

perpetrator rush into the room, look around, grab a purse sitting on the teacher's desk, speak one or two words and rush out again. Then ask each student to write a description of the crime, the crime scene and the criminal (including height, weight, clothing, age, gender, sound of voice, etc.). As a group, compare descriptions to show how witnesses can perceive the same incident differently.

“Police Artist” Suspect Sketches

With your class working in pairs, have one student play the witness and the other student a police sketch artist. Ask the witness to describe a suspect from one of the Stevie Diamond mysteries. The sketch artist should try and draw a portrait of the suspect based only on the description. (They should pay special attention to the shape of the face, the hairline, the width of eyes, any distinguishing features, etc.) Display their finished sketches on a Stevie Diamond suspect wall.

Write a Mini-Mystery

Now ask your class to try writing very short mysteries — just one page. Mini-mysteries are like puzzles to solve and they have all the same elements as regular mystery stories. They will need a crime, a suspect, a detective and a couple of clues. A drawing can accompany their stories and clues can be hidden in this illustration as well.

Mystery Radio Play

Mystery stories make exciting radio plays. Working in small groups, have your students rehearse a scene from one of the Stevie Diamond novels for presentation as a “radio broadcast.” When assigning parts, don't forget to include the role of a narrator.

Write a Crime Report

Ask your students to imagine that they are newspaper reporters on the crime beat. Their job is to tell readers about the crime, who's investigating it, who the suspects are and so on. Students should choose one of the Stevie Diamond mysteries, using the early chapters when the crime first happens and Stevie gets involved. Make sure that they include all the facts, answering the five Ws (Who? What? When? Where? Why?).

Design “Stevie” Merchandise

Suppose that Stevie Diamond has become a popular character in a TV series. Ask your students to design spin-off merchandise using Stevie's name and image. In small groups, have them brainstorm a list of “Stevie” products, then pick their three best ideas. Ask them to write up a proposal, including sketches, a brief description of each product and an explanation of why they think each product will sell.

Write a Script

Lots of TV shows are based on stories that come from books, but before a novel can be used on TV, a screenwriter has to adapt it and write a script.

A script is similar to a play: it includes the words the actors will speak, briefly describes the setting and action, and explains what the TV camera will be doing. Ask each student to choose a short, exciting part from a Stevie Diamond novel and turn it into a script for a TV show.

Book Jacket Copy

Have your class think about what should happen to Stevie Diamond in her next mysterious adventure. Following the format of the book jacket copy on the previous stories, ask the students to write the book jacket copy for “their” Stevie Diamond mystery. The copy should be exciting and enticing enough to make others want to read “their book.”

Author Profile

A little Internet research will uncover a treasure chest of information about author Linda Bailey. Invite your students to write an author profile, in their own words, using information gathered from Web sites. They can use a Q&A format, magazine article format or book jacket copy format. Students should include facts about Bailey's life, information on how she became a writer and the names of her books. Ask them to add a photo or drawing to their profile.

**For additional information about the Stevie Diamond series,
please visit us at www.kidscanpress.com.**



Writing Book Reports

Ask each student to pick a Stevie Diamond novel and write a short book report explaining what it's about and why they would or wouldn't recommend it. Each book report should include the following:

Student's name _____

Novel's title _____

Author _____

The crime _____

The funniest part _____

The scariest part _____

The weirdest suspect _____

Stevie's smartest / most foolish move _____

Best reason to read/not to read this book _____
