

WHAT IS THIS?

Clue #1: Picture Decoder
Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

Clue #2: Error Analysis
Check each suspect's work. Decide if each comparison symbol is correct. Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #3: Detective Report
I have $41-26$ ¹⁵ pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had $68-44$ ²⁴ pencils in her desk. She told me that she had $46-34$ ¹² more pencils at home. I only have $62-58$ pencils at home. When 5 him $43-3$ that she had pencils in her $85-79$

Clue #4: The School Bus
Write the answer to each question in each box.

36÷35	46÷19	29÷32	23÷18	73÷14	72÷9
X 71	G 65	B 61	X 41	R 87	X 81
23÷54	64÷27	57÷18	37÷13	56÷33	45÷45

Clue #5: Picture Reveal
Put an E on each even number and an O on each odd number.

20	9	3	18	12	15
E	O	O	E	E	O
14	18	19	6	11	8
E	E	O	E	O	E

Are there more even or odd numbers?
7 evens and 5 odds

The Case of the Missing Pencil
THE LIFETIME LEARNER

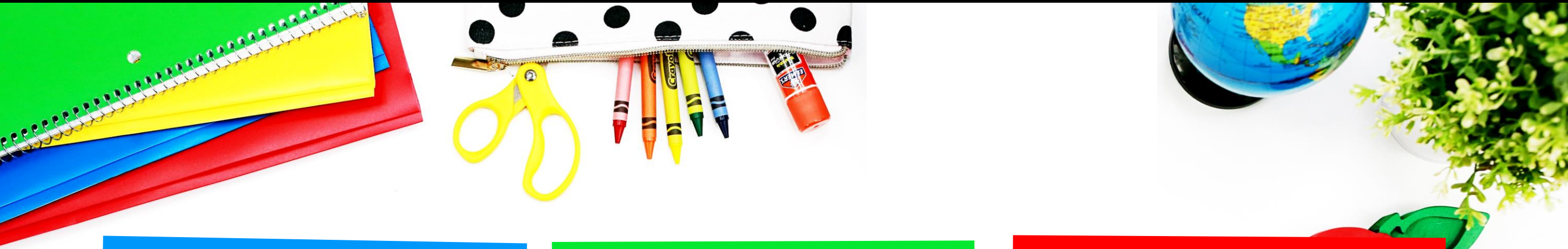
The Suspect List
As you solve each clue, cross out the kids who did not commit the crime. The kid left at the end is the culprit.

<p>I'm wearing yellow pants.</p> Zara	<p>I'm wearing a red shirt.</p> Lexi	<p>I'm wearing a green shirt.</p> Asher	<p>I have red shoes.</p> Destiny
<p>I'm wearing blue shoes.</p> Eli	<p>I'm wearing a green hair tie.</p> Camila	<p>I have yellow pants.</p> Darius	<p>I have a blue box.</p> Nora

Name: _____

Students complete a series of clues to figure out who took the missing pencil!

HOW TO PLAY



What Happened?

Oh no! You brought your new pencil to school today but it went missing while you were at recess. It's your job to find out who took the missing pencil.

1. Take a suspect list and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering who the culprit (thief) is!
3. Cross out wrong suspects each time you find out new information. Good luck!

Clue #1: Picture Decoder

Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

279	792	297	797	729	972	292	922	927

Answers: 792 922 297 927 797 729 972 292 279

Letters: N O B O K B A G

The culprit has...

A =	G =	M =	S =	Y =
B =	H =	N =	T =	Z =
C =	I =	O =	U =	
D =	J =	P =	V =	
E =	K =	Q =	W =	
F =	L =	R =	X =	

The Suspect List

As you solve each clue, cross out the kids who did not commit the crime. The kid left at the end is the culprit.

 I'm wearing yellow pants. Zara	 I'm wearing a red shirt. Lexi	 I'm wearing a green shirt. Asher	 I have red shoes. Destiny
 I'm wearing blue shoes. Eli	 I'm wearing a green hair. Camila	 I have yellow pants. Darius	 I have a blue bow. <u>Nora</u>

Name: _____

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal which suspects to cross off. When all clues are completed, the mystery of the missing pencil will be solved!

SKILL PRACTICE

Clue #1: Picture Decoder

Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.



279 792 297

Answers: 792 922 297
 $700+90+2$ $2+900+20$ 90

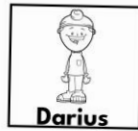
Letters:

The culprit has...

Use this decoder to help you figure out what letter is equal to each picture.

Clue #2: Error Analysis

Check each suspect's work. Decide if each comparison symbol is correct. Put a check or an X next to each answer.



Darius

$425 > 245$ ✓

$696 < 969$ ✓

$473 < 743$ ✓

$338 < 337$ ✗

$127 = 127$ ✓



Destiny

$999 < 666$

$894 = 894$ ✓

$227 > 226$ ✓

$545 = 425$ ✗

$370 < 369$ ✗



Nora

$✗ 495 = 294$

$✓ 389 < 390$

$✓ 190 < 382$

$✓ 400 > 40$

$✗ 502 < 205$

The suspect with the most correct answers is not the culprit.

Clue #3: Detective Report

5 pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had $68-44$ pencils in her desk. I only have $62-58$ pencils at my desk, he only had $100-75$! I gave her 25 pencils she had. She told me that she had $46-34$ more pencils at home. Then she found $88-78$ more pencils.

1=A	10=E	19=Z
2=G	11=J	20=H
3=S	12=N	21=L
4=D	13=U	22=F
5=O	14=X	23=P
6=S	15=0	24=R
7=M	16=B	25=E
8=C	17=I	26=S
9=Y	18=V	

- Place Value to 1000
- Add 2 Digit Numbers
- Subtract 2 Digit Numbers
- Compare Numbers to 1000
- Even or Odd
- School-Themed
- Error Analysis Practice

All clues focus on reviewing 3rd grade math skills!

MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

Clue #1: Picture Decoder
Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

Clue #2: Error Analysis
Check each suspect's work. Decide if each comparison symbol is correct. Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #3: Detective Report
I have 41-26 pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had 68-44 pencils in her desk. She has 12 pencils at home. When I got home, she told me she had 43 pencils in her desk. How many pencils in her desk so I'll have even more than my teacher?

3 Clue Version

19=Z
20=H
21=L
22=F
23=P
24=R
25=E
26=S
3=S
4=D
5=O
6=S
7=M
8=C
9=Y
12=N
13=U
14=X
15=O
16=B
17=I
18=V

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Clue #4: The School Bus
Write the answer to each question in each box.

Clue #5: Picture Reveal
Put an E on each even number and an O on each odd number.

5 Clue Version

Are there more even or odd numbers?
7 evens and 5 odds

- There are more odd than even numbers: The culprit is not wearing blue.
- There are more even than odd numbers: The culprit is not wearing a hat.
- There are an equal amount of even & odd numbers: The culprit is wearing a hat.
- There are no even or odd numbers shown: The culprit is a girl.

Clue #1: Picture Decoder
Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

10 16 40 15 90 9 80 7 6

Answers: $\frac{16}{2 \times 8}$ $\frac{6}{1 \times 6}$ $\frac{9}{3 \times 3}$ $\frac{7}{7 \times 1}$ $\frac{15}{3 \times 5}$ $\frac{90}{10 \times 9}$

Letters: N O B G O K

The culprit has...

Use this decoder to help you figure out what letter is equal to each picture.

A = [apple]	G = [glue]	M = [marker]	S = [scissors]	Y = [yarn]
B = [book]	H = [hat]	N = [notebook]	T = [tape]	Z = [zipper]
C = [candy]	I = [ice cream]	O = [orange]	U = [umbrella]	
D = [desk]	J = [jelly]	P = [pencil]	V = [vase]	
E = [eraser]	K = [key]	Q = [quartz]	W = [wheel]	
F = [finger]	L = [lunchbox]	R = [ruler]	X = [x-ray]	

Clue #1: Picture Decoder
Find each answer. Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

10 16 40 15 90 9 80 7 6

Answers: $\frac{16}{2 \times 8}$ $\frac{6}{1 \times 6}$ $\frac{3 \times 3}{3 \times 3}$ $\frac{7 \times 1}{7 \times 1}$ $\frac{3 \times 5}{3 \times 5}$ $\frac{10 \times 9}{10 \times 9}$ $\frac{5 \times 8}{5 \times 8}$ $\frac{8 \times 10}{8 \times 10}$ $\frac{2 \times 5}{2 \times 5}$

Letters: N O B G O K

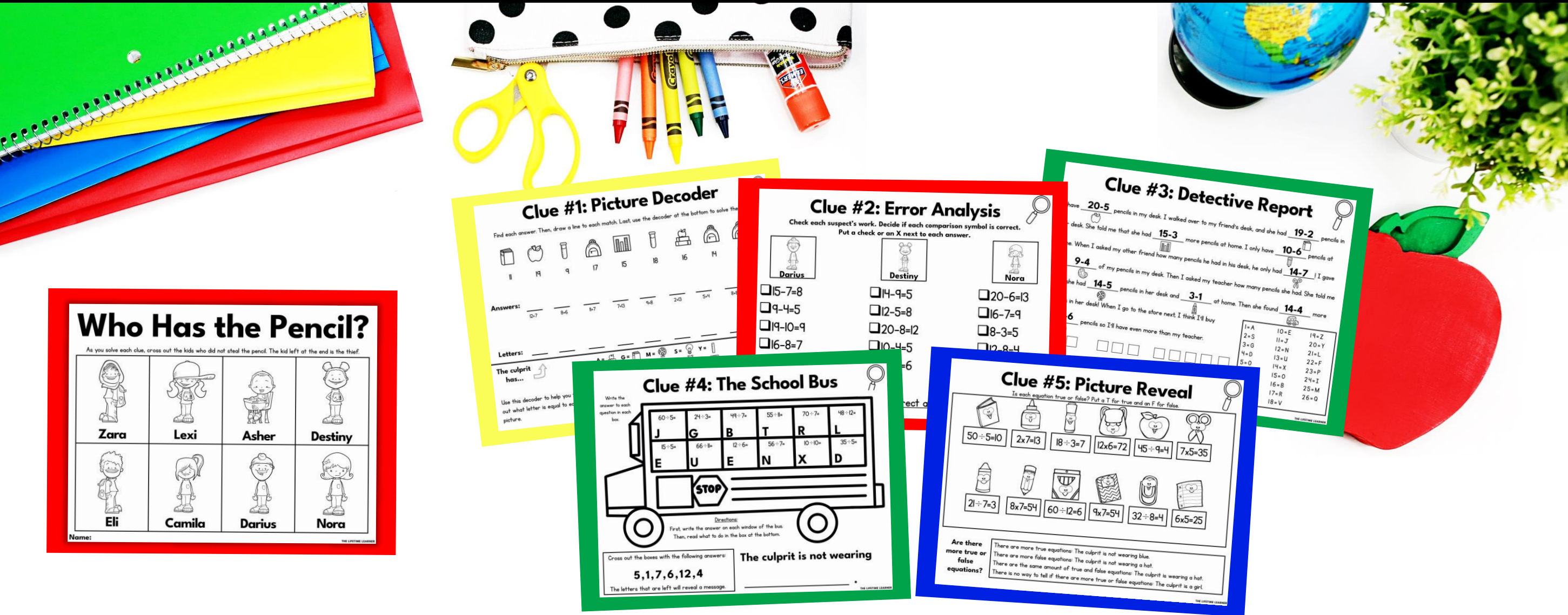
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E = [eraser]	K = [key]	Q = [quartz]	W = [wheel]	
F = [finger]	L = [lunchbox]	R = [ruler]	X = [x-ray]	

Short & Long Options

2 MATH FACT OPTIONS!



Same clues. Same mystery. Different math!

Use the add/subtract facts to 20 mystery or the multiplication/division facts 1-12 mystery!

FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY



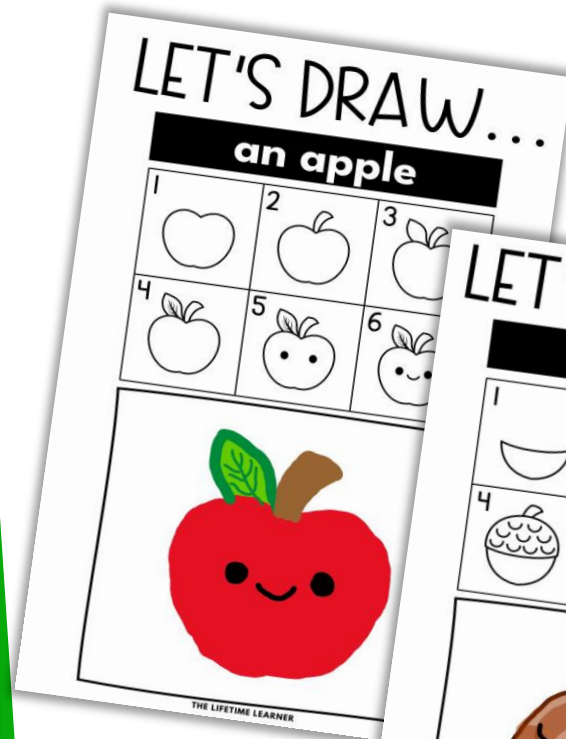
The Detective Agency sends
congratulations to:



Lindsay
You solved the mystery!

11/2
Date

AW
Presented by:



If students finish early,
give them a
certificate of completion
and a directed drawing
to complete while others
continue working.

MATH MYSTERY BENEFITS



- No Prep
- Print and Digital Versions
- 3 & 5 Clue Options
- Extra Math Facts Mystery
- Fun and Engaging
- Easy to Differentiate
- Encourages Critical Thinking
- Aligns with Math Standards
- Perfect for Review Days

Clue #4: The School Bus

Write the answer to each question in each box.

$36+35$	$46+19$	$29+32$	$23+18$	$73+14$	$72+9$
X 71	G 65	X 61	X 41	R 87	X 81
$23+54$	$64+27$	$57+18$	$37+13$	$56+33$	$45+45$
E 77	X 91	E 75	N 50	X 89	X 90

Directions: First, write the answer on each window of the bus. Then, read what to do in the box at the bottom.

Cross out the boxes with the following answers:
91, 41, 90, 71, 61, 81, 89

The letters that are left will reveal a message.

The culprit is not wearing green.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

In 3rd grade, this works well in small groups or in partners.

WHY TEACHERS LOVE THESE!

Ordinary math worksheets can be boring and unoriginal.

You want activities that are fun and engaging, but also rigorous and meaningful to student learning.

MATH MYSTERIES ARE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

Clue #1: Picture Decoder

Clue #2: Error Analysis
Check each suspect's work. Decide if each comparison symbol is correct.
Put a check or an X next to each answer.

Clue #3: Detective Report
I have $10-7$ pencils in my desk. I walked over to my friend's desk, and she had $9-1$ pencils in her desk.

Clue #4: The School Bus
Write the answer to each question in each box.

36+35	46+19	29+32	23+18	73+14	72+9
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Clue #5: Picture Reveal
Put an E on each even number and an O on each odd number.

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- There are no even or odd numbers shown: The culprit is a girl.

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

Lindsay
You solved the mystery!

11/2 Date *AW* Presented by:

LET'S DRAW...
an apple

1	2	3
4	5	6

LET'S DRAW...
an acorn

1	2	3
4	5	6

The Suspect List
As you solve each clue, cross out the kids who did not commit the crime. The kid left at the end is the culprit.

 I'm wearing yellow pants. Zara	 I'm wearing a red shirt. Lexi	 I'm wearing a green shirt. Asher	 I have red shoes. Destiny
 I'm wearing blue shoes. Eli	 I'm wearing a green hair tie. Camila	 I have yellow pants. Darius	 I have a blue bow. Nora

Name: _____

solve the mystery

The Case of the Missing Pencil

WHAT MAKES MATH MYSTERIES UNIQUE?



Math Mysteries aren't just a copy of Reading Mysteries!

They have brand-new clues, focus on math skills, and even feature a different conclusion to the mystery.

The only thing that stays the same is the list of suspects students start with!

So, if you have both, students can play during math and then again during reading for double the fun.

Reading

Example of Clue 1

Math

Clue #1: Descrambler

Put the correct letter on top of each matching adjective at the bottom. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

The thief is not wearing...

Y E L L O W

An adjective to describe artwork on the wall. An adjective to describe your hands when using glue. An adjective to describe the pointed end of a pencil. An adjective to describe your water bottle. An adjective to describe a stack of books. An adjective to describe crumpled paper.

Clue #1: Picture Decoder

Find each answer: Then, draw a line to each match. Last, use the decoder at the bottom to solve the clue.

~~279 792 297 797 729 972 292 922 927~~

792 922 297 927 797 729 972 292 279

700+90=2 2+900=20 90+200=7 20+900=7 700+90=7 20+9=700 70+2+900 2+200+90 200+70=9

N O B O O K B A G

The culprit has...

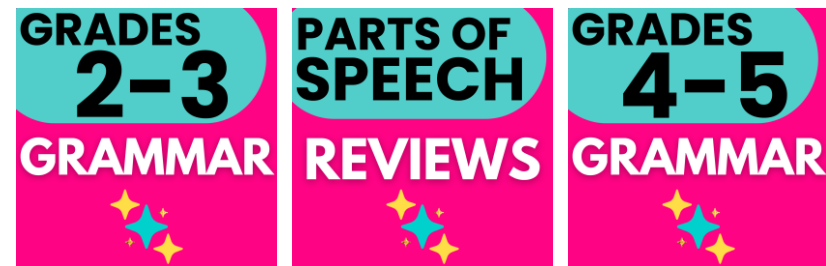
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B =	H =	N =	T =	Z =
C =	I =	O =	U =	
D =	J =	P =	V =	
E =	K =	Q =	W =	
F =	L =	R =	X =	

Use this decoder to help you figure out what letter is equal to each picture.

KEEP THE FUN GOING!

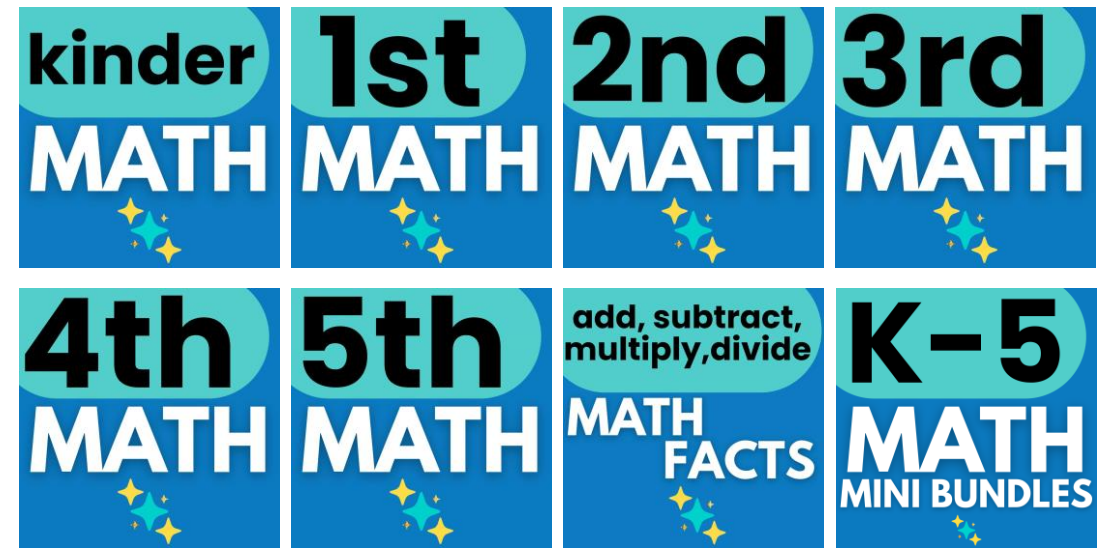
GRAB A **READING MYSTERY**:

Reading mysteries aren't just a copy of math. They come with fresh clues, unique reading challenges, and a new culprit, so students are solving an entirely different case!



MORE **MATH MYSTERIES**:

Explore other grade levels to differentiate and keep every student engaged.



BUY A BUNDLE
TO **SAVE BIG!**

