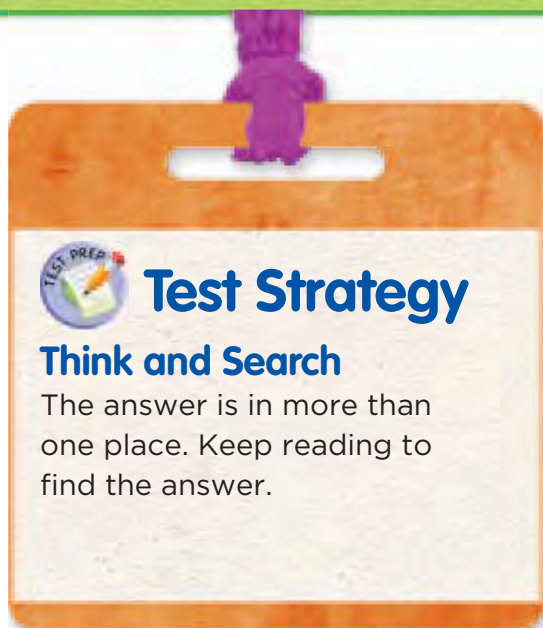


Answer Questions



EDDIE: (*voiceover*) It was midnight. Just when I was expecting to get some shut-eye, I got the call instead about a stolen ruby, a museum, and a four thousand-year-old mummy. My name is Eddie Grimes, and I solve crimes.

(*Sounds: Crowds, cameras snapping.*)

EDDIE: (*voiceover*) I showed up at the crime scene and found my good friend Sergeant Tommy Drake of the Victory City Police Department. The museum had reporters crawling all over it.

DRAKE: What can I do for you, Grimes?

EDDIE: Tell me what you know about this ruby business.

DRAKE: It's the Isis Ruby. It's been stolen. The ruby is a rare gem on loan from a London museum. The place was locked. There are guards on every door. Nobody could get in or out after closing.

EDDIE: You're wrong, Tommy. Nobody was supposed to get in or out, but someone did. Hey, this coffin looks interesting.

(*Sounds: Footsteps on a marble floor, then a creaky door.*)

DR. BLOOM: What do you think you are doing? That's a priceless artifact. I am Dr. Donald Bloom, head curator of the Victory City Museum.

DRAKE: Sorry, Dr. Bloom. This is Eddie Grimes, private investigator.

DR. BLOOM: No one opens the sarcophagus except to restore it. The coffin stays shut. The precious paintings on the inside must not be exposed to light. Their green pigment is already flaking off.

EDDIE: So this coffin thing is part of the same exhibit as the ruby?

DR. BLOOM: Yes. We just got it back from the restoration department, and I haven't even seen the inside of the sarcophagus yet.

EDDIE: Restoration, eh? Who does the restoring?

DR. BLOOM: Why, that's Dr. Peterson. Her office is across the street.

EDDIE: Thanks, Doc. It was nice to meet you.

(Sounds: Two pairs of footsteps.)

DRAKE: What's up, Eddie?

EDDIE: I want to talk to this art restorer.

(Sounds: Street sounds, a knock, then the door opens.)

EDDIE: You must be Dr. Peterson. My name is Eddie Grimes, private investigator.

DR. PETERSON: You must be looking into the missing ruby.

EDDIE: What do you know about it?

DR. PETERSON: I know that its value is beyond measure. But I don't know how the thief got into and out of the museum.

EDDIE: *(voiceover)* I took a stroll around the place. There were books on mummies, and jewels, and magic tricks. Magic tricks? A pair of old boots sat under her desk. There were flecks of green paint on the side of one boot. That was strange. But what was even stranger was that these were men's boots. Then, right in the middle of a work bench, I spotted the largest ruby I had ever seen.

DRAKE: The Isis Ruby!

DR. PETERSON: No, just a glass copy. I was preparing to replace the real ruby until it is found. Excuse me, sir. I really have a lot to do before the exhibit opens.

EDDIE: Don't let me keep you. Besides, my mummy's waiting.

EDDIE: *(voiceover)* I went back to my office to check my messages. I thought about what Dr. Bloom had said when I was messing with his creaky old coffin. Then it hit me.

(Sound: Bells to indicate a flashback.)



Answer Questions

DR. BLOOM: No one opens the sarcophagus except to restore it. The coffin stays shut. The precious paintings on the inside must not be exposed to light. Their green pigment is already flaking off.

EDDIE: *(voiceover)* And then. . .

DR. BLOOM: We just got it back from the restoration department, and I haven't even seen the inside of the sarcophagus yet.

(Sound: Bells to indicate end of flashback.)

EDDIE: *(voiceover)* That was it! I had the answer. I called Drake and told him to round up the good doctors and meet me at Dr. Peterson's office and to have the sarcophagus moved there.

DR. BLOOM: What's the meaning of this? I was sleeping soundly.

EDDIE: You'll sleep in prison, Dr. Bloom. You stole the ruby.

DR. BLOOM: This is outrageous. Where's your proof?

(Sounds: Harsh squeal of hinges, a thump.)

EDDIE: This Egyptian sarcophagus has a false back wall.

DR. PETERSON: That's a lie.

EDDIE: The magic books tipped me off. Doing a little research into disappearing tricks, Doc?

DR. BLOOM: I knew she did it!

EDDIE: Not so fast, Dr. Bloom. You said you hadn't seen the inside of the sarcophagus yet, but you also said that the paintings inside were flaking. How would you know unless you had seen the inside? You snuck out of the museum with the ruby hidden inside this coffin when it was sent for restoration. Those size-thirteen boots under her desk aren't Dr. Peterson's. They're yours! Drake, stop Dr. Peterson, that ruby isn't glass, it's the real thing.

DR. PETERSON: Let me go!

DRAKE: Good work, Grimes.

(Music: Dramatic climax.)

EDDIE: *(voiceover)* It was just another night in the big city. I'm Eddie Grimes, and I solve crimes.

THE END

Tip

Keep reading. The answer may be in more than one place.

Directions: Answer the questions.

- 1. Which word BEST describes the author's tone in the play?**
 - A grim
 - B light-hearted
 - C sad
 - D serious

- 2. How was the Isis Ruby smuggled out of the museum?**
 - A in Dr. Peterson's pocket
 - B in Dr. Bloom's boots
 - C in a false compartment inside the sarcophagus
 - D in Dr. Peterson's work bench

- 3. To whom do the boots in Dr. Peterson's office belong?**
 - A Dr. Peterson
 - B Dr. Bloom
 - C Eddie Grimes
 - D Isis

- 4. Why does Eddie call Drake and ask him to "round up the good doctors"?**

- 5. What is the most likely reason the author included a flashback in the play? Write two paragraphs, and include examples from the selection.**

Writing Prompt

Think of a problem or mystery in your own life. Write a friendly letter to someone asking for help in solving your problem. Your letter should be at least two paragraphs.

