

The Blanket Bandit

There's an emergency situation on Hartman Lane. It's Ben's house and Ben is on the verge of tears. You see, Ben has had a bad day already. He had no one to sit with at lunch, it rained and his field trip was cancelled, and his favorite shoes are soaked because he stepped in a big puddle on the way home. Now he just wants to build a fort and hide from everything with his dog Duke. But he can't build a fort without his secret ingredient - his Superman blanket.

Clue 1
Why is Ben about to cry?

Case #5 Notes
Mud in Garden

Case #10 Notes
The Disappearing Tree

Clue 1- _____
Clue 2- _____
Clue 3- _____
Clue 4- _____

What happened to the tree? How do you know?

_____ happened to the carrots?

Detective Inferences

TOP SECRET

Case File #3
The Blanket Bandit

TOP SECRET

Case File #10
The Disappearing Tree

TOP SECRET

Case File #2
Noises From Above

Let your students become detectives with these ten mysteries! Students will need to rely on their inferencing skills and use the clues in the reading passages to solve each case.

I like to print the passages on cardstock, and I include a cover page for each set. Since the passages need to be grouped together in order, I group them together in order, I group them together with a metal ring.



I attach a label to manila envelopes to make everything look official. I also place the passages and several recording sheets (specific to each case) in the envelope. Students will record the four clues and the answer to the case on the recording sheet. They should use text evidence to support their conclusions.



**TOP
SECRET**

Case File #1

Baseball
Blues



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Case File #2

Mystery From
Above



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Case File #3

The Black
and White
Audit



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**TOP
SECRET**

Case File #4

Mysterious
Substitute



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PREVIEW

TOP

SECRET

Case File #1

Baseball
Thieves

PREVIEW



Case of the Baseball Blues

Mr. Andrews is really mad. He flew out of his house a few minutes ago after he heard the sound of glass breaking. Now he is staring at a group of kids from the neighborhood. Jimmy, Andrew, Henry, and Tad look nervously at Mr. Andrews. Shana, Julie, and Georgia look down at the ground. "Who did this?" he yells. "Just look at my window!" No one answers.



Clue 1
Why is Mr. Andrews angry?

The kids in the neighborhood had all been outside playing. The sun was shining for the first time in two days and everyone was tired of being cooped inside. Shana held her jump rope and was practicing the cracking glass sound she had heard in the driveway. Julie and Georgia, the twins from two years ago, were drawing chalk all over the sidewalks. They loved to draw in the snow. Jimmy and Henry were working on a drawing of a magical forest. There was a chalk mark on one of the windows on the ground.



Clue 2
What were Shana, Julie, and Georgia doing?

"Can someone explain how the baseball ended up in my living room?" Mr. Andrews glared at the group of kids. Jimmy, Andrew, Henry, and Tad hid their baseball gloves behind their backs. Andrew gulped. He hadn't thrown the ball easy pitch to the batter. The batter had swung so hard that the ball was flying high over the fence. The ball was headed right toward Mr. Andrews' house before they all heard the crashing sound.



Clue 3
Could Andrew have broken the window?

Suddenly, Henry's Dad came running across the street. He was carrying the baseball bat. "Did you see that hit, boys? That's how to hit a ball!" exclaimed Henry's Dad. "Why do all of you kids look nervous anyway," Henry's Dad asked. "Hi there, Mr. Andrews! What's going on?"



Clue 4
What was Henry's Dad holding?

Case #1 Notes

Baseball Blues

Clue 1-

Clue 2-

Clue 3-

Clue 4-

Who broke the window? How do you know?

PREVIEW