dust and the mop and bucket were dry)
- 4. What does P.C. Williams think has happened to the real cleaner? How do you know? (she sends for an ambulance)
- 5. Was it well-known that the mummy was going to be at the museum that night? (yes. 'It was in all the newspapers')
- 6. Had the Inspector read the newspaper the night before? (no)
- 7. Are the museum lights on? (no)
- 8. Why do you think the museum alarm did not go off? (the electricity was off)
- How do we know that Professor Lamb didn't steal the mummy? (the size of footprints did not match his feet)
- 10. Does the inspector believe only one person stole the mummy? (no, two sets of footprints, uses the word 'thieves')

Deductive

Essential Vocabulary:

- What part of the play uses alliteration? (the title)
- Why do you think the word 'new' is in italics? (to emphasise the word)
- Find two words Professor Lamb uses instead of 'man'. ('chap', 'fellow')
- Find a stage direction that tells us P.C. Williams leaves the stage. (P.C. Williams exits holding a phone to her ear)
- What word tells us that the mummy was the most important exhibit in the museum? (prize)
- Find a word the Professor uses that means 'silly'. ('ridiculous', 'stupid') How would you say this? Show your teacher.

Evaluative Questions:

- Do you think this scene is near the start, middle or end of the play? Why?
- Why do you think the playwright has placed this scene at midnight and in the middle of a storm?
- Make a list of the stage directions in brackets. Act them out!
- Read the last sentence in this scene. What do you think it means?

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MUMMY

A crash of thunder is heard and a bolt of lightning lights up the room. A clock strikes 12 in the distance.

Professor Lamb: What do you mean it's disappeared? It was here two hours ago when I locked up. All the visitors

had left the museum. I made sure of it myself. There was only the new cleaner and myself here.

Inspector Moors: The new cleaner?

Professor Lamb: Yes, our usual cleaner had phoned in sick so we had a new chap come in. I forget his name. Bill I

think it was, quite a small fellow really. You don't think.....?

P.C. Williams: By the look of the dust on the cabinets and the dry mop and bucket over in the corner, I guess

he wasn't here to spruce the place up.

Inspector Moors: P.C. Williams, go round to the cleaner's home would you and check if he's still...er...sick.

P.C. Williams: Certainly Inspector. Should I phone an ambulance to meet me there?

Inspector Moors: Best had. [P.C. Williams exits holding a phone to her ear] Now Professor, exactly how long have

you had this mummy?

Professor Lamb: Not long. Tonight was our opening night. It was in all the newspapers. The mummy was to be

our prize exhibit. Didn't you read about it?

Inspector Moors: I'm a very busy man professor.

Professor Lamb: [scratching his head] I wonder why the alarm never went off.

Inspector Moors: For the same reason we're stood here in the dark holding torches. By the way, what size shoes

do you wear professor?

Professor Lamb: What a ridiculous question! Why on earth do you wish to know my shoe size? [*Inspector Moors raises his eyebrows*] Size nine if you must know.

Inspector Moors: [Pulling a tape measure from his pocket, he walks to a muddy set of footprints] Mmm, size seven. And look here. Another set, size five. And they're both heading towards the fire exit. [The Inspector begins to stroke his chin] It looks like our thieves have left us a trail of breadcrumbs after all.







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A crash of thunder is heard and a bolt of lightning lights up the room. A clock strikes 12 in the distance.

Professor Lamb: What do you mean it's gone? It was here two hours ago when I locked up. Everyone

had left the museum. There was only the new cleaner and myself here.

Inspector Moors: The new cleaner?

Professor Lamb: Yes, our normal cleaner phoned in sick so we had a new chap. I forget his name. Bill I

think it was, quite a small fellow really. You don't think.....?

By the look of the dust and the dry mop and bucket over there, I don't think he was P.C. Williams:

here to clean, do you?

Inspector Moors: P.C. William, go round to the cleaner's home would you and check if he's

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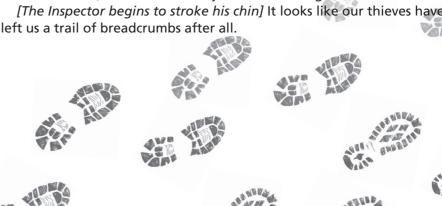
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