

The Characters

There are 16 characters to choose from.

- Show your students the QR code.
- Explain the party invitation, and ask them to click the text below to accept it.
- Assign each student one character.
- They will access their character by clicking the link.

You must assign extra characters in the order given to have even group sizes at the investigation stage.

Essential	Extra
Frank Ferguson Hank Brindle Baby Ray Ferguson Robin Ferguson Lady Joan Ferguson Fletcher Morris Pepper Pink Harry Pink	1. Oliver Brooks 2. Ethan Lee 3. Claire Gold 4. Hannah Ward 5. Veronica Shaw 6. Liam Rodriguez 7. Sophia Belle 8. Rick Danger

Mingle

- The students read their character profile and look at any photos that may be included.
- When ready, they should mingle and meet EVERYBODY at the party.
- **It is extremely important that students share any information that their profile tells them to share. This will be needed in order to crack phone passcodes later. See “Investigation” below.**



Announcement

- Announce that Howard Ferguson has been murdered.
- Instruct students to click the character name. **See phone image to the right.**
- This will tell them if they are the murderer or not and give them some instructions to form groups.

Evidence

- Students should now be in four groups. They will do this themselves as per their phone instructions.
- Each of the four groups will have a **phone** and a **crime scene image**. They will need to crack the phone's passcode.

Howards Phone - The passcode is 3110. This is Howard's birthday.

Pepper's Phone - The passcode is 1611. This is the release date for her three new movies.

Fletcher's Phone - The passcode is 1013. This is from the title of one of his new movies “Special Agent 1013”.

Frank's phone - The passcode is 2606. This is his dog's birthday.

You can either choose to give them hints or, if you wish, allow them to mingle again and try to get the information to open the phones.

Investigation

Students must now work together in their groups, read and listen to all the information on the phone, and explore the crime scene image for clues.

When they are ready, allow them to mingle again. There are many suspects. The solution is far from simple, and it is important that students do not jump to any conclusions.

They must share what they have learned with other groups and try to get more information.

Once all theories have been shared, you can bring the class together and take a vote on who they think is the killer.

If you like, review any evidence that they may have missed before wrapping up the lesson.

Overview

The murder mystery revolves around the sudden death of Howard Ferguson, a famous movie director. Howard is found dead at his lavish party, and many of the guests have a motive to see him gone.

Howard was poisoned. The poison was mixed into his drink at the party. A note written on the map on the wall at the crime scene reads, “She should be with me,” adding to the mystery.

The Killer and Motive

Frank Ferguson, Howard’s brother, is the killer. Frank killed Howard because Howard ran over and killed Frank’s beloved dog, Pippy, one week before the party. This was an accident, but something Howard never admitted to, causing Frank to seek revenge.

Timeline - Dog’s Death

A report from a private investigator can be found on Frank’s phone. It follows Howard’s movements on 24 October.

On 24 October, Howard Ferguson took his car to a local garage for some electrical repairs. He dropped it off and returned to his home by taxi at 3:20 PM.

Here he borrowed the car of his full time bartender, Hank Brindle.

At the same time, Pippy (Frank’s dog), escaped from Frank’s back garden and ran to Howard’s house.

When leaving his home in Hank’s car, Howard accidentally hit and killed the dog. Hank saw him putting Pippy in the car, but didn’t know what had happened.

Howard then drove to Tamarind Avenue, where Frank lives, and dropped the body of the dog on the road for Frank to find later.

There are many other motives to kill Howard amongst the other characters. They are simply distractions. Only students that really pay attention and share information between groups will have a chance of solving the murder.

Groups

During the investigation phase, students will be put in groups and each group will have a different phone to analyse.

Howard's Phone	Pepper's Phone	Fletcher's Phone	Frank's Phone
Fletcher Morris Lady Ferguson Oliver Brooks* Veronica Shaw*	Frank Ferguson Hank Brindle Ethan Lee* Liam Rodriguez*	Baby Ray Ferguson Robin Ferguson Caire Gold* Sophia Belle*	Pepper Pink Harry Pink Hannah Ward* Rick Danger*

*Extra non-essential characters

Key Clues Leading to Frank

Text Messages

- Text message conversations between Frank and Hank Brindle, and Frank and his brother Howard, mention that Hank has seen Howard with Pippy. Frank then realises Pippy is missing and asks Howard if he has her. Howard denies this. Hank thinks he may have made a mistake.

Voice Messages

- A voice message from Hank Brindle, on Frank's phone, mentions that Hank will make him a "Salty Dog" if he comes to the party. This is Frank's favourite cocktail, and the ingredients for the cocktail can be seen on the bar, above Howard's dead body, in the crime scene image.
- Another voicemail, from Sarah, a grief counsellor, mentions "everything else that has happened since" the loss of his mother, as well as being "sorry for your losses". Subtle, but a clue to the fact that more than one loss has happened to Frank recently.
- A voicemail from Sam (FWF) is a follow up to a funeral "yesterday". The message is dated 27/10. An email on Howard's phone records the date of their mother's funeral as 20/10.

Emails

- Funeral Receipt: Frank's emails contain one from "Fair Well Funerals", which is a feedback email related to the funeral of Frank's recently departed mother. There is also an email with a bill. While it may appear to be for the same funeral, it is actually from "Fur Well Funerals", a pet funeral company.
- Frank's boss: an email from Frank's boss suggests that he has been away from work longer than agreed, perhaps something else other than his mother's death has occurred?
- Private Investigator: An email from a private investigator with a report of Howard's movements on 24th October. This document will almost certainly alert students to another intrigue (see below). It also shows that Howard took his car to a garage for repairs. It also mentions that he took an unknown vehicle after dropping off his car to the garage. This car belongs to his barman, Hank Brindle. It was this car that he hit Pippy with. It also mentions that Howard stopped briefly at "Tamarind Avenue", which is where Frank lives. This stop was to drop off the body of Pippy. Frank's address can be seen on the bill he received from "Fur Well Funerals" in his emails.

Image Gallery

- In Frank's image gallery there are a number of photos of Pippy. In many of these, she is wearing tartan bandana around her neck. The same bandana is under the gin bottle on the bar in the crime scene image.

On Fletcher's phone

- Fletcher's phone contains a text message conversation with Hank Brindle. Fletcher buys Hank's car, the same one Howard was driving when he ran over Pippy. Fletcher mentions a broken headlight and dog hair in the back.
- In a voicemail on Fletcher's phone, Hank apologises for not cleaning the car before selling it to him. He says that he didn't have enough time after Howard borrowed it.

Other Secrets & Suspects

There are many other secrets and motives to kill Howard amongst the other characters and clues to them can be found in multiple messages throughout the different phones. Here is an overview of the secrets.

If you want to read everything, you can look through each phone on our website at www.english-able.com/murder-mystery.

- **Fletcher Morris is having an affair with Lady Ferguson.** He is in love with her. She may not be so invested. The crime scene message “She should be with me” will point strongly at Fletcher. Fletcher also has an email receipt for some medication which could be used to kill Howard.
- **Pepper Pink is having an affair with Howard Ferguson and is planning to leave her husband so they can be together.** Again “She should be with me” will point strongly at her husband Harry.
- **Howard has recently sold Baby Ray’s favourite horse, Lucky.** Baby Ray is furious about this, meaning “She should be with me” could subtly point in her direction.
- **Howard is planning to replace Robin in the family band, ‘Candy.’** Robin is angry and has been talking about how his sister belongs with him... “She should be with me”

Innocence

Fletcher Morris

This note is in Fletcher’s notes app.

- “Revenge” is a movie that Fletcher is being considered for. This suggests that Fletcher wants to work with Howard in the future, so it is unlikely that he killed him.
- Also, the medication that Fletcher ordered online has not yet had enough time to be delivered.

Ready for Revenge
Howard needs to know
show him tonight

Harry Pink

- This note is in Pepper Pink’s notes app. It suggests that Harry also wants a part in the movie “Revenge” and that perhaps they will not reveal their affair at the party.
- More importantly, Howard was poisoned, suggesting a planned murder. Harry would not have been able to kill Howard in this way.

Maybe delay telling tonight
Harry REALLY wants to get Revenge
BR asked to talk to Howard about
Lucky - get back?

Baby Ray Ferguson

The above message also suggests that Baby Ray (BR), wants to negotiate to get Lucky back. This would suggest she is not planning anything drastic.

Maybe delay telling tonight
Harry REALLY wants to get Revenge
BR asked to talk to Howard about
Lucky - get back?

Robin Ferguson

This note is in Howard’s notes app. It suggests that they have discussed things and Howard has agreed to talk to Robin on Monday. Therefore Robin is not going to kill him.

New meeting Monday - Robin to
negotiate guitar player position

The crime scene image has a number of clues in it. Admittedly, many of these clues are extremely obscure, and really just for fun.

You could give your class hints to help them if you want to, otherwise just let it be a mystery.

You can choose to reveal some, or all, of them at the end of the lesson once the murderer has been unmasked.



The Drink

On the bar, are the ingredients for a “Salty Dog”. In a voicemail, Hank tells Frank that he will make him a “Salty Dog”. Hank has a cocktail menu with these ingredients.



The Bandana

In Frank’s image gallery there are lots of photos of Pippy. In many of these, she is wearing a tartan bandana round her neck. The same bandana is under the gin bottle on the bar in the crime scene image.

The Message

“She should be with me” could refer to many characters, but it actually refers to Frank missing his dog Pippy.



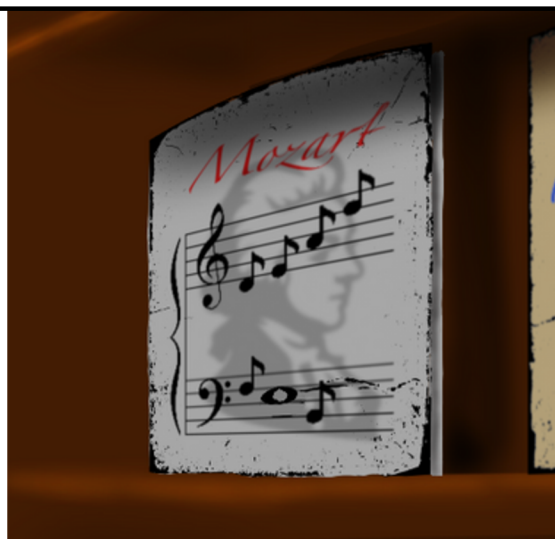
Morse Code

The dots and dashes on the books on the top shelf spell “4PP” in Morse code. This is short for “For Pippy”, although could also be misconstrued as “For Pepper Pink”.



Mozart

If you have any musicians in your class, they may spot that the notes on the Mozart record on the shelf spell “Dead Dog”. We cheated by using a whole note to represent an “O”.



The Gronsfield Cipher - (Sorry, this one is a bit crazy)

A record on the wall says “The Gronsfield Cipher”. Frank also has a note on his phone to return a “Gronsfield” book to the library. The Gronsfield Cipher is a code which uses numbers and a keyword.

- The balls on the pool table have the numbers 3-6-5-4-9.
- Below the “She should be with me” message, the killer circled “s” for “South”.
- Imagine A=1, B=2, C=3 etc

Use the letters of the word “SOUTH”: S = 19, O = 15, U = 21, T = 20, H = 8

Now remove the above numbers from those:

19-3 = 16(P), 15-6 = 9(I), 21 - 5 = 16(P), 20-4 = 16(P), 8-9 = -1(Y)

When applied to alphabet again, these new numbers spell “PIPPY”.

