# Macavity the Mystery Cat







Match Crimes and Alibis

Invent New Cat Crimes



## Macavity the Mystery Cat

Produced by Melanie Hart at Morpeth School in London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 1987. It has proved a very popular activity so we are pleased to be able to provide it online. As promised we have now begun to put the original drawings on the activity and I hope this will encourage you try it out. When we updated this we discovered two typos which had been lurking for thirty years! Is this a record?

The webaddress for this activity is: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org/macavity.pdf> Last updated 25th March 2017

#### **Basic principles:**

1. Build on prior knowledge.

2. Move from concrete to abstract.

3. Ensure everyone works with everyone else.

4. Extend social language into curriculum language.

5. Provide motivating ways to go over the same knowledge more than once.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages. 17, Barford Street, Islington, London NI OQB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885 Website: http://www.collaborativelearning.org

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences worldwide. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. Our online newsletter is also updated regularly.

\*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening . They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening.

\*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

\*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

\*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

\*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

\*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

## Macavity the Mystery Cat

Teachers' Notes

### 1. Make your own Mystery

We have left space on the cards for your artistic efforts and other items.

### 2. Paws Pairs

There are probably more cards here than you need for a pairs game, but we have matched crime and alibi so you can easily divide the set between two groups. We have provided blank cards for students to produce their own versions.

## Macavity the Mystery Cat

Make your own Mystery!

Work in groups.

Look at the Cards.

Some cards have pictures of things a thief might find useful. Some cards have pictures of things a police detective might need. Some cards have pictures of things a thief might steal. Can you sort them out?

Now choose some of the cards to make a story: e.g. " A thief wearing a mask used skeleton keys to steal the number 8 bus.."

Prepare your story to tell to other groups.



## Macavity the Mystery Cat Make your own Mystery Cards



http://www.collaborativelearning.org/macavity.pdf

# Macavity the Mystery Cat Make your own Mystery Cards



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### Macavity the Mystery Cat - Paws Pairs Cards





### Macavity the Mystery Cat - Paws Pairs Blank Cards

Crime Card	Alibi Card
Crime Card	Alibi Card
Crime Card	Alibi Card
Crime Card	Alibi Card

### A. Morpeth Weekly News

Although we have had They want £5000. la few successes with lattendance this term, pawprint. <sup>l</sup>a serious disaster has ruined this record. one of our hundred per cent attenders, David Boggle, has been kidnapped. It happened on Monday morning as David was walking to school at 18.45 (to get to school lon time). Abdul, his friend, said that a ginger cat had been following David. Yesterday his Mum received a ransom note from the kidnappers.

It was signed with a

RAFFLE Buy a school raffle ticket. Funds go to the David Boggle ransom money fund.

SCHOOL FAIR If you have nothing to do on Saturday, why not run a stall at the school's summer fair. Or bring your own Rotweiler or T-bull terrier to compete in the lovely tender doggie competition.

### C. The Daily Excess

Our glorious Queen today is in tears after the theft of the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. How will she cope with only three and a half billion left in her account?

Police think that Macavity is the cat responsible. However, whenever they find him he is doing long division sums. He is probably working out how much money he has stolen from our wonderful Queen. One of l the corgis has also gone missing.

The cat's wicked deeds are widely known. He works with Mungojerrie and Griddlebone. It is no wonder that standards in our country has dropped with such nonpatriotic cats as these.

See inside pages for pictures of our desolate Oueen.

#### Β. The Guardian

The Foreign Office reported today that a treaty signed in 1903 between the USA and Britain has been stolen.

The Prime Minister told M.Ps. that the thief had been "typically selfish".

In London the police said that although a scrap of paper had been found on the stairs, it was only a document on teachers' wages that had been put in the wrong filing cabinet.

The police are sure that it must have been Macavity, because the theft followed the same pattern as the one at the Admiralty. However, with more crimes looming, the police are unable to indict Macavity. As one senior officer stated, "Macavity is never there!"

D.

The Scum Shock Only 20p Horror MACAVITY STRIKES

Macavity the Mystery Cat is on the Warpath again. This vicious beast, aged 12, with ginger hair, is stalking the alleyways of Britain, stopping lawabiding people from being safe in their beds.

Even today, Mr and Mrs Reginald Smythe, loyal Scum readers from Surrey, reported that three pints of best Jersey milk had been ruthlessly stolen from their spotlessly clean front doorstep.

The Scum says that this cannot go on. Depraved criminal cats should be stopped.

The Scum says: "Drown 'em all!!!!!"