As plain as the nose on one’s face

Tracey loves reading. She likes books about animals and especially about horses. The very best book she ever read was The Black Stallion. She just loved it and has read it three times.

It’s hard for her to find new books in the school-library. Now she is going on winter vacation and needs a lot of books.

"Why don’t you try a detective story for once?" her teacher asked her, when she couldn’t find any new animal books for Tracey.

"Try this one. It’s called "The Winter Mystery". An exciting story about a mysterious murder."

On her first free day she started to read the detective story. It was about an old second-hand-dealer who is found murdered in his shop. There is a wound in his head and he is all wet as if someone had poured a glass of water over him. The police could not find a murder weapon or any fingerprints.

Tracey could not solve the problem. She went for a short walk in town that evening and suddenly, when she saw the icicles hanging from the roofs, it was all as plain as the nose on her face.

"Now I know how he was killed!" she muttered to herself. "I must go home and read the rest of the story to see if I am right."

A 1. What does Tracey love most of all?
2. How many times had Tracey read The Black Stallion?
3. What did Tracey do on the evening of her first free day?

B 1. Why did the teacher want Tracey to read a detective story?
2. Why do you think the victim was wet?
3. What is "The Winter Mystery" about?

C What does "As plain as the nose on one’s face" mean in Swedish?

Word list

exciting = spännande
mutter = mumla
second-hand-dealer = loppis-handlare
stallion = hingst

icicle = istapp
mysterious = mystisk
plain = tydlig
solve = lösa

kill = döda
pour = hälla
vacation = skollov

library = bibliotek

wound = skada