Small-Room Mystery Party Kit

Prepare, host and trial The Missing Story Star



A practical parent guide for six children aged 8-10 working together in one living room. Plan the space, prepare the paper game, support participation and record a genuine trial. This edition has not yet had a human use test.

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Make One Shared Area Work

Walk through the actual room with the planned furniture in place. Identify a shared work surface, six usable positions and an adult position from which the page and children are visible. Count the space occupied by chairs and people, not just the empty tabletop. The adult needs somewhere separate to keep the host book and unreleased pages. If everyone cannot see or reach the shared work, change the seating or use supported passing before committing to that layout.

Keep normal access to the door, toilet and agreed break place. Remove unrelated clutter and put household items that should not be handled out of the activity area. Do not turn cupboards, sockets, stairs, windows or furniture into clues. No one needs to climb, crawl behind a sofa or investigate another room. State these boundaries in ordinary words at the start. The story happens on the paper; the room does not conceal an extra secret.

Test the setup from each child's position using a real printed page. Can the host show the relevant area without covering another clue? Can a child pass a sheet without reaching across somebody else's body? Move the current page to an accessible position when necessary. Keep the future-stage pile facing the adult, not under the children's work. Put completed material in its own folder or tray so that two different stage instructions do not compete for attention.

Choose a nearby break option that the responsible adult can manage. One adult is the scenario's host, not a universal supervision ratio or a promise that one person can meet every group's needs. Agree additional support beforehand where needed. If an unexpected household task takes the host away, pause the game rather than leaving children to open the remaining materials. Worksheet 2 includes a room sketch and a check from all six positions; use the sketch to find a workable arrangement, not to create decorative scenery.

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Worksheet 2: Room and Setup Check

Draw the actual arrangement. Mark six positions, the adult, current work, unreleased stages, completed material, finale storage and the route to the door. The room contains no hidden clues.

Room sketch: shared surface, sightlines, storage and normal access

[ ] Tested a printed page from all six positions.

[ ] Agreed how pages or pieces will be passed or repositioned.

[ ] Door access and the agreed break arrangement remain usable.

[ ] Host answers and finale remain adult-held; future material is separate.

One adjustment still needed and who will check it

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