

# WHAT IS THIS?



## Clue #1: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue.

## Clue #2: Error Analysis

Do the pictures match the sentence? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

## Clue #3: Find It!

Circle the boxes that have a long vowel sound. Cross out the short vowel sounds. Read the words in the CORNER you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

## Clue #4: Word Hunt



## Clue #5: Descrambler

What letter was removed from each word? Write the letter removed on the lines at the bottom. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

B	U	Y	G
1.	2.	3.	4.
→	→	→	→
I	F	T	S
5.	6.	7.	8.
→	→	→	→

The mailman is not at a place where you can:

B   U   Y   G   I   F   T   S

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

# solve the mystery



## The Case of the Missing Mailman

## Where is the Mailman?

Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

<del></del>	<del></del>	<del></del>	
Shoe Store	Car Repair Shop	Toy Store	Home Repair Shop
<del></del>	<del></del>	<del></del>	<del></del>
Candy Store	Post Office	Flower Shop	Jewelry Shop

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

Students complete a series of clues to figure out where the missing mailman is!

# HOW TO PLAY

## What Happened?

You need to get in touch with your mailman, but you can't find him anywhere! You know that he's somewhere around town but can't figure out the right place. Help find out where he is by solving the clues.

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



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Clue #1: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

yellow -ack	red -uck	green -ick	blue -ock	
bl_ock	wh_ack	thi_ick	br_ick	chi_ick
cr_ack	st_ick	tr_ick	cl_ock	tr_uck

The mailman is <u>not</u> near any <u>toys</u> if you see:	The mailman is <u>not</u> near any <u>cars</u> if you see:	The mailman is <u>not</u> near any <u>shoes</u> if you see:	The mailman is <u>not</u> near any <u>gems</u> if you see:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 yellow note</li> <li>• 2 red notes</li> <li>• 5 green notes</li> <li>• 2 blue notes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 yellow notes</li> <li>• 0 red notes</li> <li>• 2 green notes</li> <li>• 5 blue notes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 yellow notes</li> <li>• 2 red notes</li> <li>• 4 green notes</li> <li>• 2 blue notes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 yellow notes</li> <li>• 1 red note</li> <li>• 5 green notes</li> <li>• 2 blue notes</li> </ul>

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Where is the Mailman?

Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

<del>Shoe Store</del>	<del>Car Repair Shop</del>	<del>Toy Store</del>	Home Repair Shop
<del>Candy Store</del>	<del>Post Office</del>	<del>Flower Shop</del>	<del>Jewelry Shop</del>

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

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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

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

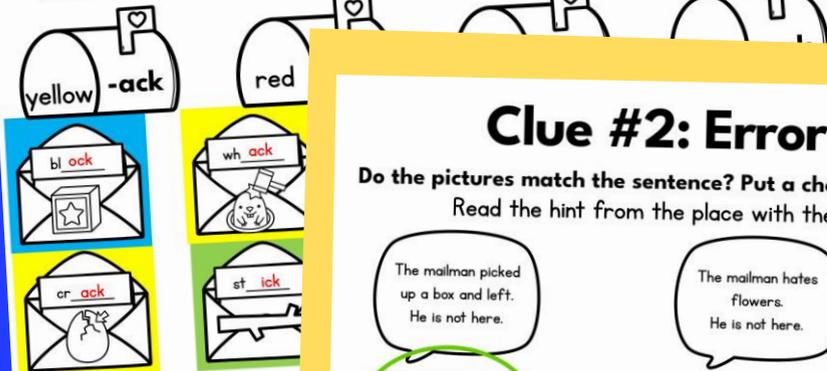
# SKILL PRACTICE

## Short & Long Vowel Sounds Review:

- Short Vowel Review
- Long Vowel Review
- Beginning Blends
- Ending Digraphs
- Rhyming CVCe Words
- Onset And Rime
- Letter Removal

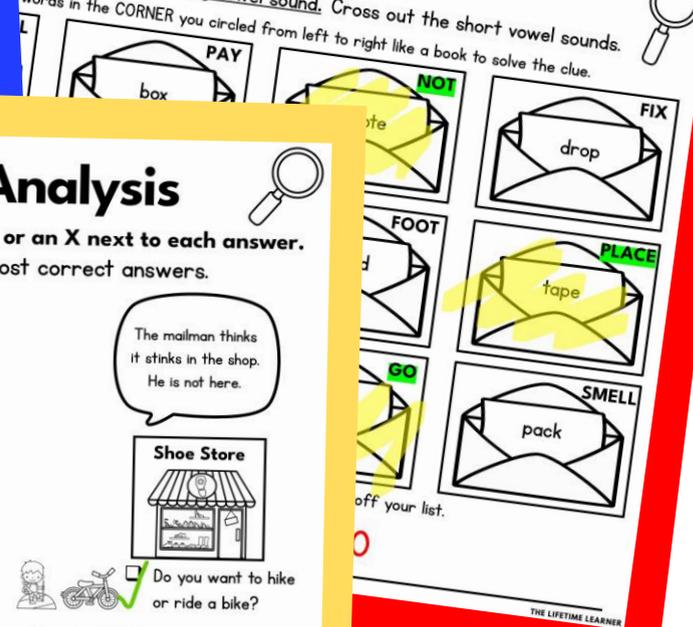
### Clue #1: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!



### Clue #3: Find It!

boxes that have a long vowel sound. Cross out the short vowel sounds. words in the **CORNER** you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.



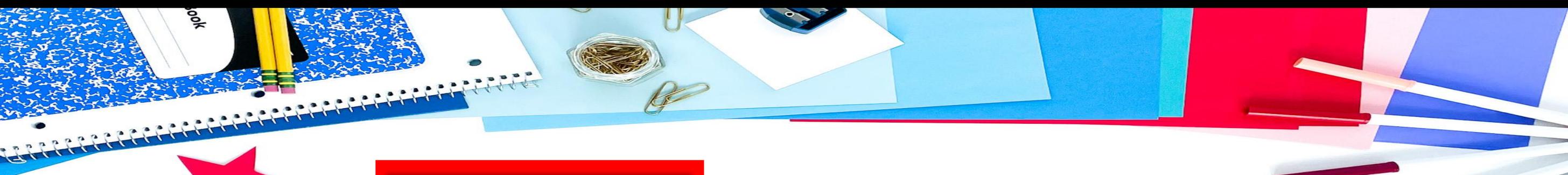
### Clue #2: Error Analysis

Do the pictures match the sentence? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

<p>The mailman picked up a box and left. He is not here.</p> <p><b>Post Office</b></p>  <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> He will bake a cake.</p>	<p>The mailman hates flowers. He is not here.</p> <p><b>Flower Shop</b></p>  <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I put tape on my cape.</p>	<p>The mailman thinks it stinks in the shop. He is not here.</p> <p><b>Shoe Store</b></p>  <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do you want to hike or ride a bike?</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I see a tire that is on fire.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> She hopes that she can grab the rope.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I dive in the water five times.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The mole lives in a hole.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I hate the lock on the gate.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My pal pokes me and tells me a joke.</p>

**All clues focus on important 2<sup>nd</sup> grade phonics skills!**

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



Print & Digital Forms

**Clue #1: Sorting Letters**  
Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Do the pictures match the sentence? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

**Clue #3: Find It!**  
Circle the boxes that have a long vowel sound. Cross out the short vowel sounds. Read the words in the CORNER you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**3 Clue Version**

Write the phrase on the line. Cross the wrong place off your list.  
**NOT A PLACE KIDS GO**

**Clue #1: Sorting Letters**  
Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Do the pictures match the sentence? Put a check or an X next to each answer.

**Clue #3: Find It!**  
Circle the boxes that have a long vowel sound. Cross out the short vowel sounds. Read the words in the CORNER you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**  
Read the words in the CORNER you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #5: Descrambler**  
What letter was removed from each word? Write the letter removed on the lines at the bottom. When the letters are unscrambled, they will make up the clue.

**5 Clue Version**

The mailman is not at a place where you can:  
**B U Y G I F T S**

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
Do the pictures match the sentence? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

The mailman picked up a box and left. He is not here.  **Post Office**

The mailman hates flowers. He is not here.  **Flower Shop**

The mailman thinks it stinks in the shop. He is not here.  **Shoe Store**

He will bake a cake.  **Post Office**

I put tape on my cape.  **Flower Shop**

I see a tire that is on fire.  **Post Office**

She hopes that she can grab the rope.  **Flower Shop**

The mole lives in a hole.  **Shoe Store**

I hate the lock on the gate.  **Shoe Store**

**Clue #2: Error Analysis**  
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The mailman thinks it stinks in the shop. He is not here.  **Shoe Store**

He will bake a cake.  **Post Office**

I put tape on my cape.  **Flower Shop**

Do you want to hike or ride a bike?  **Shoe Store**

I see a tire that is on fire.  **Post Office**

She hopes that she can grab the rope.  **Flower Shop**

I dive in the water five times.  **Shoe Store**

The mole lives in a hole.  **Shoe Store**

I hate the lock on the gate.  **Shoe Store**

My pal pokes me and tells me a joke.  **Shoe Store**

Short & Long Options

# CVC OPTION AVAILABLE

### Where is the Mailman?

Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

 Shoe Store	 Car Repair Shop	 Toy Store	 Home Repair Shop
 Candy Store	 Post Office	 Flower Shop	 Jewelry Shop

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

### Clue #1: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue.

yellow -og red -ob green -ot blue

The mailman is not near any signs if you see:

- 1 yellow note
- 2 red notes
- 5 green notes
- 2 blue notes

### Clue #2: Error Analysis

Does the picture match the word? Put a check or an X next to each answer. Read the hint from the place with the most correct answers.

The mailman picked up a box and left. He is not here.

The mailman hates flowers. He is not here.

The mailman thinks it stinks in the shop. He is not here.

Post Office Flower Shop Shoe Store

### Clue #3: Find It!

Circle the boxes that end with -an. Cross out the other sounds. Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

map	mail	pay	jam	not	fan	bag	fix
toy	mad	van	car	foot	wag	place	man
kids	can	rag	jar	pan	gun	smell	ham

### Clue #4: Word Hunt

web jet pen fed men ten gem net

The mailman is not at a place with a:

gem • men • ten • fed  
web • jet • net • pen

What 2 pictures are left? Write the 2 words on the line.

car or candy

### Clue #5: Descrambler

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

The mailman is not at a place where you can:

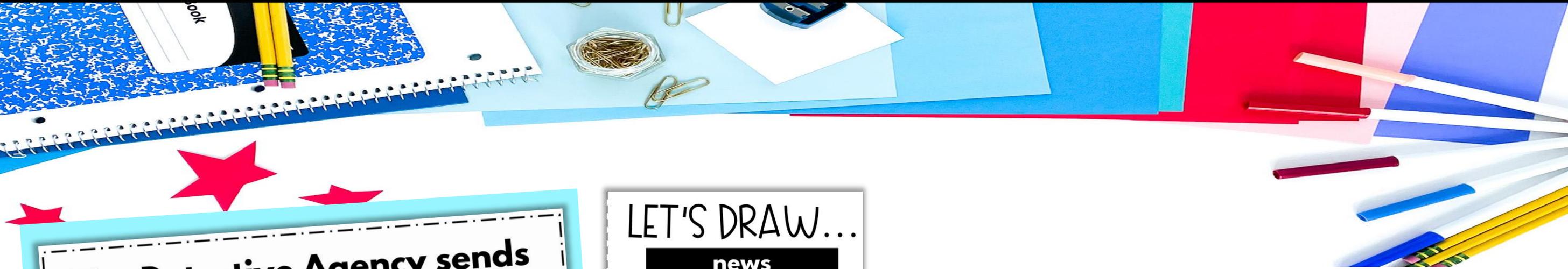
B U Y G I F T S

six pin hit slip lid hid him wig

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

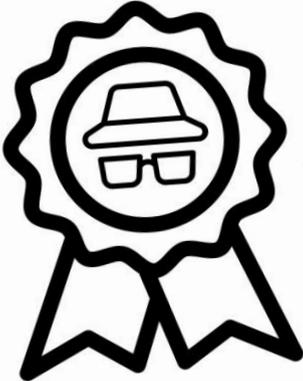


**The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:**

*Lindsay*

**You solved the mystery!**

*11/2* Date      *AW* Presented by:



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...

news

1	2	3
4	5	6



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

LET'S DRAW...

a house

1	2	3
4	5	6



THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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.

**Clue #4: Word Hunt**

Cross out the following pictures:

• kit	• tub	• cap	• man
• kite	• tube	• cape	• mane

What 2 pictures are left? Write the 2 words on the line.

The mailman is not at a place with a:

Car or Candy

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Ideas for Use:

- Use as a mini lesson during whole group time
- During small groups
- In partners
- In table groups
- For fast finishers

# 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!**

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B	U	Y	G
1.	2.	3.	4.
I	F	T	S
5.	6.	7.	8.

The mailman is not at a place where you can:  
B U Y G I F T S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:

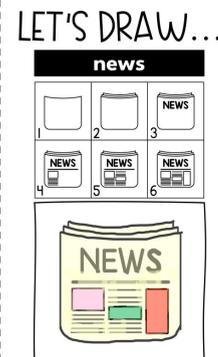


**Lindsay**

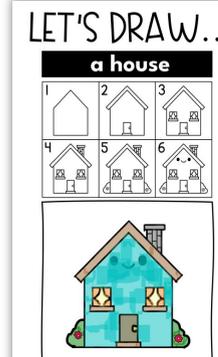
You solved the mystery!

11/2 Date **SW** Presented by:

LET'S DRAW... **news**



LET'S DRAW... **a house**



**Where is the Mailman?**  
Figure out where the mailman is by solving each clue.

<del>Shoe Store</del>	<del>Car Repair Shop</del>	<del>Toy Store</del>	Home Repair Shop
<del>Candy Store</del>	<del>Post Office</del>	<del>Flower Shop</del>	<del>Jewelry Shop</del>

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

**solve the mystery**



**The Case of the Missing Mailman**

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

# 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: Sorting Letters

Color the letters the same color as the box they belong in. Then, find the correct key at the bottom to solve the clue!

The mailman is not near any toys if you see:

- 1 yellow note
- 2 red notes
- 5 green notes
- 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any cars if you see:

- 3 yellow notes
- 0 red notes
- 2 green notes
- 5 blue notes

The mailman is not near any shoes if you see:

- 2 yellow notes
- 2 red notes
- 4 green notes
- 2 blue notes

The mailman is not near any pens if you see:

- 2 yellow notes
- 1 red note
- 5 green notes
- 2 blue notes

### Clue #1: Right or Wrong?

Color the envelope green if the answer is correct. Color the envelope red if it's wrong.

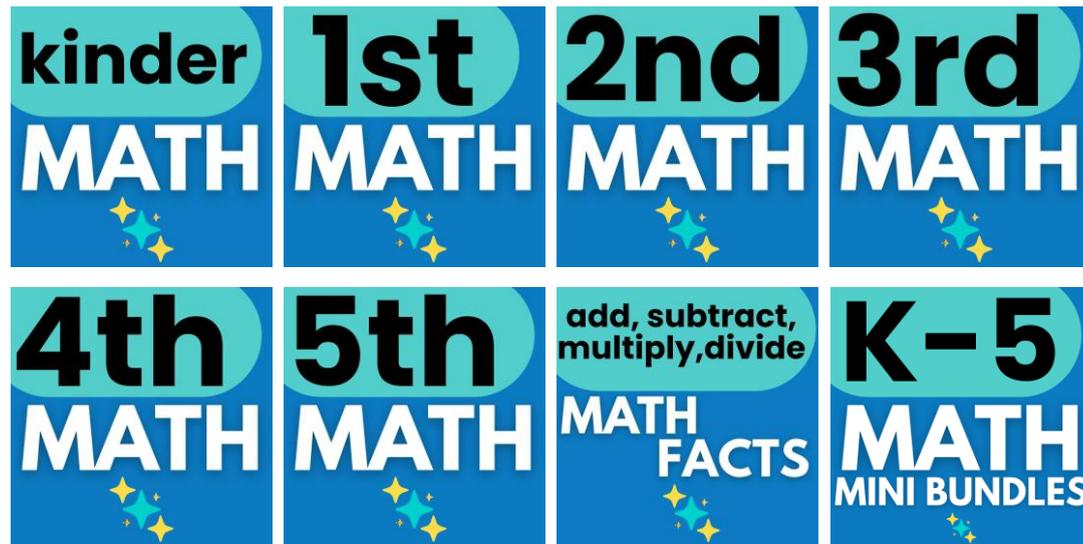
How many answers were correct?

- 1 Correct = Cross out the jewelry shop.
- 2 Correct = Cross out the toy store.
- 3 Correct = Cross out the shoe store.
- 4 Correct = Cross out the post office.
- 5 Correct = Cross out the flower shop.
- 6 Correct = Cross out the car repair shop.
- 7 Correct = Cross out the candy store.
- 8 Correct = Cross out the home repair shop.

# 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!**

