The Red Diamond

and

Alex's Secret Mission



PM

reader's theatre

PM Oral Literacy

PM reader's theatre

For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Red Diamond and Alex's Secret Mission Levels 29–30

Purpose

To extend speaking and listening skills to an advanced level, through role play.

Student Outcomes

- Presents competently to an audience, in a variety of roles.
- Conveys meaning through the use of correct intonation patterns.

Key Teaching Points PM Reader's Theatre

- Discuss the personality of each character in relation the role and setting.
- Encourage independent role-play practice followed by peer analysis.
- Use audio devices to improve performances.

Links with Other Levels 29 and 30 PM Reader's Theatre

The Star of the Show and *The Peculiar Pain*

The Pirate Story and *Mythical Creatures*

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and

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The Red Diamond

By Carmel Reilly Illustrated by Colby Heppell

Characters:



Narrator



Barrington Goldrock
a billionaire



Leo



Matilda
the maid



Dom



Harrison
the butler



Claude Valentine
a famous private detective

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Narrator

It was Leo's twelfth birthday and he decided to celebrate by seeing a movie with some of his friends. As they settled into their seats at the cinema, the lights dimmed and the opening music swelled. Leo's friend, Dom, leaned across and whispered in his ear.

Dom

What's this film about again?

Leo

There's a millionaire called Barrington Goldrock who owns a rare red diamond, which is stolen from his mansion. He calls in the famous private detective Claude Valentine to solve the case.



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Narrator

The audience watched as, on the screen, a figure moved stealthily across a darkened room. They saw a pair of gloved hands slip a painting from a wall and tap in the combination to a safe. As the thief opened the safe door, a tiny beam of moonlight shone through a window revealing a sparkling red diamond inside. The opening titles of the movie started to roll.



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Dom *(whispering)*

Wow! That diamond is gigantic! It can't be real.

Narrator

On screen, the story jumped to the next day and Claude Valentine's arrival at Barrington Goldrock's mansion. As they walked around the house and grounds, Claude Valentine began to question Barrington Goldrock.



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Leo *(mumbling to himself)*

Why didn't Goldrock call the police?



Narrator

Claude Valentine looked up and paused.

Claude Valentine

Tell me, Mr Goldrock, why didn't you call the police?

Narrator

Leo couldn't believe his ears when Claude asked Barrington Goldrock why he hadn't called the police.

Barrington Goldrock

Well, um … frankly, I didn't want any publicity. It's not the only valuable thing I own.

Narrator

In the next scene, Claude Valentine was scanning the room where the theft had taken place.

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Claude Valentine

The thief came in the window by the look of it.

Barrington Goldrock

Someone disabled the alarm system. I think it has to be a professional job.

Claude Valentine

You don't think any of your staff had any involvement?

Barrington Goldrock

I don't think so. My butler, Harrison, has been with me for years and the maid, Matilda, seems to be a fine young woman.



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Narrator

At that point, Leo edged forward on his seat. He'd noticed that there were marks in the carpet near a table that sat under the window.

Leo *(mumbling to himself)*

Call yourself a detective, Claude Valentine. I can't believe you haven't noticed that the table has been moved.

Claude Valentine *(looking around)*

What was that?

Narrator

Suddenly, time stood still. Leo looked around. The audience seemed to be frozen. But there was still action on the screen. Claude was moving towards Leo, and before he knew it, Claude had stepped forward and out of the picture screen.

