

Hidden Treasure

Looking at Letters

This book is about the place of written communication in our lives. The stories explore both formal and informal writing in contemporary and historical contexts. The fiction title is about a letter that contains an unsolved riddle from the past. *Looking at Letters* is an explanation of the history of letter writing and the postal service.



Big Ideas

Using these two titles, your students can explore and make links between the following big ideas:

- Letters are an age-old means of communication.
- Systems for delivering letters have evolved to become more efficient.
- People write to each other for many reasons, both formal and informal.
- There are established conventions for different kinds of communication.
- Electronic communication is replacing handwritten letters.

Fiction

Hidden Treasure

by Pauline Cartwright

Summary

Karen finds a letter in an old book at her grandparents' house. A riddle in the letter takes Karen and her brother Toby on an exciting hunt for treasure from the past.

Features of the Text

- Third-person narrative
- Sequence of events
- Rhyming riddle with clues
- Dialogue

Purpose

Hidden Treasure can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated non-fiction title;
- reading and interpreting riddles;
- making and supporting opinions;
- using prior knowledge.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Ask the students if they have ever been on a treasure hunt. Discuss the things that they found.

- Why do people hide treasure?
- What kinds of things are likely to be hidden?
- Where are some good places for hiding treasure?

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the middle of page 5.

- What have you learnt about these characters?
- What is a riddle? How would you solve one?

The students can now read to the end of page 7.

- Where do you think the treasure is hidden?
- What is the treasure?
- Will it be old or new?
- What do you think it will look like?

Ask the students to read to the end of the story to confirm whether their predictions were correct.



Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 80 to record information about the characters in the story
- write a riddle about imaginary treasure for the rest of the class to solve.