



Hilde Cracks the Case: Hero Dog!

Written by: Hilde Lysiak

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Nine-year-old crime reporter Hilde Lysiak is starring in her very own early chapter book series inspired by news stories Hilde wrote in real life! In this first book, there's been a break-in on Orange Street! Cupcakes have been stolen, and soon a pie goes missing, too. Hilde and her sister/photographer, Izzy, must interview witnesses and follow the clues. Can Hilde crack the case in time to post her news story online?

Lexile: 510

AR Level: 3.4

Author's website: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/authors/hilde-lysiak/>

See also: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/31/books/hilde-lysiak-child-reporter.htm>

Author's twitter: @HildLysiak

Illustrator's website: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/authors/joanne-lew-vriethoff>

Illustrator's twitter: @jlewvriethoff

Book Trailer/Author Interview: <http://oomscholasticblog.com/post/book-trailer-debut-hilde-cracks-case>

Other websites: <https://parade.com/600362/m-b-roberts/10-year-old-reporter-turned-author-hilde-lysiak-blazes-a-brave-trail/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B26jiYJEki4AZHU4ZnhzSziRUE0/view>

Food: lemon cupcakes, oatmeal raisin cookies, cheesecake bites

Nonfiction Companion Titles:

Stoltman, Joan. *Looking for Clues with a Detective.*

Gibbons, Gail. *Deadline!: from News to Newspaper.*

Cook, Deanna. *Baking Class: 50 Fun Recipes Kids Will Love to Bake!*

Kuskowski, Alex. *Cool Cake Mix Cupcakes: Fun & Easy Baking Recipes for Kids!*

Introduction: Display a chart titled “Reporter’s Toolbox” - see p.2 - then review definitions of vocabulary included on chart; read aloud & discuss the introduction found on page 1.

Story Time Activities:

Create a mini crime scene and have students observe/note “clues”

Have students work in small groups and participate in a gallery walk of images noting what they notice/wonder/infer from the images - for example, the image could be an extreme close-up of an insect’s eye or the partial image of a leaf, etc.

Have students write their own news article summary of the case and then compare it to Hilde’s article - found on p.88.

Write a sequel with a new case for Hilde to “crack”.

Detective crafts for kids: <https://www.greenkidcrafts.com/detective/>

Newspaper article template: http://www.classroomfreebies.com/2013/02/student-newspaper-template.html?utm_source=feedburner

Discussion Questions

1. What are the six questions Hilde has to answer in order to write a news story and solve a case? (Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?)
2. Reread the introduction. Why does Hilde create a newspaper for her town? (A big newspaper probably wouldn't hire a kid reporter)
3. Turn to the Reporter's Toolbox on page 2 and find the word *source*. Name a source from the story. What information did he or she give to Hilde? (various)
4. What does Zeus do that makes him a hero? (helps Hilde solve the crime by "stealing" the pie)
5. Think about something interesting that happened at school, at home, or in your neighborhood. Use the newspaper template, link above, to write your own news story.