

The Death of Mr. Xavier

Extra evidence from the lab:

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The autopsy showed that the cuts on the body matched the pieces of glass from the broken window. It also showed that Mr. Xavier had had a heart attack by an overdose of poison in his system.

The only fingerprints on the knife were Mr. Xavier's.

The fingerprints of the chef's brother were found on the wine glass, wine bottle, and heart medication bottle.

The heart medication bottle was empty but the next refill date wasn't for another month.

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Solving a Mystery – The Death of Mr. Xavier

Class Copy!

You and your partners are private detectives who have been hired to investigate the death of Mr. Xavier, a man who was well known for his riches and for his unfriendly nature. He was very unkind to the people who worked for him. He avoided being around people because he was always very nervous and startled easily.

Upon arriving at the scene, you are told that the servants found Mr. Xavier dead in his home early this morning. The previous evening the chef had prepared the usual dinner for Mr. Xavier, two steaks cooked rare and two baked potatoes with sour cream. The servants had left early to avoid having to travel home during last night's terrible storm. When they returned in the morning, Mr. Xavier's body was found face down in the dining room.

Looking into the room, you start your investigation. The large window in the dining room has been broken and appears to have been smashed open from the outside. The carpet near the window is very wet. The body lies face down by the table and it has many cuts on it. There is a large red stain on the carpet that comes from under the body. An open bottle of red wine and a partially eaten steak still remain on the table. A chair that has been tipped over is next to the body, and under the table is a knife with blood on it. In addition, a bottle of heart medicine was discovered on a nearby table.

Mr. Xavier always had Kurt Wagner, the butler, lock all doors to the mansion at night. However, detectives found that the back door had in fact been left open. Detectives found that the chef, Robert Drake, had been the last employee to leave that night. When questioned, Mr. Drake stated that the doors are supposed to lock behind him when he leaves.

Question: What caused the death of Mr. Xavier?

Claim: By looking at the evidence in the room, can you make a claim about who killed Mr. Xavier and how?

Evidence (Data/Observations): What facts from the story (REFER TO THE TEXT) can you use as evidence to back up your claim?

Reasoning: Explain how that evidence backs up your claim. Here is where you EXPLAIN! Tell us the story...

