

# A SUSPECT IS CLEARED



"How is the case going?" Principal Pallen asked Detective Dana.  
"Was it Lance Larkin who stole the trophy from the trophy case?"

"I don't think Lance is our thief," said Detective Dana. She flipped open her notebook. She read what she had written there.

"First, Lance is very tall. He could easily have reached the middle shelf of the trophy case without a ladder. And we know the thief used a ladder."

"Interesting," said Principal Pallen.

"Second, Lance's grandma picked him up from practice a little early that day. I don't think he would have had time to do the deed."

"I see," said Principal Pallen.

"Finally," said Detective Dana, "the glass door had smudges on it. The smudges turned out to be from a peanut butter cup cake. And Lance's teacher told me he has a peanut allergy."

"It sounds like one of our suspects is cleared," said Principal Pallen. "Keep up the good work Detective. I'm sure you'll have the case solved in no time."



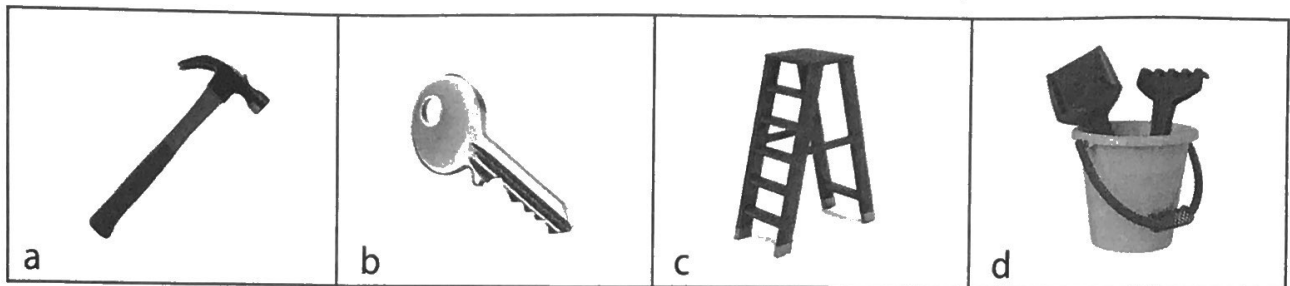
## Literal Questions

1 Tick three things we know about Lance.

- a Lance is a thief.
- b Lance is very tall.
- c Lance has a peanut allergy.
- d Lance has black hair.
- e Lance was picked up by his grandma.

Evidence

2 Circle the item the thief used to get to the middle shelf of the trophy case.



## Focus: Story Elements - Characters, Setting and Plot

Every story has three elements: characters, a setting, and a plot. The plot usually has two main parts. The first part is generally a problem. The second part is the way it gets resolved. The setting is established by the author through key words and descriptive language. It can tell us when and where the story takes place. The setting can influence the mood of the story.

3 List the three main characters mentioned in the story.

a \_\_\_\_\_ b \_\_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_

4 Circle three words that could describe Detective Dana.

thorough    smart    naughty    clever    lazy    careless

5 Where does the story take place? \_\_\_\_\_

6 What is the problem in this story's plot? \_\_\_\_\_

7 Is the problem resolved? Explain.

## Inference Question

8 Do you think this is the end of the story? Why?