

# SMART™ Lesson

## Mystery and Suspense: Predicting Outcomes

Mystery and suspense are common themes in literature. They keep readers on their toes and keep them engaged. As we read through mystery and suspense novels, we start to develop ideas of what might happen next.

### Predicting Outcomes

Predicting outcomes is the process of making informed guesses about what might happen next in a story. It involves closely reading the text and paying attention to clues that the author has left for us.

### Clues in the Text

There are several clues that authors leave that can help us predict what might happen next in a story. These clues include:

- Character actions and behavior
- Descriptions of setting
- Dialogue between characters
- Suspenseful foreshadowing

### Example

Let's take a look at an example of how we can use clues in the text to predict outcomes.

*As Jane walked through the dark alley, she couldn't shake the feeling that she was being followed. Her heart raced as she quickened her pace, her high heels clicking loudly against the pavement. Suddenly, a shadowy figure emerged from behind the garbage cans and grabbed her arm.*

Based on the clues in the text, we can predict that Jane is about to be in danger.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is predicting outcomes?
2. What clues can authors leave in the text to help us predict what might happen next?
3. Use the text above as an example, and predict what might happen next in the story.
4. Can you think of any other examples of predicting outcomes in literature?

