

Summer Success[®] Reading

Developed by
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Keep students engaged in **reading** over the summer.



SAMPLER

The Mystery of the Shredded Net

Calvin was concerned, confused, and downright **confounded**! Who was taking apart his badminton net?

confounded
puzzled

Every morning, Calvin checked the net. Every morning, little pieces of it were shredded. Bits of white netting littered the grass.

"I'm getting to the bottom of this mystery!" Calvin promised.

"How are you going to do that?" his friend Chuck asked.

"I'm going to do what all great detectives do—search for clues."

"Aha!" cried Chuck. "I see footprints on both sides of the net." He plopped onto one side to investigate.

"Hey," he said. "Look at those ridges in the footprint."

"Uh, Chuck? Those are from the pattern on the bottom of your shoes. These prints belong to *you*. The ones on the other side of the net are mine. We're the ones who play here. See?" Calvin ducked under the net. He placed his foot into a footprint—a perfect fit!

"It's no use," said Chuck, kicking aside some feathers on the grass. "There are no other footprints."

"There must be other clues," said Calvin. "It's just so weird! We're the only ones who use the net. Someone must be sneaking here after we go inside."

"Who would do something like that?" asked Chuck.

There was silence. Chuck looked at Calvin, who was staring upward.

"She would!" said Calvin. "I know who's been shredding my net!"

WHO IS THE CULPRIT? Turn the magazine upside down to read the rest of the story.

"Those feathers got me thinking," said Calvin, as he pointed to the tree over the net. "They weren't exactly footprints, but they were good clues that something had been here." Peering up, Chuck saw a birds' nest. Shaped like a scraggly bowl, it was made of bits of grass, twigs—and white netting.

Be a Good Detective

Do you know how to solve a mystery? Find out by reading on.

detectives

people who look for clues to solve a mystery

What happened to my rain boots? Who ate the last piece of pie? Where did Laura put her lunch box? These are everyday mysteries. We need to know how to solve everyday mysteries. We need to be good detectives. Here are some steps you can take to help you solve a mystery.



1. Find Out More

When you have a mystery to solve, you need to find out the facts. You need to ask questions. If you want to help Laura find her lunch box, talk to Laura. Ask Laura the last place she can remember having her lunch box.

2. Go to the Scene of the Crime

Go to where the mystery took place. Go to where Laura last saw her lunch box. Are there any clues?



3. Play Out the Mystery

Pretend that you had the lunch box. What might you have done with it?



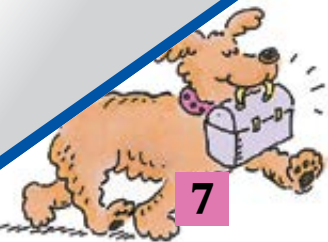
4. Sit and Think

Now, think about what you learned. Go to a quiet place. Put the pieces together in your mind. Write down some ideas on a piece of paper. You may even want to "sleep on it." This means to wait until tomorrow before working on it again.



5. Don't Give Up

You may be able to solve a mystery that you didn't think you could. Ask a friend for help. Talk to a grown up. Most of all—keep trying!



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