

Christie Edmunds: extended writing ideas

Choose one of these ideas to help you create your own imaginative piece of writing based on the story of Christie Edmunds. We would love to see your work!

Idea 1: Front page news!

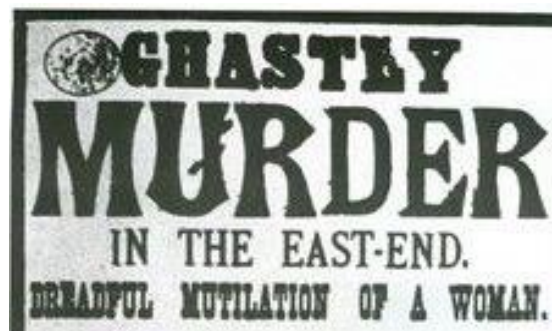
Christie Edwards was arrested on Thursday 10th August 1871. The following day, newspapers were full of the shocking tale of the Chocolate Cream Killer. Imagine you are a reporter for the Brighton Post. How will you tell this sensational news?

You need to include:

1. A **headline** to grab attention
2. A **sub-head** to give more details (look at the newspaper examples below for ideas)
3. A **summary** of what has happened (Christie's arrest last night)
4. The **story** leading up to the arrest (what Christie did, when and why)
5. A few **quotes** from people involved. Possible people could include:
 - Mrs Ann Edmunds (Christie's mother)
 - Mr J G Maynard
 - Dr Arthur Beard or his wife, Mrs Emily Beard
 - The chemist who sold Christie strychnine poison
 - Mr and Mrs Barker and Jack (Sidney's parents and uncle)
 - One of the boys who bought chocolates for Christie
6. Suggestions of **what might happen next** (when might a trial start, and what is Christie's punishment likely to be?)

Useful facts:

- Christie's full name was Christiana; she was 42 years old when arrested and lived at 16 Gloucester Place
- Sidney Barker was 4 when he died on 12th June 1871



Headlines and sub-heads in Victorian newspapers reporting on Jack the Ripper

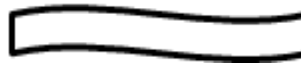
Idea 2: Design a 'dreadful' cover!

Cheap Victorian magazines, nicknamed Penny Dreadfuls, featured exciting (and silly) stories to thrill their readers. Can you design your own Penny Dreadful cover? Use the template on the next page.

Put a big, attention-grabbing title at the top. What would people such as Christie's mother want to read about?



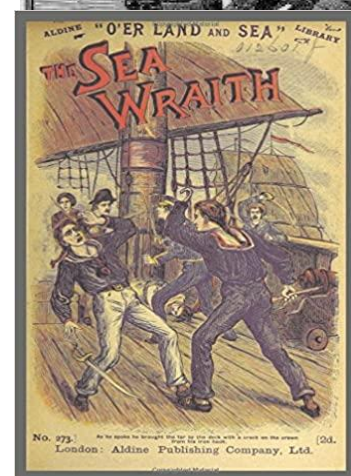
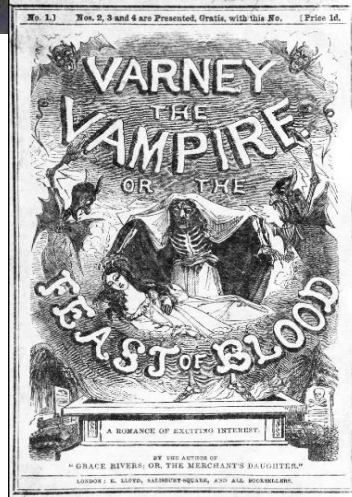
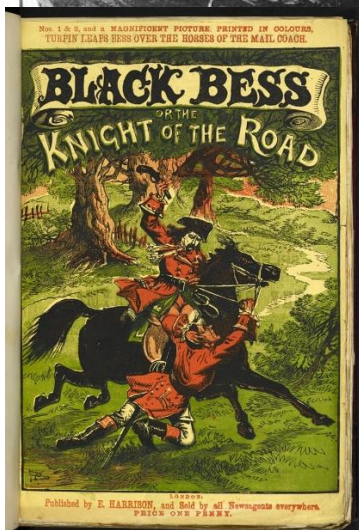
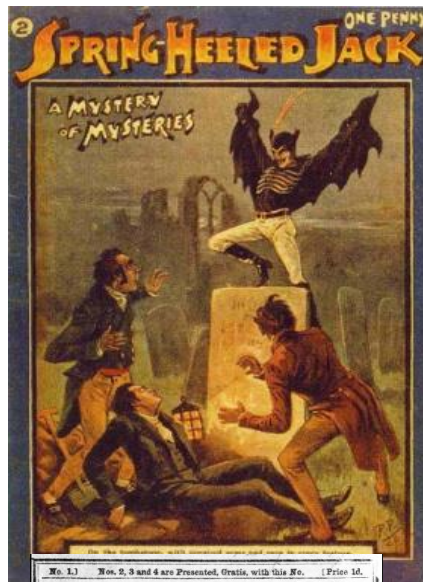
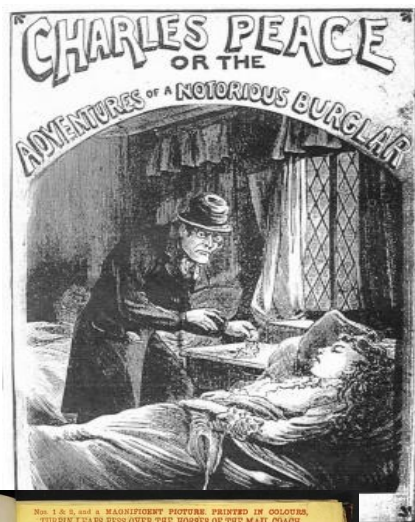
Your action-packed drawing goes here!



Add a line or two to explain what the story is about. Make sure it sounds thrilling. Is it a tale so terrible it will shock your readers?

For ideas, look at these covers of real Penny Dreadfuls.

Common topics were gruesome crimes and ruthless criminals, daring highwaymen of the past, bloodthirsty pirates and even supernatural creatures such as vampires and monsters.



ONE PENNY

