SALLY THE SPHINX

SHALFLEET CASE FILE

MYT CLASSIFICA VA-SPHINX



FIELD SKETCH: ENORMOUS PURR DETECTED

GIANT HAIRLESS CAT | RIDDLE KEEPER | PYRAMID MEMORY: UNCERTAIN

CASE OPEN

THE WALL OF CLUES



LOCATION: Shalfleet, on the north-west side of the Isle of Wight.
PINNED ARTEFACTS: giant pawprint, coat swatch, sunglasses, puzzle box, whisker sketch and one firmly crossed-out pyramid.

SOMETHING LARGE IN SHALFLEET



Morning mist curled between the cottages. Then two enormous ears appeared, followed by green eyes, long paws and a tail that curled like a question mark.

“Good morning,” purred Sally. “Has anyone seen my cottage?”

CREATURE IDENTIFICATION

SPHINX-SIZED. SPHYNX-SHAPED.



1 EARS

Tall enough to hear a whisper, a riddle and a biscuit tin opening.

2 SKIN

Pale rose-grey, velvety and wrinkled like a very thoughtful map.

3 SCALE

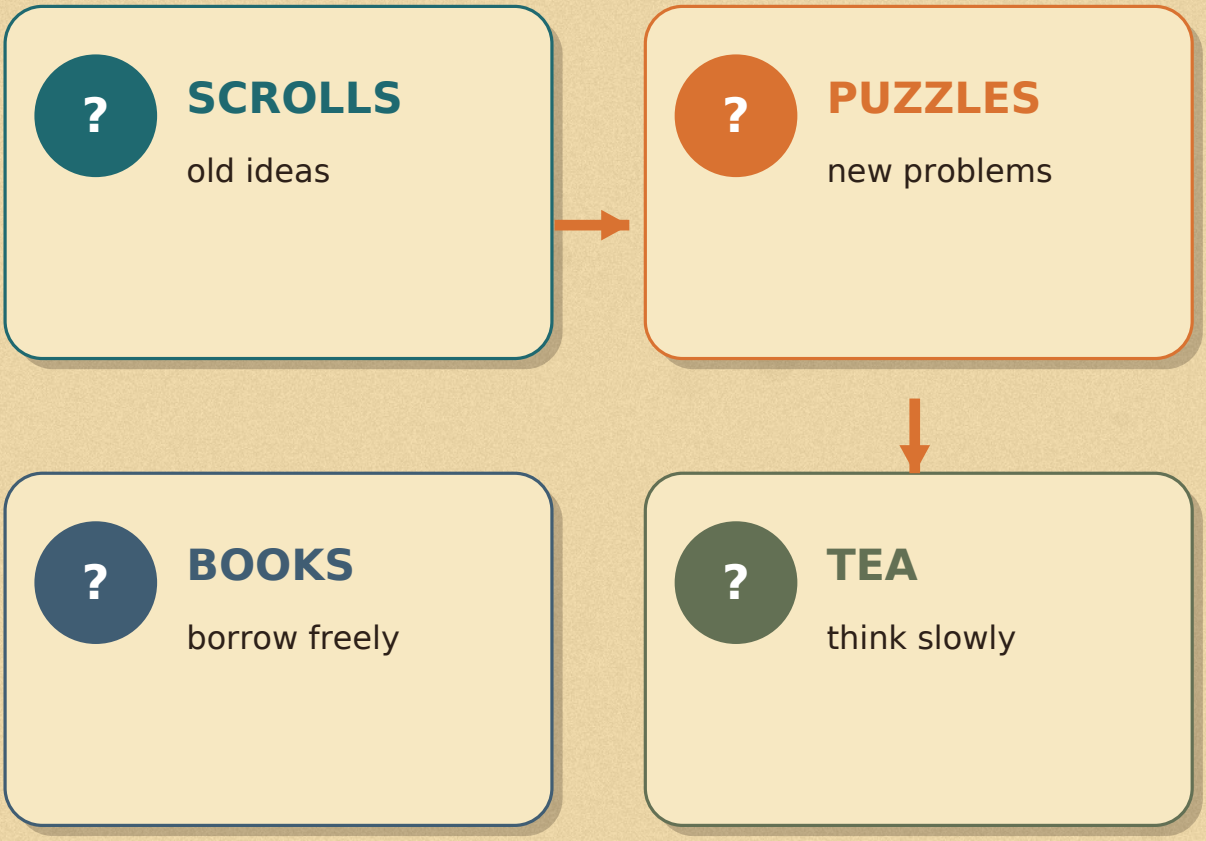
A bus is useful for comparison. Sally is considerably larger.

4 STYLE

Round sunglasses and a flowing coat: essential dramatic equipment.

A HOUSE FULL OF QUESTIONS

Sally’s cottage was stacked with scrolls, philosophy books, puzzle boxes and notebooks. Dried herbs hung from the beams, ready for tea. Every shelf seemed to ask a question.



Professor Follies note: a calm drink may help a worried neighbour feel heard, but serious illness belongs with a qualified grown-up and proper medical care.

SALLY’S VERY GRAND ROUTINE

1 POSE

Choose a dramatic place.

2 LISTEN

Hear the whole problem.

3 RIDDLE

Turn it sideways.

4 GUIDE

Let the thinker answer.

Sally rarely handed over an answer. She preferred to lend people a better question.

THE SHALFLEET RIDDLE CONTEST



The village square filled with clue cards, curious faces and one carved puzzle box. Sally announced each riddle with tremendous seriousness. The children answered with tremendous noise.

HOW TO UNLOCK A RIDDLE

1 LISTEN

Every word may be a clue.

2 PICTURE

Build the scene in your mind.

3 TEST

Try an answer against every clue.

4 EXPLAIN

Say why your answer fits.

Best rule: a fair riddle feels impossible first and obvious afterwards.

YOUR TURN

CAN YOU SOLVE SALLY'S RIDDLE?

?

I copy every word you call,
but never speak one first at all.
I may sound near or far away.
What am I?

PAUSE. PICTURE. TEST.

Draw your answer or whisper it to the nearest investigator. Then follow the arrow.



ANSWER ON THE NEXT EVIDENCE PAGE

AN ECHO!

An echo repeats a sound after it bounces from a surface. It does not invent the first word. That makes every clue fit.

HELLO!



A florist once asked how to make the village notice a quiet event. Sally did not give a business lecture. She asked, “What gets passed around faster than a parcel?”

The florist grinned. “A joke!” Soon every invitation carried one.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

“WHO BUILT THE PYRAMIDS?”



Visitors asked Sally this constantly. She adjusted her sunglasses, considered several thousand years of history, and looked magnificently unhelpful.

SALLY'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT

THE MISSING CENTURY

"Honestly, I was having far too much fun that century.

One day: no pyramids.
Next day: pyramids everywhere.

I missed the important bit."

WITNESS MEMORY: FASHIONABLE, FUZZY

Sally brightened. "That is the good thing about the Isle of Wight: no pyramids suddenly cluttering the view!"

CASE NOTE: SHE STILL DOES NOT KNOW WHO BUILT THEM.

MEMORY RECONSTRUCTION

WHAT SALLY REMEMBERS

1

BEFORE

A wide sandy view.

NO PYRAMIDS

2

DISTRACTION

A century of excellent fun.

DETAILS MISSING

3

AFTER

She finally looked again.

PYRAMIDS!

Historical investigation needs evidence, not merely a very old witness in excellent sunglasses.

Professor Follies rating: entertaining testimony, uncertain chronology.

JACK BUILDS A RIDDLE

1 CHOOSE

Pick an ordinary object: a lantern, boot, shell or bus.

2 NOTICE

Write three true things people may overlook.

3 HIDE

Describe the clues without naming the answer.

4 TEST

Ask a friend. If every clue fits, the riddle works.

LANTERNS, LAUGHTER & CLUES



At the Shalfleet festival, Sally helped Jack share his first riddle. Families followed lantern-lit clues through the village. The answer was less important than the thinking together.

CASE CONCLUSION

WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS SALLY?

✓ **DRAMATIC**

Every entrance deserves mist and sunglasses.

✓ **CURIOUS**

A good question is an invitation to think.

✓ **WISE**

She guides without grabbing the answer.

✓ **HONEST**

She admits when a century has gone missing.

FINAL FINDING: Sally’s greatest mystery is not how much she remembers. It is how skilfully she helps other people discover what they think.

QUESTIONS FOR CURIOUS MINDS

1. Why do people assume an old creature remembers everything?

2. What could distract you for an entire century?

3. If a pyramid appeared in Shalfleet overnight, what would you inspect first?

4. What makes a riddle fair instead of impossible?

5. Do sunglasses improve thinking? Design an experiment.

6. Invent a riddle about an Isle of Wight object.



Professor Follies



PASSPORT

TO MYTHICAL CREATURES

CASE FILE COMPLETE

SALLY THE SPHINX • SHALFLEET

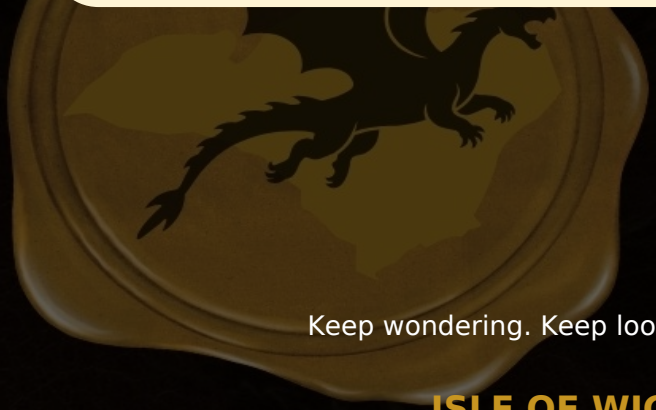
ISLE OF WIGHT

FOLLIES

F.O.L.L.I.E.S.

Federation of Legendary Lore
Investigation and Evidence Specialists

F.O.L.L.I.E.S. REF: SHA-SPH-6



Keep wondering. Keep looking. Keep excellent notes.

ISLE OF WIGHT FOLLIES