



## The Museum of Oddities

G e m m a   O p e n   D o o r

# The Museum of Oddities

## *Sample lesson plan*

Tami is back! Tami Tripper loves meeting new people. She studies human nature as she moves from job to job on her trusty red bicycle Ruby. Her curiosity and her knack for finding trouble make her *The Two-Wheeled Detective*.

When a troubled old woman falls to her death, Tami discovers much, much more. Zelda, the mechanical fortune teller, turns up a card that leads Tami into the secret past of two people....and murder!

*The Museum of Oddities* is the second book in “The Two-Wheeled Detective Mystery Series” featuring the intrepid Tami and her bike Ruby.

You will encounter some **vocabulary** that you can discuss ahead of time:

amazed	indignant	ponytail
automated	institution	practically
catalogue	intrigued	precious
conservator	laboratories	professional
curator	leisurely	quarrel
delicate	magnificent	replica
enameled	maintenance	scurries
enveloped	mansion	sentimental
eavesdropping	meanders	sensitive
exhibition	mysterious	sophisticated
fascinate	nonsense	stunned
fringed	optimistic	temporary
frustrating	ornate	tolerated
galleries	pedaled	twinkled
hesitated	personality	unravel
hummed	pliers	wandered



## Read out loud!

The teacher can model by reading the first paragraph of a chapter. Then, students can read one at a time, in pairs, or in groups, a chapter at a time. This can take several classes or sessions. Assign characters to specific students for acting fun!

## Here are a few videos to spark conversation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfsRrNoZbp0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjzIdVEDcCY>

Hector Diaz is Head of Security at the Museum of Oddities. The top link is a 2-minute video about a day-in-the-life of a museum security guard. The second link is a 3-minute video describing ways to be successful as a security guard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6-d9MX68ow>

Raven Moore is the curator. Learn what curators do in this 1-minute video.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mgFQ\\_wAgz4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mgFQ_wAgz4)

Nathan Amos is the Archivist at the Museum of Oddities. In this 4.5-minute video, we meet Bill Bonner, Vintage Collection Archivist for National Geographic, and learn about his work with photos.

## Multiple choice questions:

1. What is Tami Tripper's job at the museum?
  - a) Security guard
  - b) Curator
  - c) Museum helper
  - d) Archivist
2. What name does Tami give her favorite two-headed duckling?
  - a) Ducky
  - b) Quacky
  - c) Sweetie Pie
  - d) Double Delight
3. Who is the Conservator at the Museum of Oddities?
  - a) Nathan
  - b) Helga
  - c) Willow
  - d) Raven

4. What does Tami find when she opens Selma's private box?
  - a) A secret message
  - b) A gift for the museum
  - c) An old photo
  - d) The box is empty.
5. Where did Selma grow up?
  - a) Pinetree County Children's Home
  - b) Pine Forest Children's Home
  - c) Pine Lake Children's Home
  - d) Pine Woods Children's Home
6. Who is Selma's best friend at the museum?
  - a) Hector
  - b) Tami
  - c) Nathan
  - d) Raven
7. What is Tami's favorite area in the museum?
  - a) Gems and Jewels
  - b) Tick Tock
  - c) Secrets of the Sea
  - d) Carnival Curiosities

**Open-ended discussion questions:**

1. This story takes place in a museum. Why do you think people visit museums? Have you visited a museum?
2. The Museum of Oddities has many unique items. Imagine you can add something to the museum collection. What would you add? Why?
3. In the book, the museum is a place of learning and discovery. Where do you go when you want to learn and discover new things?
4. The characters in the book have different jobs at the museum. What job would you like best in a museum? Why?
5. Willow often wears clothing of only one color. For example, he is wearing a green suit, green shirt, green tie, and green shoes when he meets Tami. This fashion style is sometimes called "column dressing" because the body looks like a solid column of color. What do you think about this style of dressing? Have you tried it?

### **Compare and contrast strategy:**

The Museum of Oddities has a fortune teller machine named Zelda. A famous Tom Hanks movie called *Big* also has a fortune teller. Watch this clip (1:40).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6RK4479XD8>

1. What are two ways the fortune teller in the book is the same as the fortune teller in the movie?
2. What are two ways the fortune tellers are different?

Note to teachers: Consider using a Venn Diagram with Zelda on one side and Zoltar on the other.

### **Practice Sequencing:**

Sequencing means putting events in the order that they happened. This helps us understand the story better. Below are events from The Museum of Oddities. Put them in order from what happened first to last. Write numbers 1 through 7 next to each event. Number 1 is the event that happened first.

- Selma falls down the stairs.
- Hector tells Tami items are missing from the museum.
- Tami discovers The Museum of Oddities for the first time while riding her bike.
- Tami starts working at The Museum of Oddities.
- Tami learns a secret about Helga Fitzroy.
- The museum's missing items are found.
- Selma and Tami receive a surprising fortune from Zelda.

### **Answer Key:**

1. Tami discovers The Museum of Oddities for the first time while riding her bike.
2. Tami starts working at The Museum of Oddities.
3. Selma and Tami receive a surprising fortune from Zelda.
4. Hector tells Tami items are missing from the museum.
5. Selma falls down the stairs.
6. Tami learns a secret about Helga Fitzroy.
7. The museum's missing items are found.

## **Community Resource Extension Activity:**

Did you know that many public libraries offer free or discounted passes to local museums, zoos, and gardens? This activity will help you learn what is available at your library.

1. **Find your local library.** Look up your local library. You can use the internet or phone directory. Ask a teacher, friend, or family member for help.
2. **Ask about museum passes.** Visit or call your library. Ask them if they have free or discounted passes to museums.
3. **Learn the process.** Find out how you can get passes. Ask questions like:
  - a) Do I need a library card to get the pass?
  - b) How many days can I keep the pass?
  - c) Are there any special rules?
4. **Get a library card.** If you don't have one, ask how to get a library card. Most libraries want you to show an ID and a document with your home address (example: phone or electricity bill).
5. **Enjoy the library.** Libraries are great places for learning. You can find many interesting things like movies, music, magazines, and books.

## **What to read next:**

This book is part of a series! That means you can read more books about Tami's adventures. The first book is [The Two-Wheeled Detective](#). The books in this series are stand-alone. That means you do not need to read them in any special order.

## ***Continue reading mysteries with us!***

- [The Night Telephone](#) (one full reading level lower)
- [Forever and Ever](#) (about the same reading level)
- [No Stopping Her](#) (about one full reading level higher)

## ***Continue reading about museums with us!***

- [A Girls' Guide to the Islands](#) (about one full reading level higher)