

# WHAT IS THIS?



**5. Clue #1: Descrambler**  
What does each word start with?  
Put that letter on the number blank at the bottom. Then, read the clue.

**Clue #2: Right or Wrong?**  
Color in each thumb to show if each answer is correct.

**Clue #3: Descrambler**  
What letter does each word start with?  
Write the answers on the blanks at the bottom.

**Clue #4: Find It!**  
Circle the boxes that start with a "D" sound.  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**Clue #5: Multiple Choice**  
What letter does each picture start with? Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

Circle how many you chose in each box below. Then, read the phrase for a hint about the thief.

1A = They  
2 As = She  
3 As = He  
4 As = It

How many Bs did you circle?  
1B = no  
2 Bs = have  
3 Bs = is  
4 Bs = can

How many Cs did you circle?  
1C = bag  
2 Cs = big  
3 Cs = a  
4 Cs = the

How many Ds did you circle?  
1D = hat  
2 Ds = ponytail  
3 Ds = blue  
4 Ds = shoes.

# solve the mystery

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## The Case of the Missing Pencil



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

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!



**5. Clue #1: Descrambler**  
What does each word start with?  
Put that letter on the number blank at the bottom. Then, read the clue.

Place the correct letter on top of each matching answer.

The thief is not wearing...  
Y E L L O W

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 bag. Nora

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



- Beginning Sounds
- Alphabet Sounds
- Letter Sounds
- Perfect for 1<sup>st</sup> Week or Month of Kindergarten
- Should ONLY be used with Whole Class as Whole Group Activity or in Small Groups

All clues focus on reviewing alphabet letters!

# MULTIPLE VERSIONS



**3 Clue Version**

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Starts with T Starts with Z Starts with B

Clue #3: Descrambler

What letter does each word start with?  
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Clue #4: Find It!

Circle the boxes that start with a "D" sound  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

Clue #5: Multiple Choice

What letter does each picture start with? Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

A. Letter I A. Letter X A. Letter N A. Letter W

A. Letter L B. Letter A C. Letter R D. Letter S

Circle how many As you chose in each box below. Then, read the phrase for a hint about the thief.

How many As did you choose?  
1 A = They  
2 As = She  
3 As = He  
4 As = It

How many Bs did you choose?  
1 B = no  
2 Bs = have  
3 Bs = is  
4 Bs = can

How many Cs did you choose?  
1 C = big  
2 Cs = big  
3 Cs = a  
4 Cs = the

How many Ds did you choose?  
1 D = hot.  
2 Ds = ponytail  
3 Ds = blue.  
4 Ds = shoes.

The thief does:  
I. II.

NOT HAVE A BOW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

**5 Clue Version**

Clue #1: Descrambler

What does each word start with?  
Put that letter on the number blank at the bottom. Then, read the clue.

Clue #2: Right or Wrong?

Color in each thumb to show if each answer is correct.

Starts with T Starts with Z Starts with B

Clue #3: Descrambler

What letter does each word start with?  
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How many Bs did you choose?  
1 B = no  
2 Bs = have  
3 Bs = is  
4 Bs = can

How many Cs did you choose?  
1 C = big  
2 Cs = big  
3 Cs = a  
4 Cs = the

How many Ds did you choose?  
1 D = hot.  
2 Ds = ponytail  
3 Ds = blue.  
4 Ds = shoes.

The thief does:  
I. II.

NOT HAVE A BOW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

## Print & Digital Forms

**Clue #4: Find It!**

Circle the boxes that start with a "D" sound  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

the girl boy thief

stand is not sitting

pants down green

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

THE THIEF IS NOT SITTING DOWN

**Clue #4: Find It!**

Circle the boxes that start with a "D" sound  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

the girl boy thief

stand is not sitting

pants down green tie

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

THE THIEF IS NOT SITTING DOWN

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

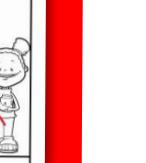
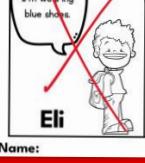
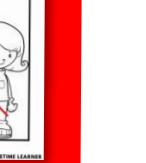
## Short & Long Options

# CVC OPTION AVAILABLE



**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.

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

**Clue #1: Descrambler**

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

Y      W      L

Q      O

Place the correct letter on top

**Clue #2: Right or Wrong?**

Color in each thumb to show if each CVC word matches the picture.

fed	mop	hen
tag	rag	pig
rug	wet	log

**Clue #3: Descrambler**

What letter does each word start with? Write the answers on the blanks at the bottom.

net	van
o	e
ten	a
hat	og
a	o
wet	w

**Clue #4: Find It!**

Circle the boxes that have a middle sound of "a".

the      girl      boy      thief

ham      pig      hop      pan

stand      not      sitting

bug      bag      cab      hat

pants      down      green      tie

dig      sad      web      gum

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

THE THIEF IS NOT SITTING DOWN

**Clue #5: Multiple Choice**

Find the rhyming pair shown in each pair. Circle the right answer. Then read the letters.

A. fun and gum	A. bed and fed	A. bed and rib	A. rag and tag
B. yum and fun	B. beg and leg	B. hid and lid	B. can and fan
C. hum and yum	C. hen and pen	C. rig and wig	C. ham and dam
D. net and jet	D. net and jet	D. win and pin	D. bat and cat

Circle how many you chose in each box below. Then, read the phrase for a hint about the thief.

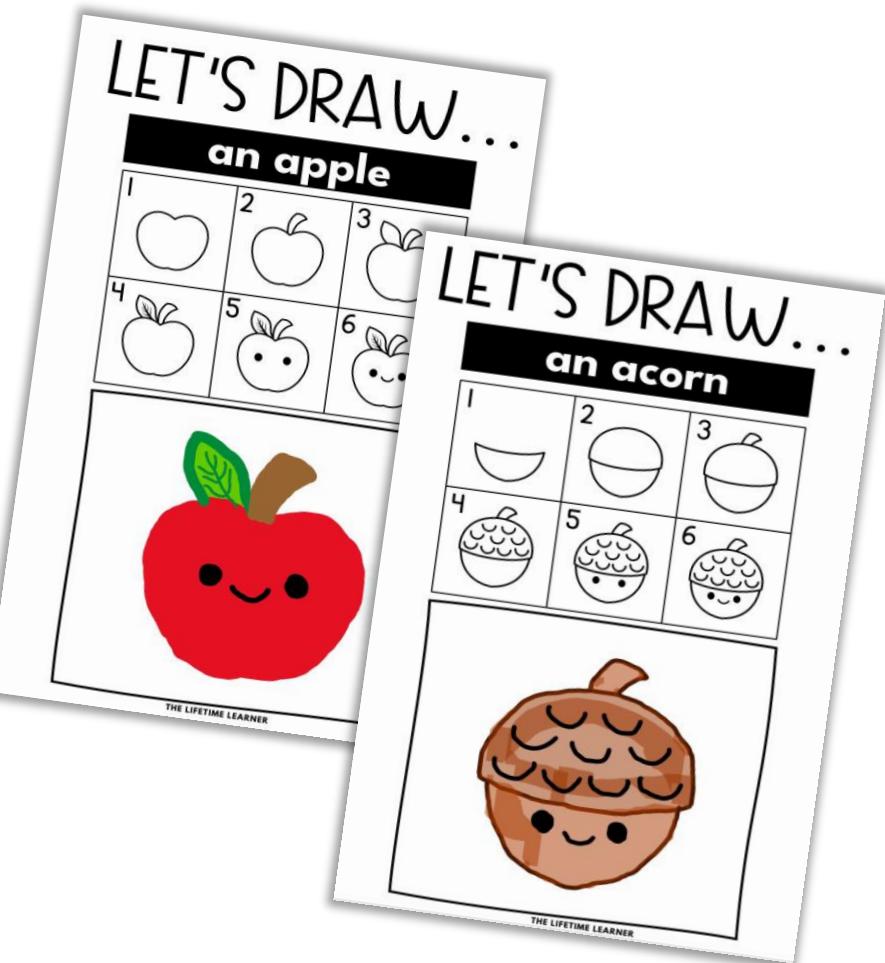
How many As did you circle? 1 A = They 2 As = She 3 As = He 4 As = It	How many Bs did you circle? 1 B = no 2 Bs = have 3 Bs = is 4 Bs = can	How many Cs did you circle? 1 C = bag 2 Cs = big 3 Cs = a 4 Cs = the	How many Ds did you circle? 1 D = hat 2 Ds = ponytail 3 Ds = blue. 4 Ds = shoes.
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Differentiate 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

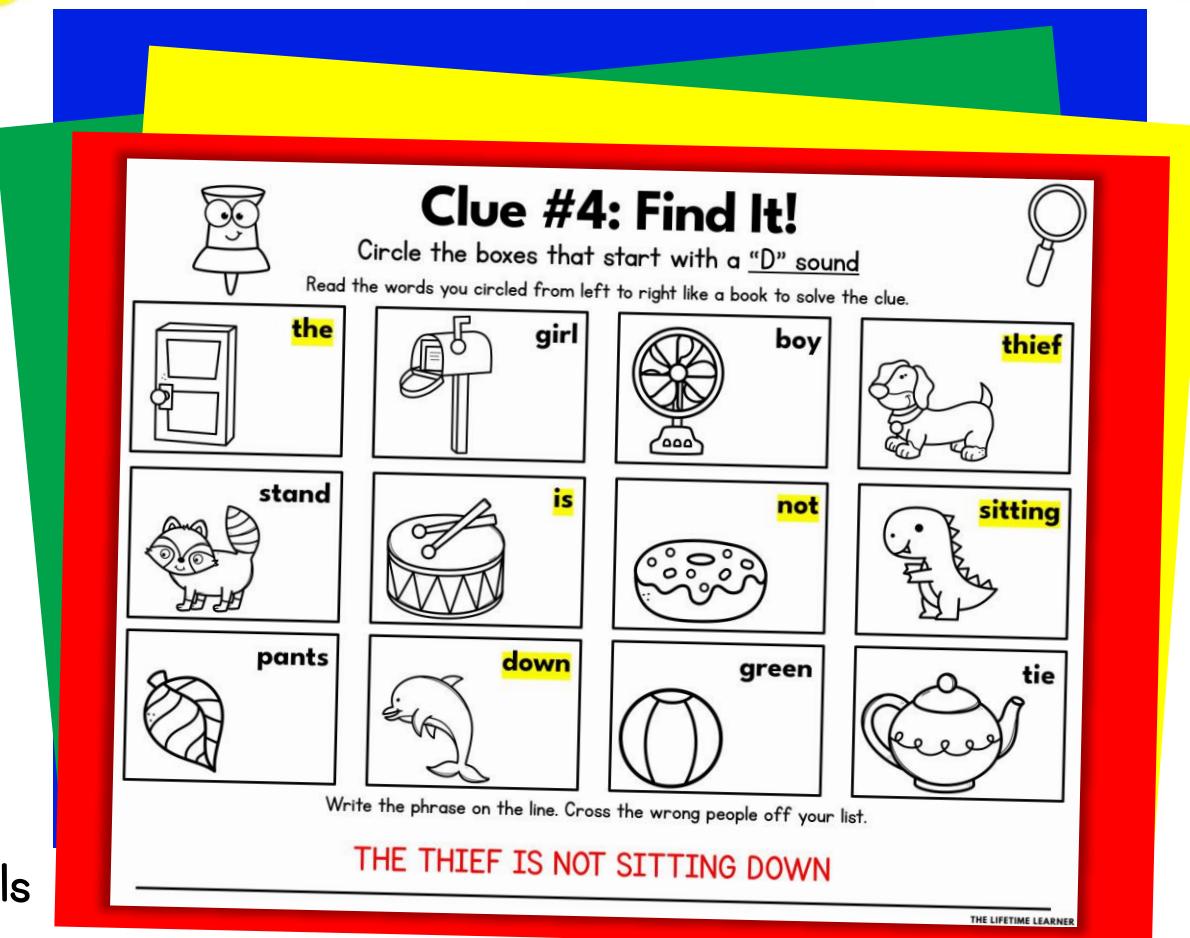


If students finish early, give them a certificate of completion and a directed drawing to complete while others continue working.

# 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)!



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

Kindergarteners 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!**

**Clue #1: Descrambler**  
What does each word start with?

**Clue #2: Right or Wrong?**  
Color in each thumb to show if each answer is correct.

**Starts with T** **Starts with Z** **Starts with B**

**Clue #3: Descrambler**  
What letter does each word start with?  
Write the answers on the blanks at the bottom.

**Clue #4: Find It!**  
Circle the boxes that start with a "D" sound.  
Read the words you circled from left to right like a book to solve the clue.

**the** **girl** **boy** **thief**

**Clue #5: Multiple Choice**  
What letter does each picture start with? Circle the right answer. Then read the bottom.

A. Letter L B. Letter J <b>C. Letter T</b> D. Letter I	A. Letter X B. Letter M <b>C. Letter N</b> D. Letter W	A. Letter N B. Letter M C. Letter C D. Letter P	A. Letter W B. Letter Y C. Letter N D. Letter J
A. Letter W B. Letter U C. Letter D <b>D. Letter V</b>	A. Letter Q B. <b>Letter R</b> C. Letter S D. Letter T	A. Letter G B. Letter E C. Letter D D. Letter X	A. Letter N B. Letter H <b>C. Letter Z</b> D. Letter T

Circle how many you chose in each box below. Then, read the phrase for a hint about the thief.

How many As did you circle? <b>1A = They</b> 2 As = She 3 As = Is 4 As = It	How many Bs did you circle? 1B = no 2Bs = have 3Bs = is 4Bs = can	How many Cs did you circle? 1C = bag 2Cs = big 3Cs = a 4Cs = the	How many Ds did you circle? 1D = hat. 2Ds = ponytail. 3Ds = blue. 4Ds = shoes.
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**The Detective Agency sends congratulations to:**

**Lindsay**  
You solved the mystery!  
11/2 **SW**  
Date **Presented by:**

**LET'S DRAW... an apple**


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**LET'S DRAW... an acorn**


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.

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

Name: **Camila**

**solve the mystery**

**The Case of the Missing Pencil**

# 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

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What does each word start with?  
Put that letter on the number blank at the bottom. Then, read the clue.  
Place the correct letter on top of each matching answer.  
The thief is not wearing...  
Y E L L O W  
1 2 3 4 5 6

## Example of Clue 1

## Math

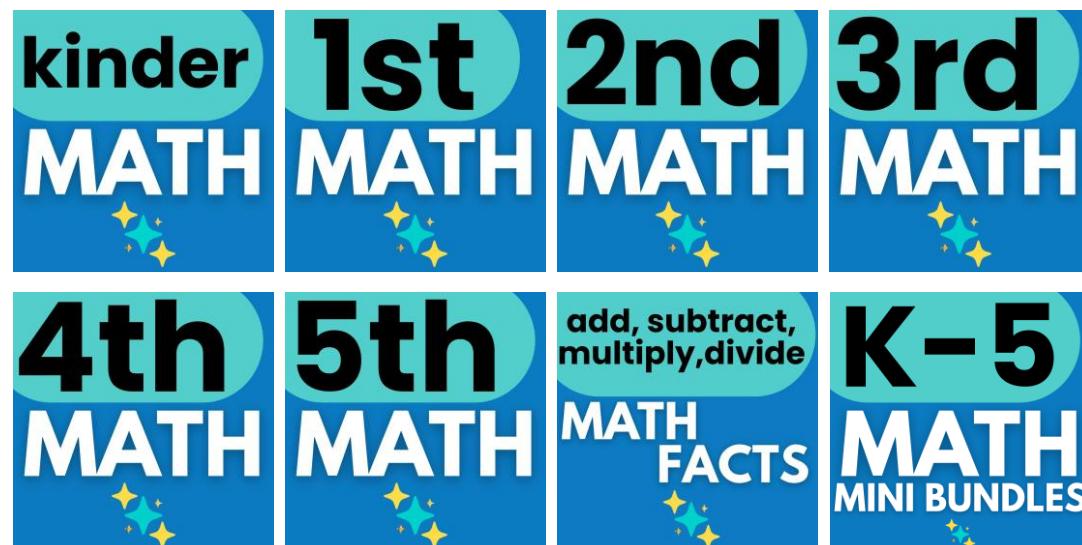


CUT AND GLUE  
CLUE #1  
Cut and glue each kid next to the correct number.  
2 kids will not have a match. Cross those kids out on your suspect list.  
Who does not have a match? Cross them out.  
4 ✓ 8 X  
7 ✓ 2 ✓  
6 ✓ 3 X  
9 ✓ 5 ✓

# 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!

