



CASE 1- Description, Details and Q&A

The Final Masterpiece

Late afternoon at Vidhan Secondary Government School, the art studio was open for the top five students preparing their portfolios for a prestigious national scholarship. The session ended and everyone headed home, but one student never left.

Aryan, the class's top artist, was discovered by the peon, slumped over a table, his body smeared in thick red, blue, and black paint, almost like an art installation. Poetic, or psychotic?

The time of death was declared 4:25pm.

Several people had motives to harm Aryan, from teachers to classmates.

Your task is to examine the evidence, question the suspects, and determine who killed Aryan, how they did it, and why.

Suspect Details:

1. Aarav: Old rival. Partnered up for a group project with Aryan.
2. Kartik: Art teachers son and fellow classmate. Always a few marks behind Aryan.
3. Kashiv: Fellow classmate. Recent complaints against Aryan.
4. Mr Sharma: Class teacher. Recently had an issue with Aryan and targeted him. No one knows why.

Witness:

Mr Desai: Art Teacher. Aryan was his favourite student. Spoke as a witness of events as he knew it.

Forensic Findings

- The height and angle of the spray show the victim was standing when the attack occurred, with the attacker positioned directly in front of him.
- The injury matches the width and shape of the palette knife recovered at the scene.
- Depth and direction of the wound suggest a single forceful thrust on the neck.
- The pattern of footprints matches a standard school sneaker sole owned by all the students.
- A used pair of latex gloves was recovered near the sink, with red paint residue on the fingertips.
- No clear fingerprints were recovered from the palette knife, suggesting the killer may have handled the weapon while wearing gloves.

STRUCTURED INTERVIEW FOR SUSPECTS

Common questions to everyone:

1. What was your relationship with Aryan?
2. Where were you at the time of death?
3. Anything unusual witnessed near time of death (4:25pm)?

Specific questions for suspects:

To Aarav:

Mr. Desai Claims he heard you argue with Kartik around 4pm. Even Kashiv said you were the last one there. Care to explain?

To Kartik:

Aarav claims he saw you re-enter the studio after he left. Be honest, what were you doing?

To Kashiv:

Mr Desai said you complained about Aryan aggressively while leaving at around 4pm. What was it about?

To Mr Sharma:

We know you went to the studio before any of the students. You were spotted near Aryans desk. What were you doing?

QUESTIONS- ANSWERS

1. Who do you think wrote the threatening notes in Aryan's sketchbook?

Mr Sharma

2. What do you think Mr. Sharma was hiding?

Affair with student

3. Who do you think killed Aryan?

Kartik

4. What is the motive of the killer?

Jealousy, attention from father.

5. What is the conclusive evidence tying the killer to the crime?

Paintbrush marked with K, entry missing in attendance register.

6. What do the overturned stools and easels indicate? Who might be responsible for those?

There was a fight before the murder with Aarav.

7. Who had the strongest motive related to the scholarship competition?

Kashiv- plagiarism and anger.

8. Why would the killer want to make the murder look like an art installation?

Cry for attention: want to prove that he is a good artist too, + validation of father.

9. Which suspect's timeline leaves the biggest unexplained gap?

Kartik

10. Why did the peon enter again exactly at the time of death?

He was coming to clean up, He was the one who found the body and reported it.