

THE MANSION'S MYSTERY TRUNK

3rd Grade Background Information & Requirements

Background Information

Imagine you are working at the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum. As you explore the many rooms in the attic, you come across a trunk filled with historical objects belonging to the families that once lived here. Inside the trunk are a stack of papers bound with faded ribbons. The papers are very old but still readable and include bills, letters, and diary entries. There are also other items such as toys, antique books, and hidden treasure. Imagine that these objects and papers share an unknown piece of history about life at the Mansion. Given the contents of the trunk and what you know about the families that lived here, fit the pieces of the mystery together.

Using this information: Write a story about the families that once lived in the Mansion using what you have found as clues. Be sure to research what life was like in Norwalk and at the Mansion during this period.

Questions to answer:

- Who did the trunk belong to?
- What historical objects does it contain?
- What do its contents tell us about the owner's life and the story behind the objects in the trunk? Why does this matter?

Requirements

- 2 typed pages, double-spaced and 12-point font.
- Students are encouraged to research the topic to gather information for their story.
- Papers due by **Friday, June 8th.**

Awards and Prizes

- The writers of the top three papers will be awarded cash and other prizes.
- The Awards Ceremony will be held on **Sunday, November 18th.**