

**Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:**

hinged    outlandish    ominous    traction    phony

### **Author Lewis Carroll was Jack the Ripper**

The real identity of Jack the Ripper has eluded police and detectives for more than a century. The list of possible suspects ranges from those most likely to be named to downright 1) \_\_\_\_\_. Perhaps the most unlikely suspect is Lewis Carroll. In 1996, child psychotherapist and Carroll's avid fan Richard Wallace published the novel "Jack the Ripper, Light-hearted Friend", which alleged that Lewis Carroll was responsible for one of the most famous killing sprees in history. This theory rested largely on Carroll's love of anagrams and Wallace's claims that he had decoded the hidden confession of the Ripper in two of Carroll's works "The Nursery Alice" and "Sylvie and Bruno".



Wallace also pointed that the author lived and worked in an area near where the Ripper murders occurred. Though this conspiracy theory gained enough 2) \_\_\_\_\_, its viability was short-lived. After having read a passage from Wallace's novel, two anagram enthusiasts debunked Wallace's theory. They managed to rearrange the letter in the first three sentences to show a 3) \_\_\_\_\_ "confession" by Wallace to the murder of Nicole Brown, while also taking credit for Shakespeare's sonnets and a lot of Francis Bacon's work.

### **A mummy's curse doomed the Titanic.**

One of the passengers who went down with the Titanic was William Stead, a British editor who subscribed to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century spiritualism and spent the past several years claiming a cursed mummy was causing mysterious destruction and disaster in London. On board the Titanic, Stead happily repeated his tale of the mummy's curse to other passengers. After the ship sank, a survivor recounted Stead's 4) \_\_\_\_\_ story to the media and the next morning The Washington Post ran this headline:



"Ghost of the Titanic: Revenge of Hoodoo Mummy Followed Man Who Wrote Its History." The theory 5) \_\_\_\_\_ on the belief that the mummy was actually aboard the Titanic because the British Museum had sold it to an American who was shipping it home. But the truth is the so-called "unlucky mummy" is still at the British Museum and no mummy was ever loaded onto the ship.