Detective's Log: A Graphic Organizer

"Detection is, or ought to be, an exact science, and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner."
—Sherlock Holmes, *The Sign of Four*

As you watch or read a classic detective story or murder mystery, use this graphic organizer to keep track of clues and suspects. Assume that nothing shown or described—a glance between a married couple, a lost boot, a hound baying in the night—has been put in the story accidentally.

For each of the following categories, identify the details from the story you are working with. Add some description about how the writer or filmmaker brings that element to life. You might also use this organizer to plan your own mystery or detective story and keep track of all the clues you'll use.

Title: _____

The Detective {usually someone intellectually superior to the ordinary person who uses logic and keen observation to see what others do not}

The Setting {usually a "closed society" of some kind— a train, an isolated house—so that the criminal must be one of the people already in the setting, not an outsider; the atmosphere is tense or frightening}

The Crime

The Victim(s)

The Suspects {a limited group, each with motive, means, and opportunity}

Suspect: _____	Suspect: _____	Suspect: _____	Suspect: _____
Means: _____	Means: _____	Means: _____	Means: _____
Motive: _____	Motive: _____	Motive: _____	Motive _____
Opportunity: _____	Opportunity: _____	Opportunity: _____	Opportunity: _____

The Clues {some, perhaps, will turn out to be false to mislead the audience or detective}

The Capture {how the criminal is caught}

The Solution {an explanation that brings all of the clues together}