The Lunchbox Mystery

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Tip: Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you answer each question.

The Lunchbox Mystery



Omar liked to call himself The Solver. He had found his sister's lost earring, his dad's car keys and the TV remote, which was inside the freezer for some reason.

So when his lunchbox disappeared from his cubby on Wednesday, Omar knew exactly what to do. He took out his notebook and his magnifying glass.

Clue 1: The cubby door was open, and there were cracker crumbs on the floor. Omar's lunch had cheese crackers in it. **Clue 2:** The trail of crumbs led down the hallway, past the water fountain, toward Room 12. **Clue 3:** Next to the door of Room 12, Omar found a tiny piece of his orange napkin.

Omar frowned. Room 12 was the science room, and nobody was in it at recess. He pushed the door open quietly.

In the corner stood the cage of Nibbles, the class rabbit. But the cage door was unlatched, and the cage was empty! Omar followed the crumbs behind the bookshelf. There sat Nibbles, munching happily on Omar's carrot sticks. His lunchbox lay open beside him.

Omar laughed. "Case closed," he said, picking up the sneaky rabbit. He told the science teacher about the broken latch, and she fixed it that afternoon.

Omar shared his crackers with his friends, but he let Nibbles keep the carrots. After all, every good detective deserves a reward, and so does every good thief.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What did Omar call himself?

(a) The Detective
(b) The Solver
(c) The Finder

2. What was the first clue?

(a) Cracker crumbs on the floor
(b) A piece of orange napkin
(c) A rabbit footprint

3. Who took Omar's lunch?

(a) His sister
(b) Nibbles the rabbit
(c) The science teacher

4. How did Nibbles get out?

(a) Someone let him out.
(b) The cage latch was broken.
(c) He dug a hole.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **List the three clues Omar found, in order.**

2. **Why was Omar confused when the clues led to Room 12?**

3. **What do you think the author means by "so does every good thief"?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What did Omar call himself?

- a. The Detective
- **b. The Solver**
- c. The Finder

2. What was the first clue?

- **a. Cracker crumbs on the floor**
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3. Who took Omar's lunch?

- a. His sister
- **b. Nibbles the rabbit**
- c. The science teacher

4. How did Nibbles get out?

- a. Someone let him out.
- **b. The cage latch was broken.**
- c. He dug a hole.

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **List the three clues Omar found, in order.**
   Cracker crumbs by his cubby, a crumb trail leading to Room 12, and a piece of his orange napkin by the door.
2. **Why was Omar confused when the clues led to Room 12?**
   Room 12 was the science room, and nobody was in it at recess.
3. **What do you think the author means by "so does every good thief"?**
   It is a joke. Nibbles is the 'thief', and Omar lets him keep the carrots as a reward.