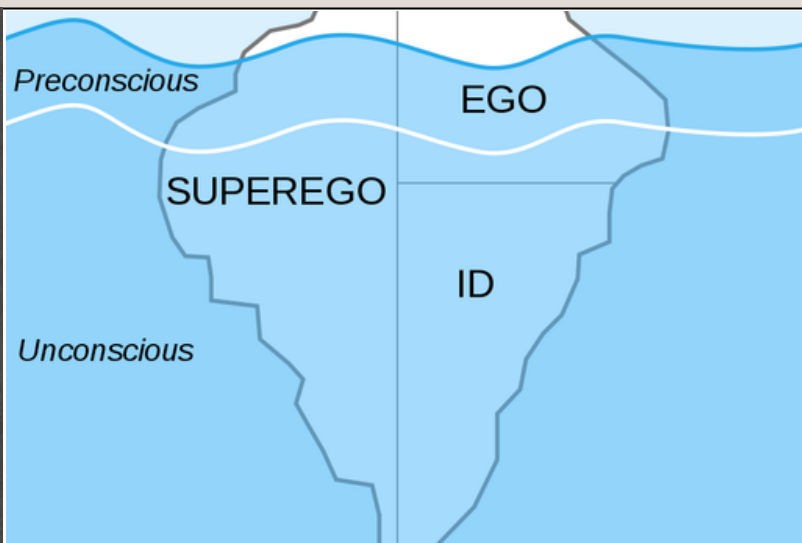


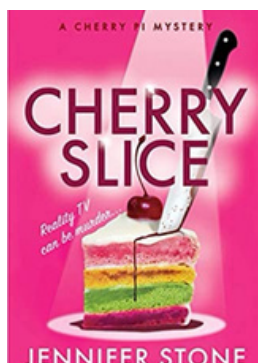
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## Riddle Society Review

Hebe M reports on last week's Riddle Society:

Last week, Miss Stone ran Riddle Society with the topic of, 'How to write a murder and get away with it'. During the session we learnt about the process of writing a book and where to get your inspiration from. The tips included: getting an agent, writing about topics you're familiar with and creating your characters before writing the book. The group then moved on to discussing the plot of 'Cherry Slice' (which was written by Miss Stone). This 'whodunit' murder mystery uncovered the death of Kenny Thorpe, a contestant on the weight loss show: Big Blubber. There were many discussions across the room with different theories on who and how someone had murdered Kenny. At the end of the session, the murderer was finally revealed, which shocked the entire group. Overall, this was a very entertaining riddle society which allowed us to get insight into writing your own book.



## Interested in myths?

In the Studd society earlier this half of term involved a range of interesting talks from Izzy P on Sigmund Freud's theory of the unconscious mind; Charlie A on his favourite footballer; Toby C's talk titled 'Prions: A horror story' and Millie L's on the Bermuda Triangle.

### Millie L's Studd Talk:

Millie L focused her talk around the Bermuda Triangle. This is an excerpt from her presentation: Telling people, I am from Bermuda is always a conversation starter. People are always surprised that we have no dual carriage ways, we collect all our water for domestic use from the rain and that the island has an area of 21 square miles. But the most common question asked is "Is the Bermuda Triangle real?"

The Bermuda Triangle, the name coined by the author Vincent Gaddis in 1964, titles the area of 500,000 square miles in between points of Florida, Puerto Rico, and Bermuda where more than 100 planes and ships have mysteriously sunk or gone missing without a trace.

Whisperings of this urban legend date back to the 15th century, where Christopher Columbus observed strange flashes of light, falling fire and erratic compass readings while off the coast of Florida. However, the Bermuda Triangle became more well known and intriguing in the 20th century.

In 1918 the USS Cyclops, a Naval Ship with over 300 crew members and 10,000 tons of manganese sank somewhere off the coast of Barbados with no distress call and no signs of wreckage.

In 1945, 5 US Navy bombers took off from Fort Lauderdale to carry out routine testing. The planes became severely lost, ran out of fuel and were forced to land in the sea. However, a rescue plane was sent out of 13 men which also went missing without a trace that very same day.

Along with ship wrecks and plane crashes the Bermuda triangle has had its fair share of ghost ships occurrences. The Mary Celeste and the Ellen Austin were both ships found without their crew, however all supplies were intact, and the boat had little to no damage, this really sparked mystery among the conspiracy theorists.



I am now going to discuss 6 conspiracy theories which have been thought to explain the occurrences in the Bermuda Triangle.

**Aliens** – This theory attempts to prove the strange flashes of light seen by Christopher Columbus along with other offshore fishermen. The UFO believers clung onto these observations as pure evidence for the existence of extraterrestrial life. This would explain the ghost ship occurrences, as all the goods and supplies carried on board were intact (a very different MO from piracy ships). However, unless, alien attacks on earth are suddenly proved to be true, I think we can rule this conspiracy out.

**Electromagnetic forces** – The Bermuda triangle has been proved to be one of two places where a magnetic compass actually points to true north, the other being the Devil sea off the coast of Japan. If this compass variation is not accounted for, which could be as much as twenty degrees, there could be severe issues regarding correct navigation. This could explain the Navy bomber planes of 1945, as they became so incredibly lost.

**Strange Weather** – The equator is known for thermal systems and sudden weather changes.

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### Interested in myths?

Especially in the summer where differences in the air and sea temperature becomes extreme, unpredictable storms and squalls become more frequent. Additionally, waterspouts can occur, columns of rising air which are formed from opposing wind directions, water can be taken up with it. Some believe that a waterspout large enough could lift up an unknowing ship causing severe structural damage. However, this is most likely not the case. Hurricanes are also common, which could cause any plane or ship to sink. When hurricane predictions were less accurate, it left for a higher chance for vessels to be caught in one.

**Methane gas** – Due to the breakdown of sediments on the sea floor a release of methane gas can occur. If the gas bubble is large enough, the change in density would cause the buoyancy of any ship to decrease making it sink. However, a gas bubbles of this size were last released during the end of the glacial episode which was 15,000 years ago making this theory unlikely.

Ocean currents and sargassum- Currents in the gulf stream can be very turbulent which could carry any debris from a wreck or crash at a surprising speed. This could very well be the reason for shipwrecks disappearing without a trace. Also the Sargasso Sea is located in the Bermuda Triangle. This is an area of ocean completely covered in floating algae also known as Sargassum. While this plant is a great habitat for a niche marine ecosystem, large quantities of it can create a sheet across the top of the water. It can act like an anchor to ships if they mistakenly sail into it.

**Rogue waves** – This phenomenon can cause waves large enough to capsize cargo ships and their unpredictability is why they are so dangerous. These waves are caused by smaller waves travelling at different speeds, and their peaks eventually align creating a wave with extreme height and energy. The other theory is that different waves interact with one another transferring energy between them causing on wave to have a lot more energy and power. This could definitely be the case in stormy conditions.

