

# WHAT IS THIS?



**Clue #1: Find It!**  
Circle the boxes that have a middle sound of "a".  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

**Clue #3: Color the Witch's House**  
What blend does each picture start with?  
Circle the answer and color in the picture.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

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

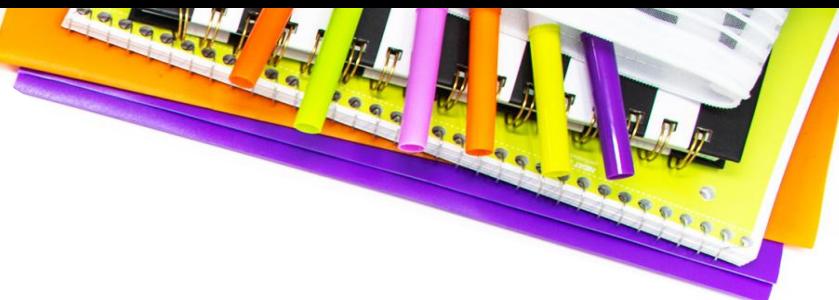
The thief has:  
S H A R P      T E E T H



## solve the mystery

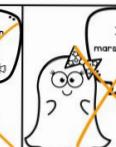
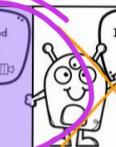


THE LIFETIME LEARNER  
The Case of the Missing Candy



### Who Stole the Candy?

As you solve each clue, cross out the suspects who did not take the candy. The suspect left at the end is the culprit!

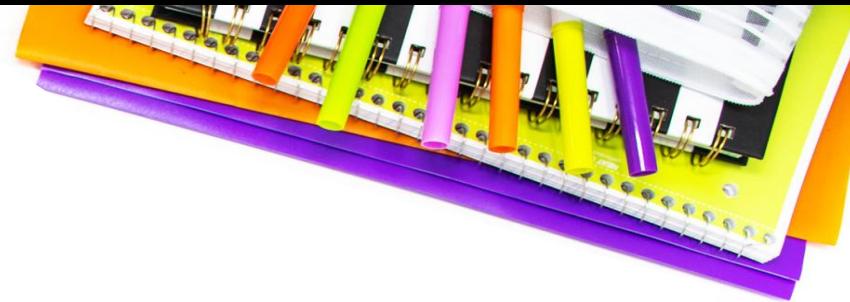
 Witch	 Ghost	 Vampire	 Monster
 Spooky Bones	 Frankenstein	 Mummy	 Pumpkin Head

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

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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

# HOW TO PLAY



## What Happened?

Oh no! You put down your trick-or-treat bag for a second and someone took it. It's your job to figure out who took the Halloween candy. Solve the clues to figure out the mystery!

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!



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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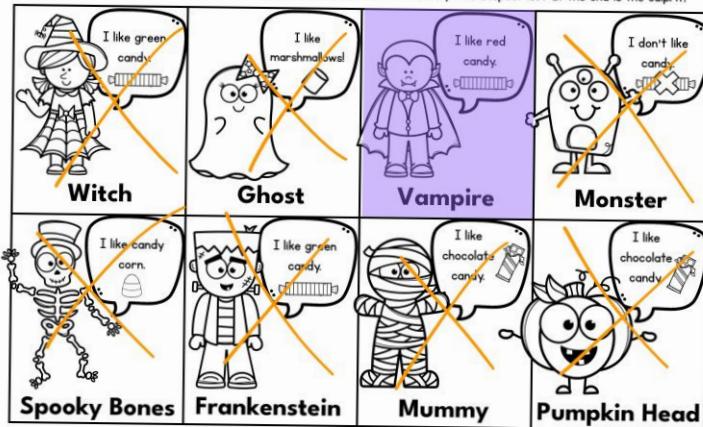
Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong suspect off your list.

THE THIEF HAS A SMILE

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

### Who Stole the Candy?

As you solve each clue, cross out the suspects who did not take the candy. The suspect left at the end is the culprit!



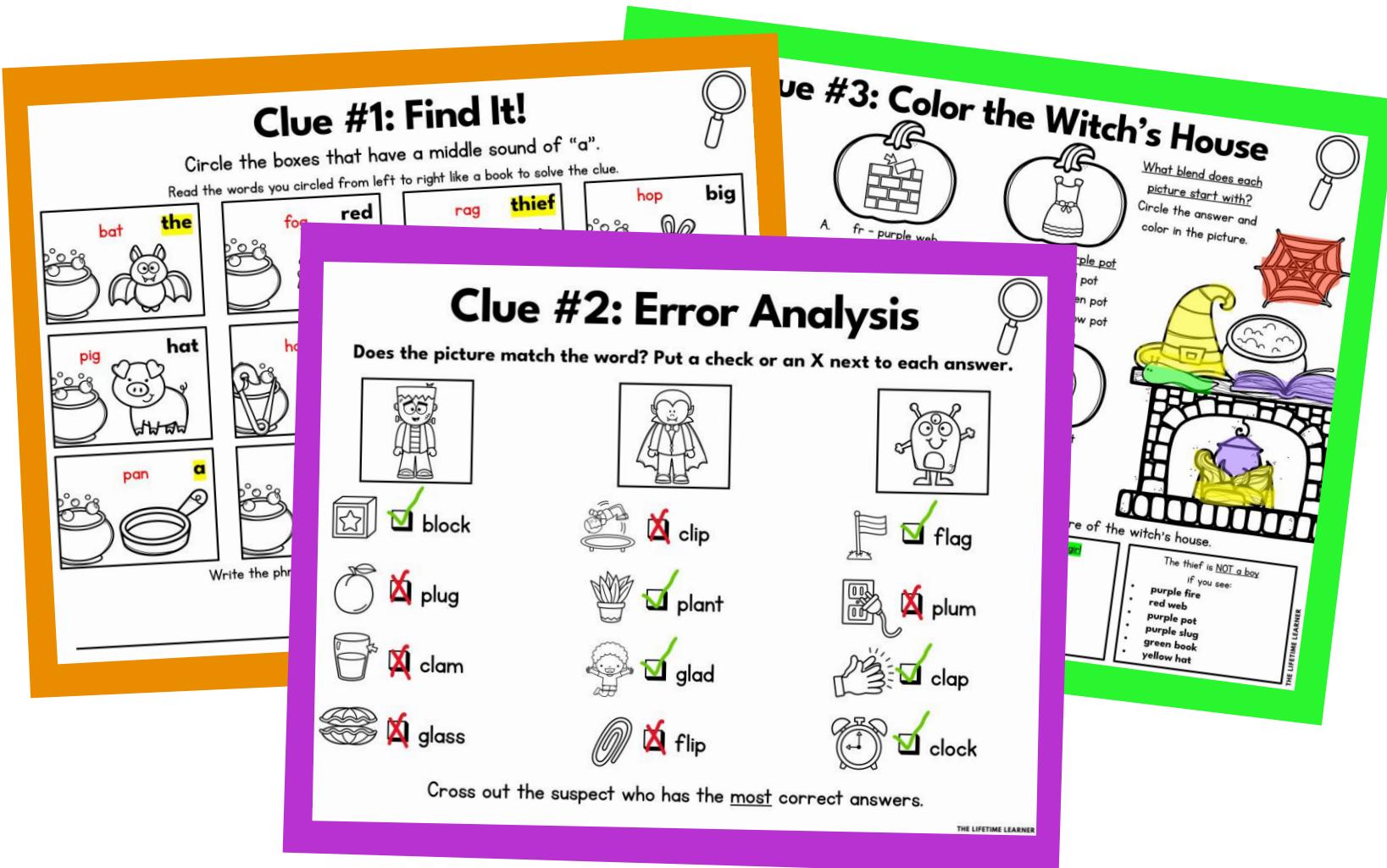
Name:

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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

When all clues are completed, the mystery of the missing candy will be solved!

# SKILL PRACTICE



- 1st Grade Phonics Review
- CVC Words
- L Blends
- R Blends
- S Blends
- Beginning Digraphs

**All clues focus on reviewing phonic skills!**

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



**Clue #1: Find It!**  
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**Clue #3: Color the Witch's House**  
What blend does each picture start with?  
Circle the answer and color in the picture.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

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

**3 Clue Version**

**Clue #1: Find It!**  
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**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

**Clue #3: Color the Witch's House**  
What blend does each picture start with?  
Circle the answer and color in the picture.

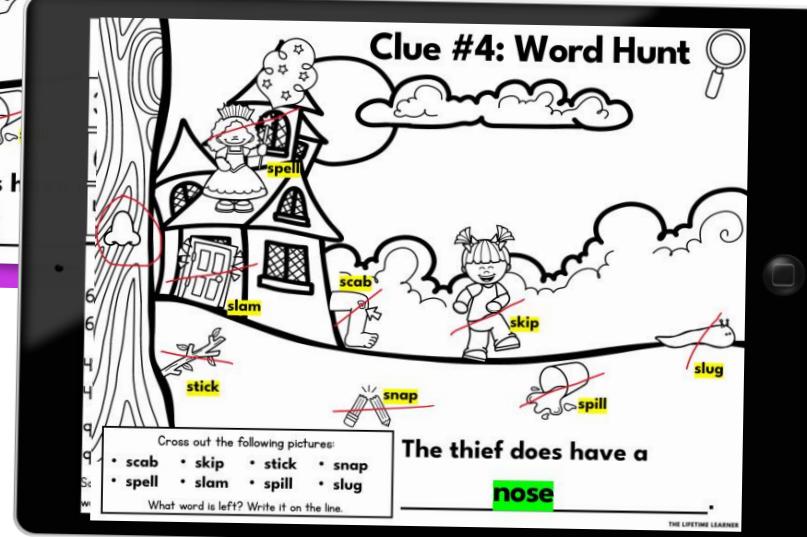
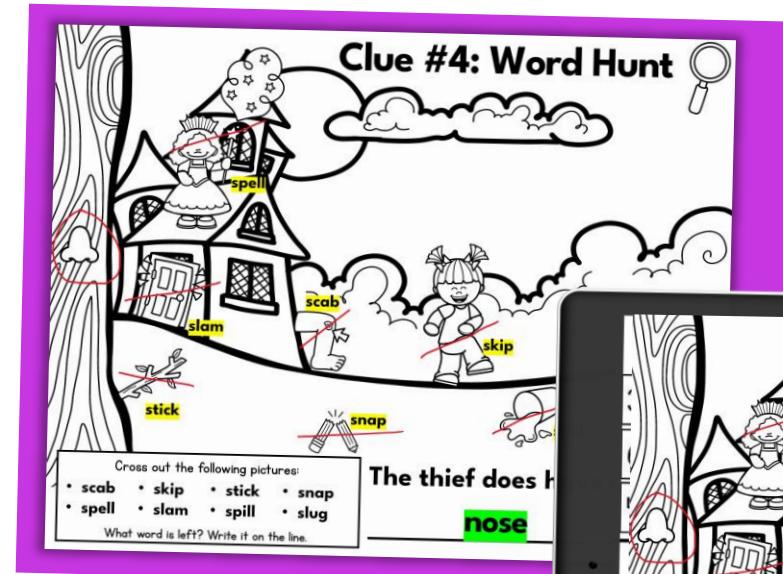
**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

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

**5 Clue Version**

**Short & Long Options**

## Print & Digital Forms



# CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



Who Stole the Candy?

As you solve each clue, cross out the suspects who did not take the candy. The suspect left at the end is the culprit!

Witch I like green candy corn.	Ghost I like marshmallow!	Vampire I like red candy.	Monster I don't like candy.
Spooky Bones I like candy corn.	Frankenstein I like green candy corn.	Mummy I like chocolate candy.	Pumpkin Head I like chocolate candy.

**Clue #1: Find It!**  
The boxes that have a middle sound of "o".  
You circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**  
Cross out the following pictures:  
• run • pup • mud • yum  
• hut • bus • gum • cub  
What word is left? Write it on the line.  
The thief does have a **nose**.

**Clue #5: Error Analysis**  
Look at the picture. Match character on each line. Where is the mouse?  
A    
B    
C    
D    
E  

**Clue #3: Color the Witch's House**

What word is shown in each picture? Circle the answer and color in the picture.

bad - purple fire  
bag - red fire  
bit - green fire  
bott - yellow fire

mon - purple web  
mop - red web  
mat - green web  
mat - yellow web

egg - purple pot  
fan - red pot  
rat - green pot  
rap - yellow pot

bad - purple slug  
bat - red slug  
bit - green slug  
bott - yellow slug

rat - purple book  
rap - red book  
mat - green book  
mat - yellow book

hit - purple hat  
ham - red hat  
ham - green hat  
hat - yellow hat

Choose the key below that matches how you colored the picture of the witch's house.

The thief does NOT like chocolate

Choose the key below that matches how you colored the picture of the witch's house.

The thief does NOT like chocolate

The thief is NOT a boss

- purple fire
- red web
- green book
- yellow hat

**Clue #5: Descrambler**

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

**A**  **T**  **H**  **T**  **P** 

**S**  **E**  **H**  **R**  **E** 

leg beg yes gem jet

fed vet ten hen fed gem

vet ten hen fed gem

The thief has:

**S H A R P** **T E E F T H**

leg beg web ten jet

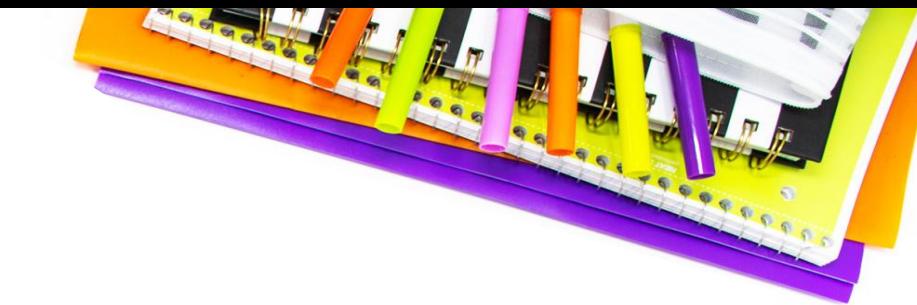
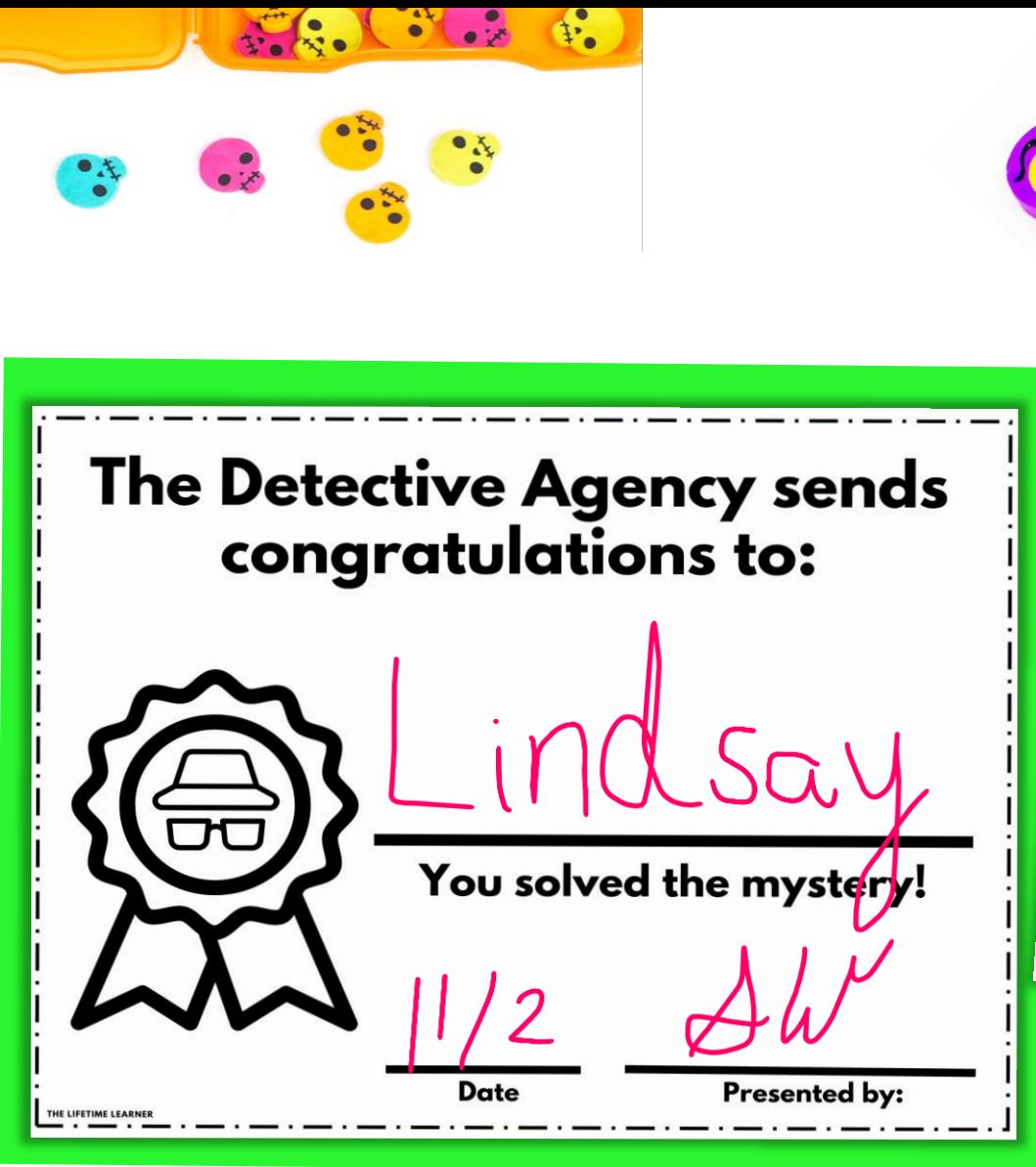
yes hen fed gem vet

THE CURRICLE LEARNER

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 Review Mystery OR CVC Words Mystery. You can even mix/match clues to combine the 2 skills together (clues are interchangeable)!

**Clue #3: Color the Witch's House**

What blend does each picture start with? Circle the answer and color in the picture.

**Top Row:**

- A. dr - purple fire  
B. pr - red fire  
C. br - green fire  
D. cr - yellow fire
- A. fr - purple web  
B. br - red web  
C. gr - green web  
D. pr - yellow web
- A. dr - purple pot  
B. fr - red pot  
C. tr - green pot  
D. gr - yellow pot

**Middle Row:**

- A. gr - purple slug  
B. dr - red slug  
C. fr - green slug  
D. pr - yellow slug
- A. tr - purple book  
B. cr - red book  
C. pr - green book  
D. dr - yellow book
- A. gr - purple hat  
B. cr - red hat  
C. tr - green hat  
D. pr - yellow hat

**Bottom Row:**

- The thief does NOT like candy corn if you see:
  - red fire
  - yellow web
  - purple pot
  - green slug
  - purple book
  - yellow hat
- The thief does NOT like chocolate if you see:
  - yellow fire
  - red web
  - red pot
  - green slug
  - yellow book
  - purple hat
- The thief is NOT a girl if you see:
  - yellow fire
  - red web
  - purple pot
  - green slug
  - purple book
  - yellow hat
- The thief is NOT a boy if you see:
  - purple fire
  - red web
  - purple pot
  - purple slug
  - green book
  - yellow hat

Choose the key below that matches how you colored the picture of the witch's house.

**THE LIFETIME LEARNER**

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

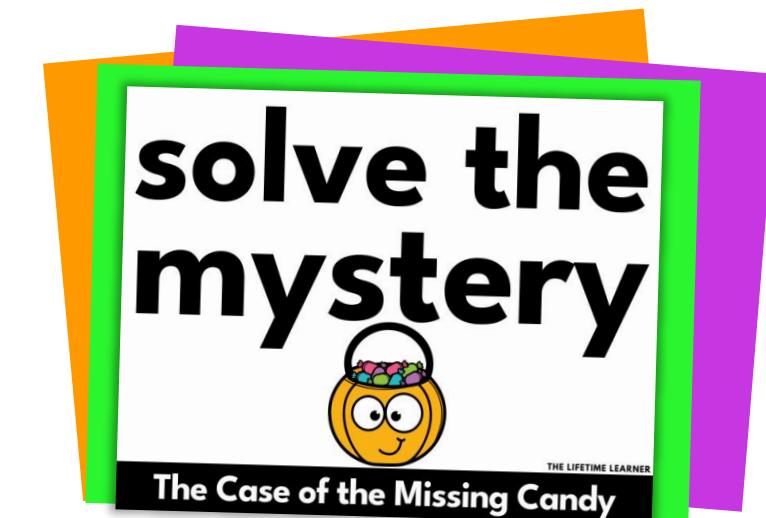
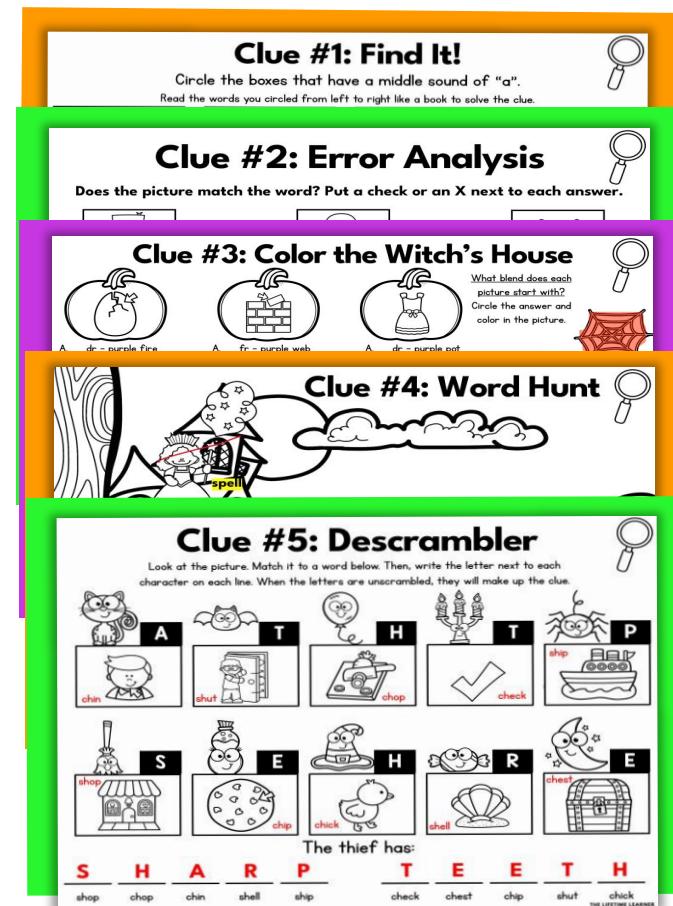
First graders will need teacher support to read & understand the clues/directions

# 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



## Example of Clue 1

## Math



**Clue #1: Find It!**

Circle the boxes that have a middle sound of "a".  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

bat	the	fog	red	rag	thief	hop	big
bat	the	fog	red	rag	thief	hop	big
hat	has	bun	leg	pan	a	mop	no
hat	has	bun	leg	pan	a	mop	no
leg	frown	leg	frown	leg	frown	leg	frown
leg	frown	leg	frown	leg	frown	leg	frown
map	smile	map	smile	map	smile	map	smile
map	smile	map	smile	map	smile	map	smile

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

THE THIEF HAS A SMILE

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Clue #1: Fill in the Blank

30	is	118	eyes	96	the	71	green	73	bow	58	a
60	likes	69	wearing	59	red	87	hat	67	whoever	117	candy
40	took	80	marshmallow	55	eyes	44	candy	86	monster	114	not

Tell what number comes next. Some count up. Some count down.

67	whoever	120,119, 118, __	72,71, 70, __	69	wearing	55,56, 57, __	58	a
40	took	27,28, 29, __	30	is	58	not	87	hat

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.

Answer: Word: 120,119, 118, \_\_ Answer: Word: 72,71, 70, \_\_ Answer: Word: 55,56, 57, \_\_

Answer: Word: 67, whoever Answer: Word: 40, took Answer: Word: 30, is

Answer: Word: 69, wearing Answer: Word: 27,28, 29, \_\_ Answer: Word: 58, not

Answer: Word: 55,56, 57, \_\_ Answer: Word: 58, not Answer: Word: 87, hat

Answer: Word: 57, \_\_ Answer: Word: 114, not Answer: Word: 88, \_\_

Answer: Word: 114, not Answer: Word: 88, \_\_ Answer: Word: 87, hat

Answer: Word: 117, candy Answer: Word: 114, not Answer: Word: 87, hat

Answer: Word: 70, \_\_ Answer: Word: 114, not Answer: Word: 87, hat

Answer: Word: 69, wearing Answer: Word: 117, candy Answer: Word: 69, wearing

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

# 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.



BUY A BUNDLE  
TO SAVE BIG!



THE BUNDLE