ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

1 What is special about the number 13?

2 Who are the main characters in a detective story?

3 Were detectives usually men or women in the past?

4 Do you know the names of any famous detectives?

Violet Strange is a young private detective. She is very clever. A man asks her to discover what happened to a missing page from some very important papers. He takes her to the house of a rich woman – Miss Digby. The man is a family friend. Miss Digby is having a dinner with friends. The important paper disappeared earlier the same evening. Violet looks at the situation.

1 **Read the text. As you read, think about this question.**
Why is the missing page 13 important?

'Missing: Page Thirteen' from *The Golden Slipper, and Other Problems for Violet Strange* (1915)

Anna Katherine Green

I arrived at the house. They were having a dinner because Miss Digby was getting married to Mr Cornell at the weekend. It was also for Mr Spielhagen for making a great scientific **discovery** – a **formula**. Mr Cornell wanted the formula for his company but Mr Spielhagen had **promised** it to another business.

There were only two **copies** of the formula. One was in a bank in Boston, the other he had brought into the house, and this was now missing.

There was no **doubt** about the loss – we all could see that page 13 was not there. I searched the papers but it was nowhere to be found. Page 14 was on the top and 12 at the bottom, but no page 13 in between, or anywhere else.

Where had it gone, what had happened? No one could say, or, at least, no one there tried to, but everybody started to look for it.

But where to look? The small room had nowhere to **hide** a square of white paper. It had **bare** walls, a bare floor, and a single chair for furniture. Perhaps someone in the room had it. Could this be the answer?

'I must be **searched** – at once!' said Mr Cornell in a loud voice.

'Is Mr Spielhagen sure that the missing page was with the others when he sat down to read his papers?' asked Miss Digby.

'Very sure, I was reading the formula itself when I fell asleep.'

'I must be searched now,' said Mr Cornell, 'or how can I marry Miss Digby tomorrow?'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GLOSSARY

discovery	when something new, or lost, is found
formula	a plan for a way to do something
promised	said that you will certainly do something or that something will certainly happen
copies	things that are made to look exactly like something else
doubt	the feeling of not being certain about something
hide	put something in a place where it cannot be seen or found
bare	not covered by anything
searched	tried to find someone or something

2 **Read the text again and answer the questions.**

1 Why is Violet sure the paper isn't hidden somewhere in the room?

.....

.....

2 Where does she think the paper could be?

.....

.....

3 Why is Mr Spielhagen sure the paper was there earlier?

.....

.....

4 Do you think Mr Cornell has taken the paper? Why? / Why not?

.....

.....

VOCABULARY

3 **Complete the text with the words in the box.**

bare copies discovery doubt

Jake worked in a very [1] ..... room with almost no furniture. He made his important [2] ..... one day when he was working on a difficult science problem. He looked at his work for a long time, checking it. There was no [3] ..... ! It was correct. He made some [4] ..... to show other people.

4 **Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.**

1	We searched the room	A	formula for a new medicine.
2	She promised to phone	B	of the timetable for the other students.
3	They want to find a	C	hide here and no one will find us.
4	Quick! We can	D	me on Sunday but she didn't.
5	I'll make some copies	E	but we didn't find your keys anywhere.

1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___

4 ___ 5 ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS