

Murder Mystery

ECR Narrator: Today we are joining seven ladies who are having lunch to discuss what happened during dinner last night. Let's listen in on what they have to say. They begin their conversation while waiting on their table.

1: Could you believe that storm last night? It was terrible. It has been a long time since I heard thunder that close and that loud.

2.: Yeah, I knew the lights were going to go out the minute it started storming. Didn't I tell you, (#3's name)?

3 – Yeah you told me . . . like you always do.

4: Ladies, I don't know . . . but I thought we were coming together today to talk about Shelby dying last night.

5.: I cannot believe it happened. Shelby seemed to be in such good health . . . so it was such a surprise.

6: Well, I knew Shelby had some "health" problems, but they were not enough to kill her. (Look at everyone with an accusing look.)

3: Well, when those lights went out I know what I heard . . . and when they came back on, Shelby **was** dead. It's obvious somebody killed Shelby. I want to know how she died and who did it.

7: Don't look at me . . . I couldn't kill anything . . . or anybody.

3: Yeah, you're right . . . we know you wouldn't do it 'cause you might break a fingernail!

7: (Glare at (#3's name), then give her a sweet smile.)

ECR Narrator: Let me tell you a little bit about Shelby . . . who died last night. She was 65 years old. In fact, she had just celebrated her 65th birthday. She appeared to be in good health. She was always out in the community and helping others. She really loved doing BrainMinders with the children in the local elementary schools. She wasn't rich, but she had money . . . at least she had enough to do the things she wanted to do. As she got older, she didn't have as many friends . . . but the ones she did have were special to her. In some ways she was average . . . and in others she was quite extraordinary.

Let's see if we can figure out what happened. Do any of you have questions?

Question 1: Are you sure it was not because of money?

6: Absolutely sure. No one killed Shelby because of money. She worked hard for her money and while she didn't have a lot, she always seemed to have had enough to do what she wanted to.

Question 2: Did anyone in particular not like Shelby?

[Everyone look at (#3's name)]

5: Not that I know of – I thought everyone loved Shelby.

1: Well, someone didn't. Someone killed Shelby and I am thinking **that someone** is standing right here.

Question 3: (#3's name), you said you heard something when the lights went out. What did you hear?

3: Well, I heard raised voices. Everyone was trying to talk at once and the voices just got louder when the lights went out. A perfect opportunity to kill Shelby . . . wouldn't you say?

Question 4: Are you sure she didn't die of natural causes?

7: I don't think she died of natural causes. Remember the great time we all had at the party last month. Shelby really celebrated turning 65! The food was great, wasn't it? I'm still dreaming about that cake. I love cake . . . don't care too much for pie . . . but **I love cake!**

3: Well I guess it's a possibility that (#7's name) talked her to death!

2: **I** know Shelby was killed. **I** know the killer is standing right here . . . and **I** am going to find out who did it.

ECR Narrator: *They are still standing there waiting on a table. They begin talking with each other again.*

4: (#6's name), are you sure that money's not what killed Shelby? You were the one in charge of the money. I know I can't even balance my own checkbook. I'm not saying you did anything wrong . . . but . . . I just wonder . . .

3: Yeah, you had easy access to the money. Did you have to kill Shelby in order to hide what you were doing?

1: No, I'm sure the money was not the issue. All the finances were in proper order. I know because I looked at the books.

5: I looked at the books, too. I do have to say that I was surprised by how little money there was.

2: I told you! I told **all** of you to go out and sell those pecans, mums, wrapping paper, Taste of Spring tickets, knives, luminaries, and those "smelly" candles! But, did you listen to me? Of course not . . . I don't know what I'm talking about!

6: Can I help it if all my friends run when they see me coming? I'm sure they're saying, "Here comes (#6's name)! What's she selling now?"

7: That's exactly why I quit selling anything and everything last year. I decided I would just pay for it out of my own pocket.

1: Madam President, why do you think the Pilot Club of Shelby died?

4: I really don't know.

7: I don't know either, but I do know that lately it seemed like the meetings just lasted forever . . . and I had other things I wanted to be doing.

3: (#7's name), what do you expect from a president that thinks Robert's is a fine restaurant!

4: Robert's?

2: As in Robert's Rules of Order. You know . . . Parliamentary procedure . . . which I have tried to teach you . . . and you have ignored!

5: Now, wait a minute. We have had agendas the last several months.

4: I've been trying. I told you I was too new and didn't know enough to be President . . . but would you listen? No, you just said it wasn't hard and . . . there was nothing to it.

3: Well, we were wrong and you were right!

ECR Narrator: By now you have probably figured out that Shelby was a Pilot Club that died last night. The members still have not figured out why. The hostess came over and told them it was going to be another 30 minutes before they could be seated. They decided not to wait for a table . . . instead they decided to move their conversation to the parking lot . . . sound familiar?

You learned from the conversation that the club had some money, but was not well off.

*What did you learn about their fundraising projects?
(Let the audience members answer.)*

[They were always selling.]

At your table, (discuss and vote) as to whether or not you think fundraising projects is what killed the Pilot Club of Shelby.

You also learned that the president probably should not have been president . . . or at least not yet. She had just started using an agenda and had no experience using parliamentary procedure. She probably had trouble controlling certain people in the club because we know the meetings went on and on and on.

(Discuss and vote) at your table if you believe an inexperienced/weak president killed the club.

Now, can we have a few more questions from the audience to help them figure out why the club died?

_____, name didn't you have a question?

Question 5 – How many members did the Pilot Club of Shelby have?

4: We have 20 members . . . no, I mean we **had** 20 members.

6: But, 5 of those were emeritus members and were not paying any dues . . . **and** not attending meetings . . . **or** participating in our projects or fundraisers.

7: And . . . we definitely won't talk about the age of the rest of the members. I mean . . . I believe I'm the youngest one in the group.

5: Weren't 3 of our members e-members?

4: I never understood the e-membership thing. I know that (#3's name) was supposed to stay in touch with them and get them to come help with our projects . . . but I don't remember seeing any of them there.

3: I always told them **where** to be and **when** to be there . . . they just never showed up. It wasn't my fault.

1: When was the last time we got a new member? It's been so long ago I can't remember.

2: I kept telling everybody how they needed to do it . . . but, of course, no one listened to me!

***ECR Narrator:** While it appears that the club had a healthy membership situation, did they really? They had 20 members, but 5 of those were emeritus and 3 were e-members and apparently not very active. This gets us to 12 members. And we know that they did not have a diverse club as far as age goes, don't we? Plus it seems to have been a while since they had gotten any new members.*

Is this what killed the Pilot Club of Shelby? Please discuss and) vote.

_____, name - didn't you have a question?

Question 6: I remember years ago that your club had some of the best service projects of any club in our district. Was that still the case?

2: Absolutely! Even though the county quit doing the school bus rodeo and giving awards, we had 6 more places for names on the trophy . . . so, we continued recognizing the School Bus Driver of the Year!

1: Yessss we did. (sarcastic)

7: Well, I enjoyed getting dressed up for the banquet we would have to honor the school bus driver of the year. I really hated it when the Mayor quit coming . . . he was so young and cute!

3: We still took cookies every month to the nursing home.

5: Yesss we did. (sarcastic)

2: We added some NEW projects . . . like that BrainMinder thing-a-ma-gig we did.

1: – Yes. (#5's name), (#6's name) and I really enjoyed doing the BrainMinders program. The children are so cute and they learn so much.

3: I helped once, too!

6: Yes, I understand Johnny still has nightmares from when you growled at him in the Miss Fiona Fox costume. You 'bout scared that poor boy to death.

3: Huh! Kids are such wimps these days!

ECR Narrator: *What did you learn about the service projects of the Pilot Club of Shelby? (Let them answer)*

*[Possible answers: Basically out of date
Few people participating
Not excited about the projects]*

So, it is time to discuss and vote on whether you think the service projects is what killed the Pilot Club of Shelby.

Question 7: Your club used to bring a large group to our district meetings and you always seemed to have such a good time together. You laughed and joked with each other. What happened?

3: What do you mean what happened? We're friends!

1: Yesss we are! (sarcastically)

4: I was still trying to learn everybody's name and it was hard when only half the members would show up at meetings . . . and . . . it was never the same half!

2: I did everything I could do to foster and promote and encourage friendships!

5: Yessss, you certainly did! (sarcastically)

6: I'm beginning to understand why I like dealing with numbers instead of people . . . they're so much easier.

3: What does that mean? I'm always friendly . . . just like (#7's name). I would never hurt anything or anybody. Although, unlike (#7's name), I don't care if I break a nail!

7e: Well, I don't know (#3's name) . . . maybe some things are worth breaking a nail over. *(Pretend she slaps (#3's name) on the back of the head – like Gibbs does in NCIS.)*

Narrator: *Now it is time to discuss and vote . . . do you think the personalities of the members are responsible for the death of the Pilot Club of Shelby?*

I hope you all have enjoyed our little Murder Mystery presentation. I want to thank our Pilots who helped us out this morning. Will you join me in giving them a big round of applause?

You now know a lot about the Pilot Club of Shelby right before its demise. After considering all the evidence presented . . . and voting at your table, what do you think really killed the Pilot Club of Shelby?

Yes, I think we can agree that all the things contributed to its death.

However, any one of these things or any 2 of these things can kill a club as well if not addressed.