

# WHAT IS THIS?



Students complete a series of clues to figure out where Santa is!

# HOW TO PLAY



## What Happened?

Oh no! SANTA IS MISSING!! It's your job to figure out where he is. Solve the clues to figure out where Santa is and solve the mystery!

1. Take a location list and then start solving each clue.
2. Each time you solve a clue, you will get closer to discovering where Santa is.
3. Cross out wrong places each time you find out new information. Good luck!



**Clue #1: Read It Like a Book**  
Color the boxes that are true. Cross out the boxes that are not true.  
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Santa	will	is	can
drink	<del>fang</del>	<del>hung</del>	<del>king</del>
not	in	cup	his
sang	honk	wing	skunk
elf	<del>pet</del>	bed	<del>toy</del>
stink	trunk	bank	think

Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong place off your list.

**SANTA IS NOT IN HIS BED**

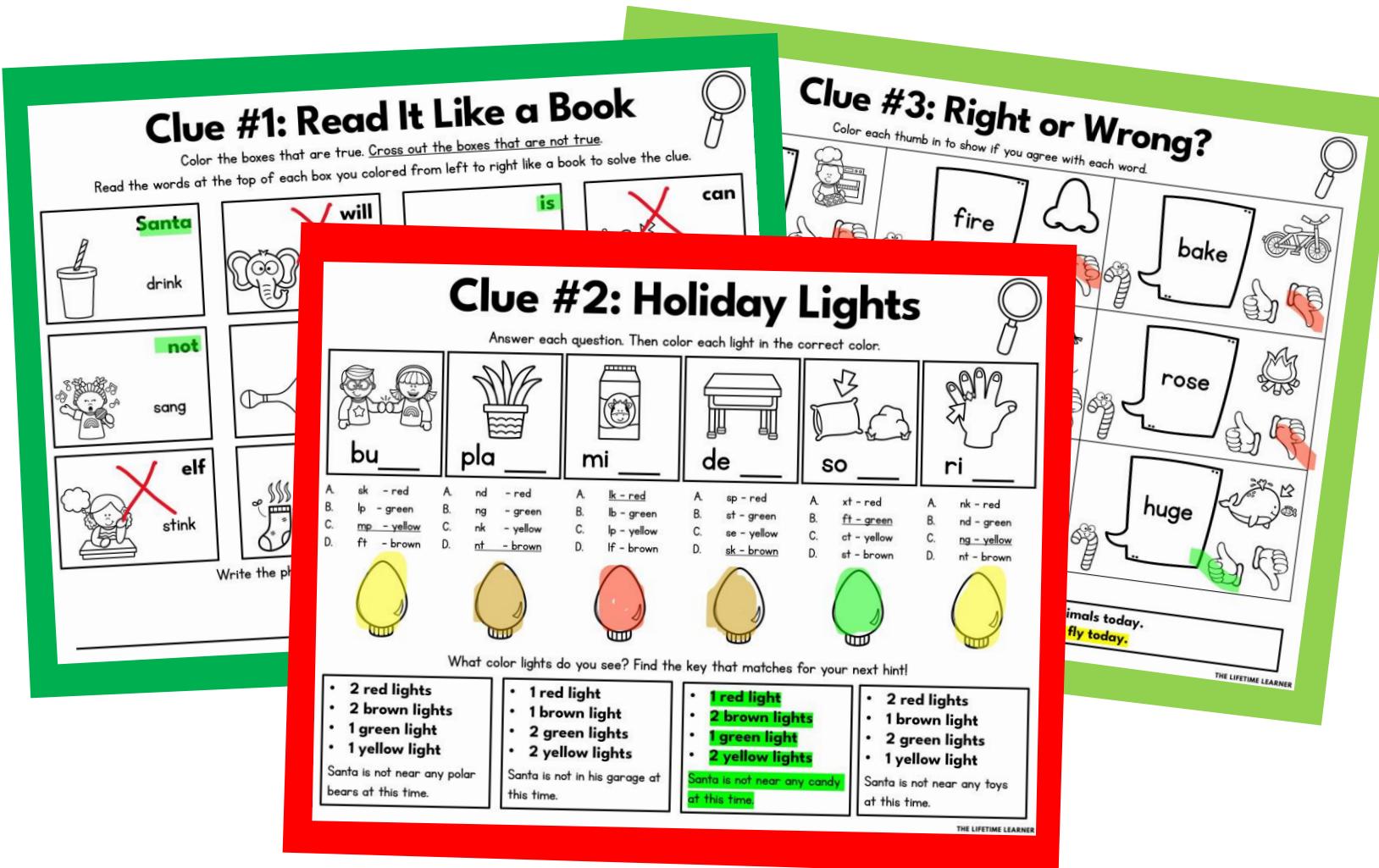
**The North Pole**  
As you solve each clue, cross out the places that Santa is not located at. The place left at the end will reveal Santa's location!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Each time students solve a clue, it will reveal what place to cross out.

When all clues are completed, "The Mystery of the Missing Santa" will be solved!

# SKILL PRACTICE



- 1st Grade Phonics Review
- Glued Sounds
- Final Blends
- CVCe Words
- Digraphs
- Floss Rule

All clues focus on reviewing phonic skills!

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



**Clue #1: Read It Like a Book**  
Color the boxes that are true. Cross out the boxes that are not true.  
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #2: Holiday Lights**  
Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

**Clue #3: Right or Wrong?**  
Color each thumb in to show if you agree with each word.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**  
shut clock

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each chimney on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

How many words were correct?  
More green answers = Santa did not go near any animals today.  
More red answers = Santa did not plan to drive or fly today.

**3 Clue Version**

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Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each chimney on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

Santa was not near any S N O W M E N today.  
fuzz kiss grass cliff buzz sniff shell

**5 Clue Version**

**Short & Long Options**

## Print & Digital Forms

**Clue #2: Holiday Lights**  
Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

bu \_ pla \_ mi \_ de \_ so \_ ri \_

A. sk - red B. nd - red C. lk - red D. sp - red  
B. lp - green C. ng - green D. st - green  
C. mp - yellow D. nk - yellow E. ft - green  
D. ft - brown F. nk - brown G. se - yellow H. nd - green  
A. sk - red B. ft - green C. se - yellow D. nk - red  
B. lp - green C. lk - yellow E. st - brown F. nd - green  
C. mp - yellow D. nk - brown G. se - yellow H. ng - yellow  
D. ft - brown F. nk - brown G. st - brown H. nt - brown

What color lights do you see? Find the key that matches for your next hint!

- 2 red lights
- 2 brown lights
- 1 green light
- 1 yellow light

Santa is not near any polar bears at this time.

- 1 red light
- 2 brown lights
- 1 green light
- 2 yellow lights

Santa is not in his garage at this time.

- 2 red lights
- 1 brown light
- 2 green lights
- 1 yellow light

Santa is not near any candy canes at this time.

- 1 red light
- 2 brown lights
- 1 green light
- 2 yellow lights

Santa is not near any toys at this time.

**Clue #2: Holiday Lights**  
Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

bu \_ pla \_ mi \_ de \_ so \_ ri \_

A. sk - red B. nd - red C. lk - red D. sp - red  
B. lp - green C. ng - green D. st - green  
C. mp - yellow E. nk - yellow F. ft - green  
D. ft - brown G. se - yellow H. nd - green  
A. sk - red B. ft - green C. se - yellow D. nk - red  
B. lp - green C. lk - yellow E. st - brown F. nd - green  
C. mp - yellow D. nk - brown G. se - yellow H. ng - yellow  
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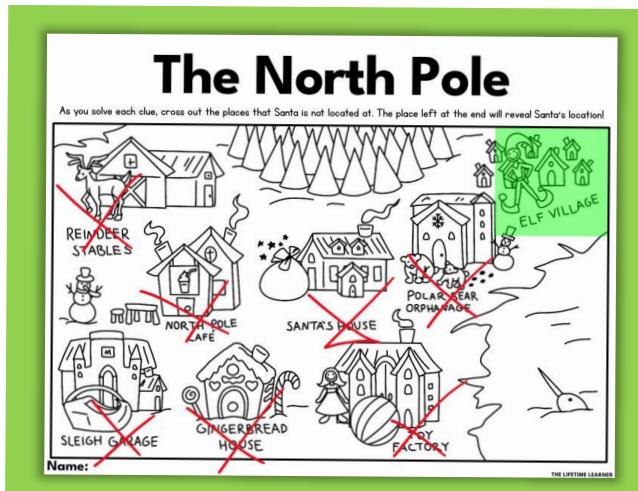
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# CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



**Clue #1: Read It Like a Book**  
Color the boxes that are true. Cross out the boxes that are not true.  
Read the words at the top of each box you colored from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Santa	will	mop	
bug	pit		
not	in	cup	
fed	bus	lit	
elf	pet	bed	
map		fan	

**Clue #2: Holiday Lights**  
Answer each question. Then color each light in the correct color.

ca	do	ne	cu	da	di
A. t - red B. n - green C. h - yellow D. p - brown	A. g - red B. b - green C. x - yellow D. l - brown	A. t - red B. c - green C. k - yellow D. i - brown	A. b - red B. d - green C. r - brown D. m - brown	A. g - red B. z - green C. p - yellow D. m - brown	A. r - red B. e - green C. o - yellow D. n - brown

**Clue #3: Right or Wrong?**  
Color each thumb up to show if you agree with each word.

rip	vet	fin
bed	cap	top
den	cat	van

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**  
Look at the picture. Match it to a word below. Write the letter next to each chimney on each line. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

bag	hit	toy	beg	pan	jug
nut	fan	sun	fan	sun	fan
fan	sun	fan	sun	fan	sun

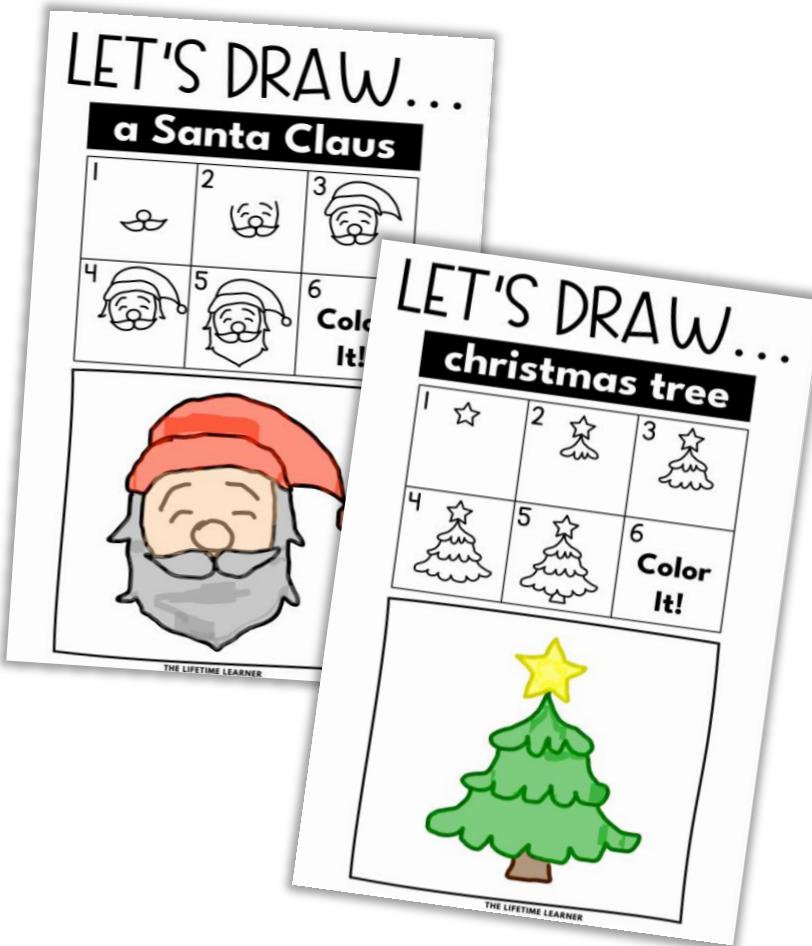
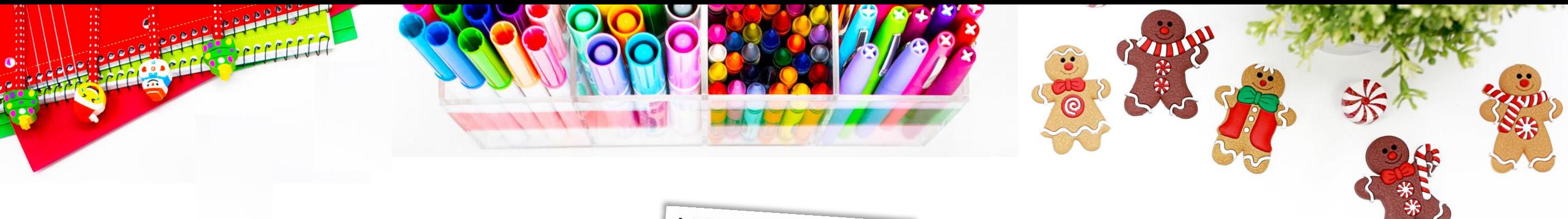
**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
Santa was not near any S N O W M E N today.

w	n	n	s
nut	fan	yum	cab
fan	fan	fan	fan
m	o	e	

Differentiate within your small groups. Same clues. Same mystery. Different focus!

There is a version of the mystery included that reviews CVC Words (Short A, E, I, O, U).

# FAST FINISHER ACTIVITY

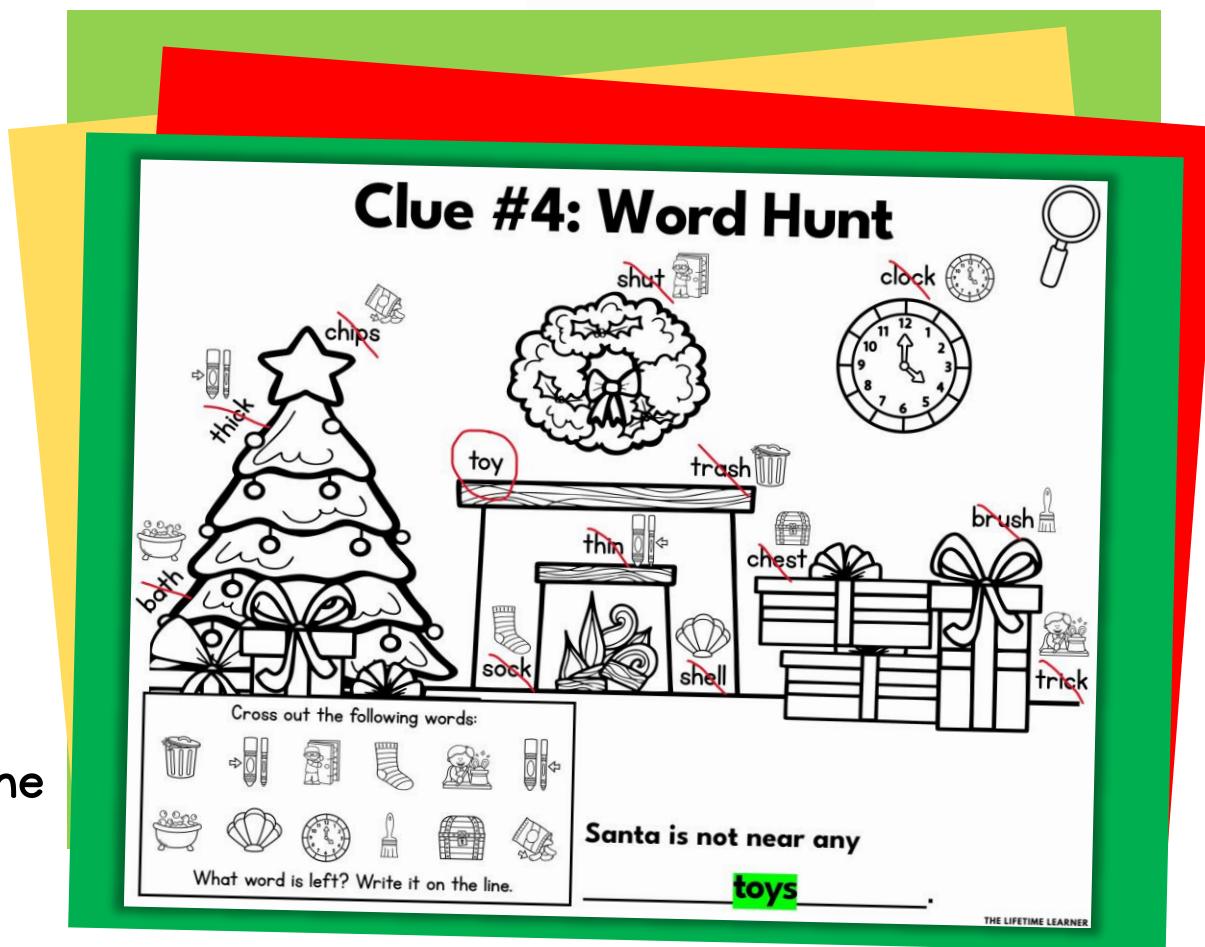


If students finish early, give them a certificate of completion and a directed drawing to complete while others continue working.

# PHONICS MYSTERY BENEFITS



- No Prep
- Print and Digital Versions
- 3 & 5 Clue Options
- Fun and Engaging
- Easy to Differentiate
- Encourages Critical Thinking
- Aligns with Phonics Standards
- Perfect for Review Days
- Choice between 2 versions: Phonics Mystery OR CVC Words Mystery. You can even mix/match clues to combine the 2 skills together (clues are interchangeable)!



In 1st grade, this works well as a whole group lesson or in small groups at the teacher table.

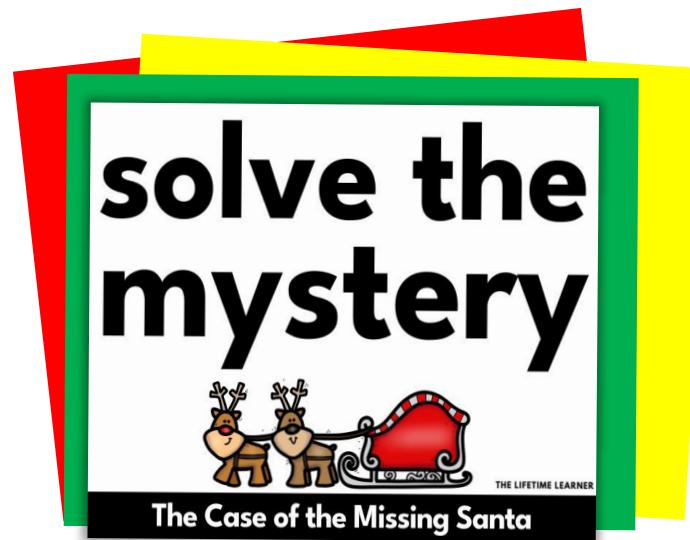
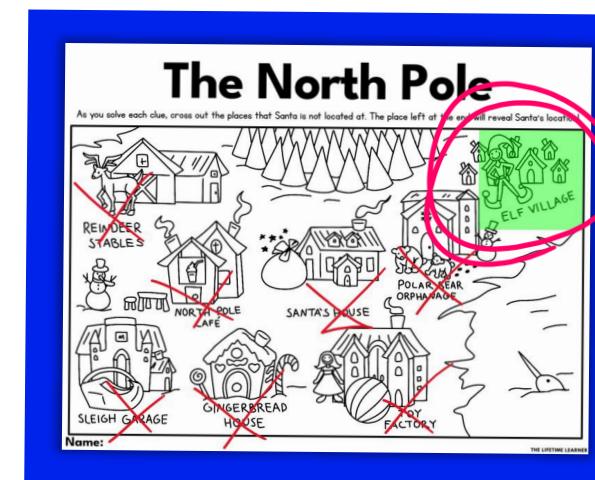
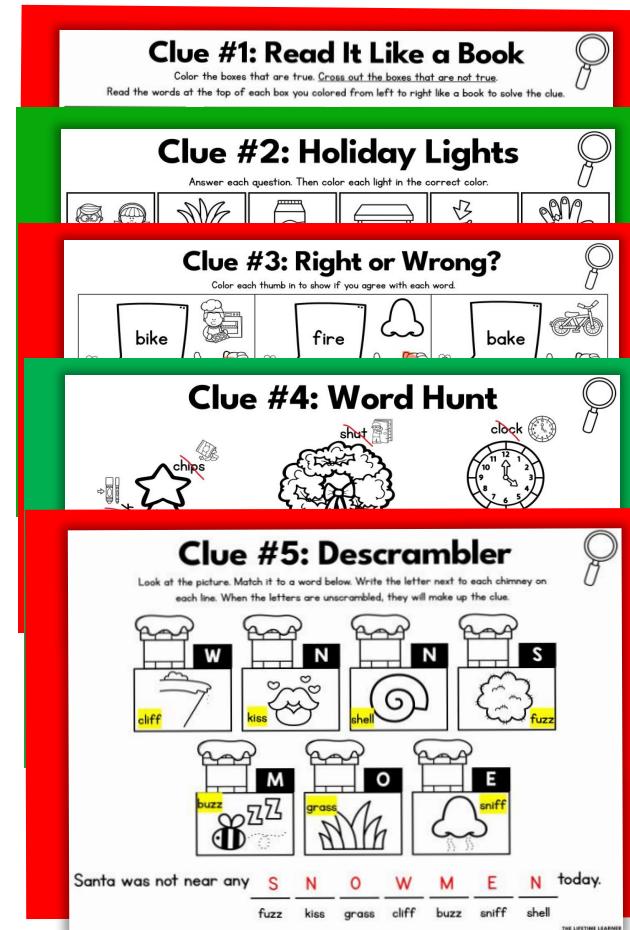
First graders will need teacher support to read & understand the clues/directions

# WHY TEACHERS LOVE THESE!

Ordinary phonics worksheets can be boring and unoriginal.

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

## PHONICS MYSTERIES ARE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!



# WHAT MAKES READING MYSTERIES UNIQUE?

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

They have brand-new clues, focus on reading 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

**Clue #1: Read It Like a Book**  
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Santa	will	is	can
drinks	<del>fang</del>	hung	<del>king</del>
<del>elephant</del>	in	cup	his
honk	<del>wing</del>	<del>skunk</del>	stink
<del>elf</del>	<del>pet</del>	bed	toy
<del>stink</del>	<del>trunk</del>	bank	<del>think</del>

Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong place off your list.  
**SANTA IS NOT IN HIS BED**

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## Example of Clue 1

## Math

**Clue #1: Fill in the Blank**  
Solve each problem. Write the answer. Then, write the word that goes with it. When you are done, read the words in order from top to bottom in each row to figure out the clue.

56	full	78	and	29	reindeer	66	someone	88	by	48	it
garage	38	village	19	you	the	58	the	48	sleigh	96	bear
toy	117	empty	98	Santa	elf	64	stopped	28	stopped	18	was
117	117	Santa	23	60	60	60	18	18	18	18	18

Answer: Word: 68 you 68-10 58 the 38+10 48 it  
38-10 28 stopped 28+10 38 garage 28-10 18 was  
78+10 88 by 88-10 78 and 88+10 98 empty

SOLVE EACH PROBLEM. WRITE THE ANSWER. THEN, WRITE THE WORD THAT GOES WITH IT. WHEN YOU ARE DONE, READ THE WORDS IN ORDER FROM TOP TO BOTTOM IN EACH ROW TO FIGURE OUT THE CLUE.

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# KEEP THE FUN GOING!

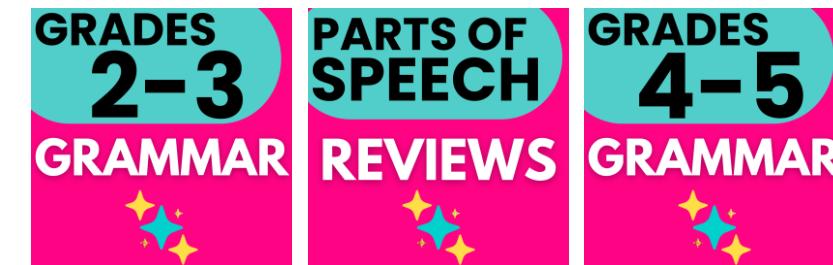
## GRAB A MATH MYSTERY:

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

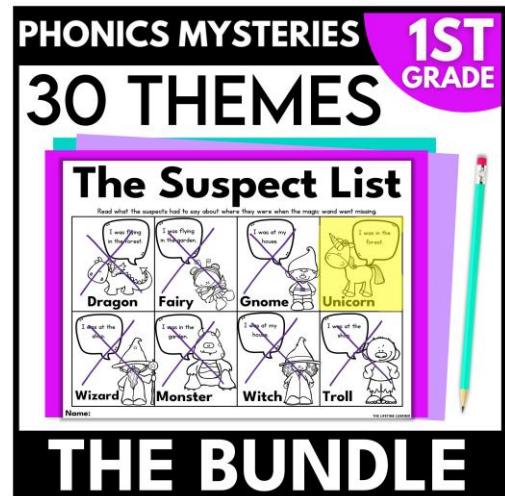


## MORE READING MYSTERIES:

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



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TO SAVE BIG!



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