



# WHODUNIT? WOO KNOWS . . .

by Anne M. Miranda

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## CAST:

<b>Offstage Voice</b>	<b>Ms. Byrd</b>
<b>Ms. Woo</b>	<b>Mr. Lamb</b>
<b>Olivia Woo</b>	<b>Ms. Holstein</b>
<b>Manny the Parrot</b>	<b>Mr. Colt</b>
<b>Detective Billie</b>	<b>Mr. Boxer</b>

**SETTING:**  
A travel agency

## PROLOGUE

[The stage is dark.]



**SOUND EFFECTS:** [footsteps; door being unlocked, opened, and shut; footsteps; safe door being unlocked, opened, closed, and locked; footsteps; chair scraping across a floor; jingling of keys; click of a switch; hum of a computer]

**Offstage Voice:** [soft whisper] Now, let's see what we've got here . . .

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [clicking of a computer keyboard]

**Offstage Voice:** [singing softly] Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool? Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full. . . .

## ACT I

[Lights up]

**Ms. Woo:** Good morning, Olivia! How did you sleep? I made you some toast, and there's orange juice in the fridge.

**Olivia:** Thanks, Mom.

**Ms. Woo:** Well, now that the Memorial Day weekend is over, I've got a busy schedule for the next couple of months.

**Olivia:** I'm glad I'm on vacation!

**Ms. Woo:** Lucky you! Summer is a good time to slow down for most people, but not travel agents. We're still busy planning other people's vacations. Speaking of plans, what are you doing today?

**Olivia:** I really don't know, Mom. My detective business seems to be pretty slow these days—I wonder if it has anything to do with the hot weather we've been having. It's been a while since I've had any detecting to do.

**Ms. Woo:** So I've noticed.

**Olivia:** If it would be all right with you, maybe I'll spend the day at your office. I could help you out on the computer.

**Ms. Woo:** That would be great, Olivia.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [thud of newspaper against the door]

**Ms. Woo:** That must be the newspaper.

**Olivia:** Don't get up, Mom. I'll get it.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [door opening and closing, rustling of paper]

**Ms. Woo:** See anything interesting?

**Olivia:** I'll say! Just listen to this headline: QUADRUPLETS BORN AT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. How about that? Four babies born on Memorial Day!

**Ms. Woo:** There must have been quite a bit of excitement at the hospital on that day! Anything else?

**Olivia:** Just the usual. . . . No, wait! You won't believe this! "MEMORIAL DAY BREAK-INS. Five homes in the area were burglarized over the Memorial Day weekend. According to the police, in each case the owners were on vacation.

The homeowners were contacted and have given permission for their names to be released. The burglary victims are: James and Carol Janson, 35 Maple Street; Victoria Temple, 249 Oak Street; Lisa and Jeff Campo, 19 Washington Avenue; Buzz Saw, 119 West Main Street; Keesha and Ben Owens, 310 Lincoln Drive.”

**Ms. Woo:** Hmm. . . . Those names certainly sound familiar. Let me see that paper a minute, will you?

**Olivia:** Are any of them your clients?

**Ms. Woo:** I think almost all of them are—everyone except Buzz Saw, that is. I’ve never heard of him.

**Olivia:** Mom, don’t you remember? Buzz Saw is that rock star I told you about—the one who just moved into town. His real name is Bob Jones.

**Ms. Woo:** Bob Jones? Now let me think. . . . Of course! I remember now. His secretary called me last week and had me book airline tickets for him using his real name. He must like to travel incognito. I just never made the connection.

**Olivia:** That means that all these people are your clients.

**Ms. Woo:** You’re right. What a coincidence!

**Olivia:** I’d say it’s more than just a coincidence, Mom—it’s downright suspicious. We’d better go over to the office and check your files right away.

**Ms. Woo:** I hate to say it, Olivia, but this may turn out to be that mystery you were hoping for. Let's get moving.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [traffic sounds, footsteps]

**Olivia:** Well, Mom, the office door hasn't been forced, and there are no broken windows.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [key turning in lock, door opening and closing]

**Manny:** Squawk. Good morning, good morning. Can I help you?

**Olivia:** I wish you could, Manny! Yes, sir, do I ever!

**Manny:** Squawk! Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool? Yes, sir! Yes, sir! Three bags full. Squawk!



**Olivia:** Hey, Manny, you've learned a new song. I've never heard you sing that one before. I wonder who taught it to you.

**Ms. Woo:** Well, this is reassuring. Everything seems to be just as I left it on Friday.

**Olivia:** What about your disks? Are there any missing?

**Ms. Woo:** I keep the disks in the safe with the tickets. Here's the key to the safe. Go ahead and check.

**Olivia:** Okay, I've got it open. What disks am I looking for?

**Ms. Woo:** Look for the one with last week's dates on the label.

**Olivia:** Here it is—May 25th to May 31st.  
Safe and sound. Let's check the names  
against the list in the paper.

**Ms. Woo:** Okay, just let me unlock the computer  
and we'll see.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [chair scraping across a floor, jingling  
of keys, click of a switch, hum of a  
computer, clicking of a computer  
keyboard]

**Ms. Woo:** Hmm. . . . Well, there's no doubt  
about it. All the names in the paper are  
on this disk. They're my clients, all right.  
Those people all left on their vacations  
last week, and I made their travel plans.

**Olivia:** Did you book them on the same airline  
by any chance?

**Ms. Woo:** Unfortunately not. They all had different  
destinations, flew on different airlines,  
and left on different days. I'm afraid there's  
absolutely no connection there.

**Olivia:** Then the only way the Memorial Day  
Burglar could have gotten all those names  
was from your files.

**Ms. Woo:** It certainly looks that way. I'm calling the  
police this minute.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [dialing telephone]

**Ms. Woo:** Hello? May I speak with Detective Billie,  
please? This is Ms. Woo of the Paradise  
Travel Agency. . . . What? He's on his way  
here now? I see. Thank you.

**Olivia:** Mom, surely Detective Billie doesn't  
suspect you!

**Ms. Woo:** Well, he may not suspect me. But by talking to each of the burglary victims, he has probably figured out that I do have the information about everyone's vacation.

**Olivia:** But there must be a way someone else could have gotten access to this information.

**Ms. Woo:** There's only one way that I can think of.

**Olivia:** And that's by copying that disk!

**Ms. Woo:** The trouble is, I don't see how. To keep something like this from happening, I always store the disks in the safe, and I always lock my computer when I leave the office. I'm the only one who has those two keys.

**Olivia:** Right, and don't forget, when we arrived this morning, the door to the office was locked as usual.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [knock at the door, door opening and closing]

**Detective Billie:** Good morning, Ms. Woo. Hi, Olivia. I heard on my car radio that you had called the station, so I guess you've probably figured out why I'm here. I must say it's a big help to have "Whodunit" Woo right on the scene.

**Olivia:** Thanks, Detective Billie.

**Manny:** Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.  
Squawk! And on his farm, he had a goat,  
E-I-E-I-O!

**Detective Billie:** Good morning, Manny. And thanks a lot!

**Olivia:** Oh, I apologize for Manny, Detective Billie. He doesn't mean to be insulting. He sings that song to everyone.

**Detective Billie:** It's okay. Now, tell me, what have you found here?

**Olivia:** Well, Detective Billie, when we realized all the robbery victims were Mom's clients, we rushed over here to see if any of Mom's files had been stolen. But number one, no one had broken into the office. Number two, the computer disk that has all the data on the burglary victims' travel plans was still locked in the safe. And number three, even if someone had managed to get hold of the disk, he or she couldn't have copied it because Mom's computer was locked. And here are her keys—which she had all weekend—so they weren't lost or stolen.



**SOUND EFFECTS:** [jangling of keys]

**Detective Billie:** Hmm. I'd say the keys are definitely the key to this mystery. The office key and the keys to the computer and the safe must have been copied. May I see them, please?

**Olivia:** Here they are. Wait! Look at that! That orange stuff looks like wax!

**Detective Billie:** That, my young detective, is just what we're looking for. That wax is the very kind that's used for making impressions of keys.



**Olivia:** Now we're getting somewhere!

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [telephone ringing]

**Ms. Woo:** Paradise Travel Agency. May I help you? Yes . . . yes, he's here. It's for you, Detective.

**Detective Billie:** Billie here. What's up? Uh-huh. Okay, I'll be there in fifteen minutes.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [telephone receiver being replaced]

**Detective Billie:** I'm sorry; something urgent has just come up. I've got to go, but I'll be back later so we can continue our discussion.

**Ms. Woo:** All right. We'll be here.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [door opening and closing]

**Olivia:** Mom, I don't think Detective Billie suspects you of being involved, but I'd like to figure this out. Let's start with the keys. The burglaries didn't occur until the weekend, even though some of your clients left on vacation several days before that. That means the burglar probably didn't have the keys until Friday. So the burglar was probably here on Friday, and . . .



**Ms. Woo:** And what?

**Olivia:** And since you never leave your keys lying around, you probably gave the burglar the keys for some seemingly innocent reason. Let's start with who was here Friday.

**Ms. Woo:** Here's my appointment book. Let's see, at 10:15, Ms. Holstein came in to plan her vacation. At noon, Mr. Boxer came to

pick up my car for repairs. At 1:30, Mr. Colt came in to talk about his vacation. At 2:30, Mr. Lamb came in to pick up some travel brochures. And at 5:30, Ms. Byrd came in to clean the office.

**Olivia:** So there were five people in the office on Friday. Do you remember if anyone borrowed your keys?

**Ms. Woo:** Well, Ms. Byrd always uses the keys to open the supply closet when she comes in to clean.

**Olivia:** That's one.

**Ms. Woo:** Now, Olivia, you know that Ms. Byrd is as honest as the day is long.

**Olivia:** I agree, but I'm sure the police will say that anyone who had access to those keys is a suspect. How about the others?

**Ms. Woo:** Well, Mr. Boxer from the garage came to check the rattle I noticed in the engine. He took the keys so that he could take the car for a test drive around the block.

**Olivia:** That's two.

**Ms. Woo:** Hmm. . . . Ms. Holstein used the lavatory key while she was here—and Mr. Lamb used the lavatory key, too!

**Olivia:** That's four! Everyone had the keys except Mr. Colt.

**Ms. Woo:** Wait a minute! Mr. Boxer had to rush off for some unexplained reason. So when he saw Mr. Colt coming in, he gave Mr. Colt the keys to return to me.



**Olivia:** That's five out of five! Everyone who was in here on Friday had your keys at one time or another.

**Ms. Woo:** Olivia, some of those people are coming in again today.

**Olivia:** What luck! Maybe we can do some detective work on our own before Detective Billie gets back.

**Ms. Woo:** Just what do you have in mind?



**Olivia:** Well, one thing we know is that the Memorial Day Burglar knows how to operate your computer. If we can find out who among those five people knows how to run a computer like yours, that would be a big clue.

**Ms. Woo:** That's a great idea, but how will we find out?

**Olivia:** I'm a kid. They'll never be suspicious of me. I'll get them talking about computers and act as if I don't know much about them. I think they'll swallow it.

**Manny:** There was an old lady, who swallowed a fly. I don't know why she swallowed a fly!

**Olivia:** Too bad Manny can't tell us. I'll bet he knows.

## ACT II

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [knock on the door, door opening and closing, footsteps]

**Olivia:** Hello, Ms. Byrd. You look chipper this morning!



**Manny:** Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.  
Squawk! And on his farm, he had a  
chicken, E-I-E-I-O!

**Ms. Byrd:** That Manny! He's the smartest parrot!  
He and I talk all the time. Sometimes I  
even teach him a song.

**Olivia:** Oh, really? He's just learned a new tune.  
You didn't happen to teach him  
"Baa, Baa, Black Sheep," by any chance?

**Ms. Byrd:** No, but I once taught him how to sing  
"Kookaburra." He learned it in no time.  
Well, I came by to get my pay.

**Ms. Woo:** Of course, Ms. Byrd. Why don't you take  
a seat while I write out a check.

**Ms. Byrd:** Thanks. I'll perch right here.

**Olivia:** When you were here on Friday afternoon,  
did you find a game disk lying around?

**Ms. Byrd:** What's a game disk?

**Olivia:** A computer disk. You know, a little,  
square, black, plastic thing with a hole  
in the middle.

**Ms. Byrd:** Your mother never leaves anything out.  
Why don't you look in that box on the  
desk. I think that's where she keeps  
those things when she's working at  
her computer.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [door opening and closing]

**Ms. Woo:** Good morning, Mr. Lamb.

**Manny:** Old MacDonald had a farm,  
E-I-E-I-O. Squawk! And on his farm,  
he had a sheep, E-I-E-I-O!

**Ms. Woo:** That's enough, Manny. I didn't expect to see you today, Mr. Lamb. Did you decide to go to Sheepshead Bay?

**Mr. Lamb:** Actually, I've changed my mind. I've decided to take that around-the-world cruise I've always dreamed of. This would be a good time for me to go. Do you think you can arrange it? I'd like to leave as soon as possible.

**Ms. Woo:** An around-the-world cruise? Lucky you, Mr. Lamb! We can begin planning it just as soon as I finish with Ms. Byrd.

**Ms. Byrd:** Oh, I'm in no hurry. Go ahead and help Mr. Lamb. I'll just feed Manny and change his water while I'm waiting.

**Ms. Woo:** Thank you, Ms. Byrd. . . . Oh, dear, the reservations computer is down. There's a message saying that full service should be restored in a few minutes. Mr. Lamb, I'm afraid we'll just have to wait for a bit.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [door opening and closing]

**Olivia:** Good morning, Ms. Holstein. Nice day, isn't it?

**Manny:** Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.  
Squawk! And on his farm, he had a cow,  
E-I-E-I-O!

**Ms. Holstein:** Who taught that bird to sing that utterly ridiculous song?

**Olivia:** I'm sorry, Ms. Holstein. How may we help you?

**Ms. Holstein:** I just dropped in to pick up my tickets. I'm leaving for my vacation tomorrow. I'm so excited.

**Mr. Lamb:** Ah, Bermuda—pink sand and sunny skies!

**Ms. Byrd:** Oh, yes, I hear Bermuda is beautiful this time of year.

**Olivia:** Wow! Ms. Holstein, excuse me for interrupting, but does that new red sports car out in front belong to you?

**Ms. Holstein:** Yes, isn't it a beauty? I just came into some unexpected cash, and I decided to give myself a special treat. Now, are my tickets ready?

**Ms. Woo:** Your tickets are ready, but I'd like to double-check your seat assignment. Could you wait just a few minutes? The reservations computer is temporarily down.

**Ms. Holstein:** The computer is down? What does that mean?

**Mr. Lamb:** Ms. Woo gets information about reservations from a central computer, and sometimes things go wrong with the equipment. It's usually just a short wait until they clear up the problem.

**Olivia:** I know I've seen you using a computer at the library, Ms. Holstein. Isn't it like my mother's?

**Ms. Holstein:** Oh, no, we have different computers, and we use different software. I must confess I'm just becoming computer literate—the library system is the only one I know.

**Mr. Colt:** Knock, knock, anybody here? Howdy, y'all!



**Ms. Woo:** Hello, Mr. Colt. Pull up a chair.

**Manny:** Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.  
Squawk! And on his farm, he had a  
horse, E-I-E-I-O!



**Mr. Colt:** I wish Manny knew a nice Western  
song like “Home, Home on the Range.”  
I’d teach it to him myself, but I can’t  
carry a tune in a bucket. Well, enough  
about music. I’m here to pick up  
some tickets.

**Ms. Holstein:** Oh, are you going on vacation, too?

**Mr. Colt:** Yup, and I can’t wait! Sagebrush!  
Tumbleweeds! Wide open spaces!

**Mr. Lamb:** Ah, yes, Texas, the Lone Star State.  
Have you . . .

**Mr. Boxer:** Excuse me, the door was open.  
Hello, all. Hi, Manny.

**Manny:** Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O.  
Squawk! And on his farm, he had a  
dog, E-I-E-I-O!

**Ms. Woo:** Mr. Boxer! I have a bone to pick with  
you. You didn’t fix my car on Friday.

**Mr. Boxer:** I knew I’d be in the doghouse. You see,  
Ms. Woo, your car didn’t have a serious  
problem, and I was really worried  
about my wife. So I rushed home.  
Just in time, too. I took her right to  
the hospital.

**Ms. Woo:** Goodness! Was she hurt? Is it serious?



**Mr. Boxer:** No, no, everything is great! My wife had quadruplets on Memorial Day! Two girls and two boys—everybody’s doing just fine, thank you.

**Olivia:** Oh, wow! We read the headline in the paper just this morning, but we didn’t realize it was about you.

**Ms. Woo:** And your wife, too, of course!

**All:** Congratulations!

**Ms. Byrd:** Raising four children can be pretty expensive.

**Mr. Boxer:** True, but we’ll manage. Say, what’s that flickering?

**Ms. Woo:** Oh, the fluorescent light bulb is about to go out. I’ll just go downstairs and get the ladder and a new bulb.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [footsteps, door opening]

**Mr. Colt:** If that’s my disk in the machine, I can check to see if my flight has been booked.

**Mr. Lamb:** First, you’ll have to bring up your file. Ms. Woo was working on mine.

**Olivia:** You may have to wait, Mr. Colt. The central reservations computer is down. Of course, it may be fixed by now, but I don’t know how to find out.

**Mr. Colt:** Let me try. They don’t call me “Hacker” for nothing.

**Mr. Boxer:** Maybe I can help you. We use the same computer down at the garage.



**Ms. Woo:** I'm back. Sorry I took so long, but I had to find a screwdriver. What's everyone doing at my computer?

**Olivia:** It's okay, Mom. We're just trying to find out if the central computer has come back up again.

**Ms. Woo:** I'll take care of it. But first I have to fix that flickering light. It will only take me a minute.

**Mr. Lamb:** Can I help, Ms. Woo? I'm real handy—there's nothing mechanical or electrical that I can't fix. I'll have that bulb changed in two shakes of a lamb's tail!

**Ms. Woo:** Thanks, Mr. Lamb. I'll just get back to that computer.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [clanking of tools]

**Mr. Lamb:** [singing softly] Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?

**Mr. Colt:** Maybe I'd better come back later.

**Mr. Boxer:** Do you need a lift? I'm going downtown.

**Mr. Lamb:** [singing softly] Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full.

**Ms. Woo:** I'm sorry to keep you waiting so long, Ms. Byrd.

**Mr. Lamb:** [singing softly] One for my master, one for my dame.

**Ms. Byrd:** No problem, Ms. Woo. I'm enjoying myself.

**SOUND EFFECTS:** [door opening and closing]

**Detective Billie:** I'm back, Ms. Woo. Ahem! May I have your attention please! This office is being investigated in connection with the Memorial Day burglaries. I'll have to ask everyone to leave now.

**Ms. Byrd and Mr. Lamb:** Under investigation?

**Mr. Colt and Ms. Holstein:** Burglaries?

**Mr. Boxer:** Good grief!

**Olivia:** Excuse me, Detective Billie. The Memorial Day Burglar is in this room right now. I'm sure of it.

**Ms. Holstein:** It's best to leave police work to the police, young lady.

**Detective Billie:** I'll handle this, ma'am. That's a serious accusation, Olivia. What evidence do you have?

**Olivia:** The Memorial Day Burglar copied my mother's client files from her disk. That's how the thief found out which houses would be empty over the weekend, right?

**Detective Billie:** That sounds plausible. Go on.

**Olivia:** As you said, it's a question of keys. Ms. Byrd uses Mom's keys every week when she cleans the office. She could easily have made wax impressions of them. But Ms. Byrd has worked for my mother for a long time and has never taken so much as a paper clip. Besides, Ms. Byrd knows absolutely nothing about computers.

**Ms. Byrd:** She's right. I don't know a thing about computers.



**Olivia:** Ms. Holstein has just come into a lot of money. See her expensive new car outside? Also, she borrowed the keys on Friday to use the lavatory. She does use a computer at the library, but she doesn't know anything about my mother's software program. The thief would have to know about that program to get the computer to run and to copy the disk.

**Ms. Holstein:** That's right. I don't know anything about her mother's computer.

**Olivia:** Which brings us to Mr. Boxer. Mr. Boxer took the keys on Friday to give Mom's car a test drive around the block. He also knows a lot about computers. In fact, he has an identical machine at the garage. Also, as Ms. Byrd pointed out, Mr. Boxer certainly needs money just now.

**Mr. Boxer:** But I was at the hospital from Friday afternoon through Tuesday night.

**Olivia:** Yes, I think all of us would agree that Mr. Boxer has an unshakable alibi for the Memorial Day weekend.

**Detective Billie:** All right, who's next?

**Olivia:** Well, Mr. Boxer asked Mr. Colt to return my mom's keys to her, so Mr. Colt could have made an impression of them. What's more, his nickname is "Hacker." A hacker is someone who can do almost anything with a computer.

**Detective Billie:** Then he could have gotten the names of all those people who were robbed.

**Olivia:** Right.

**Detective Billie:** Sounds suspicious to me!

**Olivia:** I'm not so sure that Mr. Colt is your man, though. Don't forget, Mr. Lamb had Mom's keys last Friday when he borrowed them to use the lavatory. He also knows a lot about computers. And when he came in today, he wanted to change his plans from a weekend trip to an around-the-world cruise. That takes a lot of money.

**Detective Billie:** But that's not real evidence.

**Olivia:** True. But how did he know Ms. Holstein was going to Bermuda? And that Mr. Colt was going to Texas?

**Mr. Lamb:** I guessed. I'm good at putting two and two together.

**Detective Billie:** Well, Olivia, you may not have solved the case, but at least you've narrowed the number of suspects down to two—Mr. Colt and Mr. Lamb. Now if you two gentlemen would kindly accompany me to the station for further questioning . . .



**Olivia:** I don't think that will be necessary, Detective Billie. You see, the thief has to be able to sing.

**Detective Billie:** Excuse me? What does singing have to do with it?

**Olivia:** When Mom and I arrived at the office this morning, Manny was singing a song that we had never heard him sing before. Mom was here until late on Friday. That means Manny must have learned that

song between Friday night and Monday night—a period when the office was closed.

**Detective Billie:** I follow you.

**Olivia:** Just now, Mr. Lamb sang the very same song while he was changing the light bulb. My theory is that Mr. Lamb is in the habit of humming or singing while he works. I think he was singing “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep” when he was here copying Mom’s files.

**Mr. Lamb:** More guesswork. Ridiculous!

**Olivia:** And, finally, Mr. Lamb is very handy. He said so himself. If you search his workshop, I’m sure you’ll find the wax he used to make the impressions of Mom’s keys plus a machine that makes duplicate keys.

**Mr. Lamb:** Drat that junior detective and her feathered friend!

**Detective Billie:** Okay, let’s go quietly, Mr. Lamb. Thanks, “Whodunit” Woo, you’ve done it again!

**Ms. Woo:** Olivia, you’re terrific!

**Olivia:** Thanks, Mom. Mr. Lamb turned out to be a real wolf in sheep’s clothing. Oh, and let’s not forget to thank Manny. Without him, I never would have cracked this case.

**Manny:** Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool? Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full. One for my master, one for my dame, And one for the naughty crook who won’t steal again! Squawk! Squawk!



# ★ Activities

## DRAMA ACTIVITIES:

# WHODUNIT? WOO KNOWS . . .



### Set the Stage

Before a play is performed, workers build sets to show the place where the events happen. *Whodunit? Woo Knows . . .* has one main setting. Details in the stage directions and dialogue give you clues about what the set should look like. List details about the setting of the play on a separate sheet of paper.

- Where does the play happen?
- What does that place look like?
- What objects are in that place?

When you have finished, draw a picture to show what you think the set for the play would look like.

### Follow Directions

- Stage directions help actors perform the play and tell actors how to move on stage and how to say their lines. They also describe sounds, called **sound effects**. Sound effects make the performance of a play more real.
- Reread the play *Whodunit? Woo Knows . . .* Notice the stage directions that come after the label Sound Effects. Divide a sheet of paper into two columns. In the first column, list the sound effects in the play. In the second column, write directions for how to make each sound effect. Read your directions to a partner. Have your partner choose two of the sound effects and restate the directions. Work together to practice making the two sound effects.



**DRAMA ACTIVITIES:**

# WHODUNIT? WOO KNOWS . . .



## Think About It

*Whodunit? Woo Knows . . .* is a mystery. In a mystery, there are clues, or hints, about who committed the crime. Clues are found in the setting, the dialogue, and the actions of the characters. Work with a partner to find the clues in this play. Then discuss the following questions:

1. In the prologue, the stage is dark. What do the sound effects tell you about what is happening?
2. How does the audience learn that Manny will provide an important clue?
3. Ms. Byrd, Ms. Holstein, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Colt, and Mr. Boxer each provide a clue that makes them look either guilty or innocent. Identify one clue for each of these characters, and explain whether it helps or hurts them.

## A Play in Three Parts

- Plays can be divided into acts and scenes. A prologue gives important information before the main action of the play begins. Some plays even have an epilogue. The epilogue wraps up important information in the story.
- On a separate sheet of paper, list the three parts of the play *Whodunit? Woo Knows . . .* Write a short summary of each part. Read your summary to a partner and discuss how each part of the play helps to build the suspense of finding out “whodunit.”



**DRAMA ACTIVITIES:**

# WHODUNIT? WHO KNOWS . . .



**Performance Activity: Sound Off!**

Now, it's your turn! In a group of three to four students, think of a setting for a mystery play. List your ideas on a separate sheet of paper.

- Choose one of the settings. Discuss why this place is a good setting for a mystery. Write a brief description of the setting on your paper.
- Next, discuss what kinds of sound effects fit with your setting. What would you hear in this place? Would there be other people, animals, or music? Would you hear sounds of nature, such as water or wind? Would a floor creak or a door slam?
- On your paper, list the sounds that you would hear in setting for your play. Then explain one way in which you can make each sound using your voice, hands, feet, or objects found in the classroom.
- Choose one sound effect and read your directions for it aloud to the class. Have everyone follow your directions to create the sound effect.