

The Mystery of Spring Gully

Story by Jill McDougall
Illustrations by Olivia Duchess



The Mystery of Spring Gully

Level 21

Running Words 727 **Text Type** Narrative

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Humanities (History)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the story in their own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 What 'mystery' did Jasper notice first?
- 2 How did Violet work out that Spring Gully was an old gold town?
- 3 Where did Dad take Violet and Jasper after lunch?

Inferential

- 4 How did Dad encourage Violet and Jasper to solve the mystery?
- 5 Why was Violet excited when Dad said the town had an even bigger mystery?
- 6 Why did Bridie smile proudly when Violet asked if Paddy McGee had found lots of gold?
- 7 How might Bridie have felt when she saw the photo of her grandmother?
- 8 If the story continued, what do you think Violet would want to do next?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 What can be learned about a local area from visiting a museum?
- 10 Why did Paddy say his greatest treasure was his daughter, not the gold nugget?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 21	Narrative	<i>The Glass Bead Bracelet</i>
Level 22	Narrative	<i>King Midas and the Golden Touch</i>
Level 22	Narrative	<i>The Missing Bone</i>
Level 22	Narrative	<i>Space Junk</i>



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Chapter 1

A Place of Mystery

Dad had promised to take Violet and Jasper on an adventure in the holidays.

After a long drive, Dad stopped the car in a dusty old town.

“Welcome to Spring Gully,” said Dad.

“It’s a place of mystery!”

“How exciting!” said Violet. “I love mysteries!”





“I can see a mystery already,” Jasper said.

“There are lots of old buildings, but no people.”

“That’s right,” said Dad.

“No one lives in Spring Gully any more.”



“Why did they leave?” asked Violet in amazement.

But Dad only smiled.

“Let’s go for a wander,” he said.

“You might find some clues.”



Violet, Jasper and Dad walked along the street.

“This looks like an important building,” said Violet, stopping beside a large doorway.

She read the sign above the door:



“Here’s our first clue!” said Violet.

“1903 must be the year everyone left!”

“You’re right,” said Dad, smiling.

“Now, let’s keep walking.”

