

A Mystery at the Mall



Miss Annadale Wink, an eighth grade language arts teacher, was so pleased with the term papers completed by the students in her fifth period class that she decided they needed a special treat. She wanted to surprise the group, however, she could not resist mentioning it later to her sixth period class, explaining that they, too, could have received such a reward if only they had put forth the same effort. "All C's, D's and F's in this class," she had said accusingly. "All A's in my fifth period class."

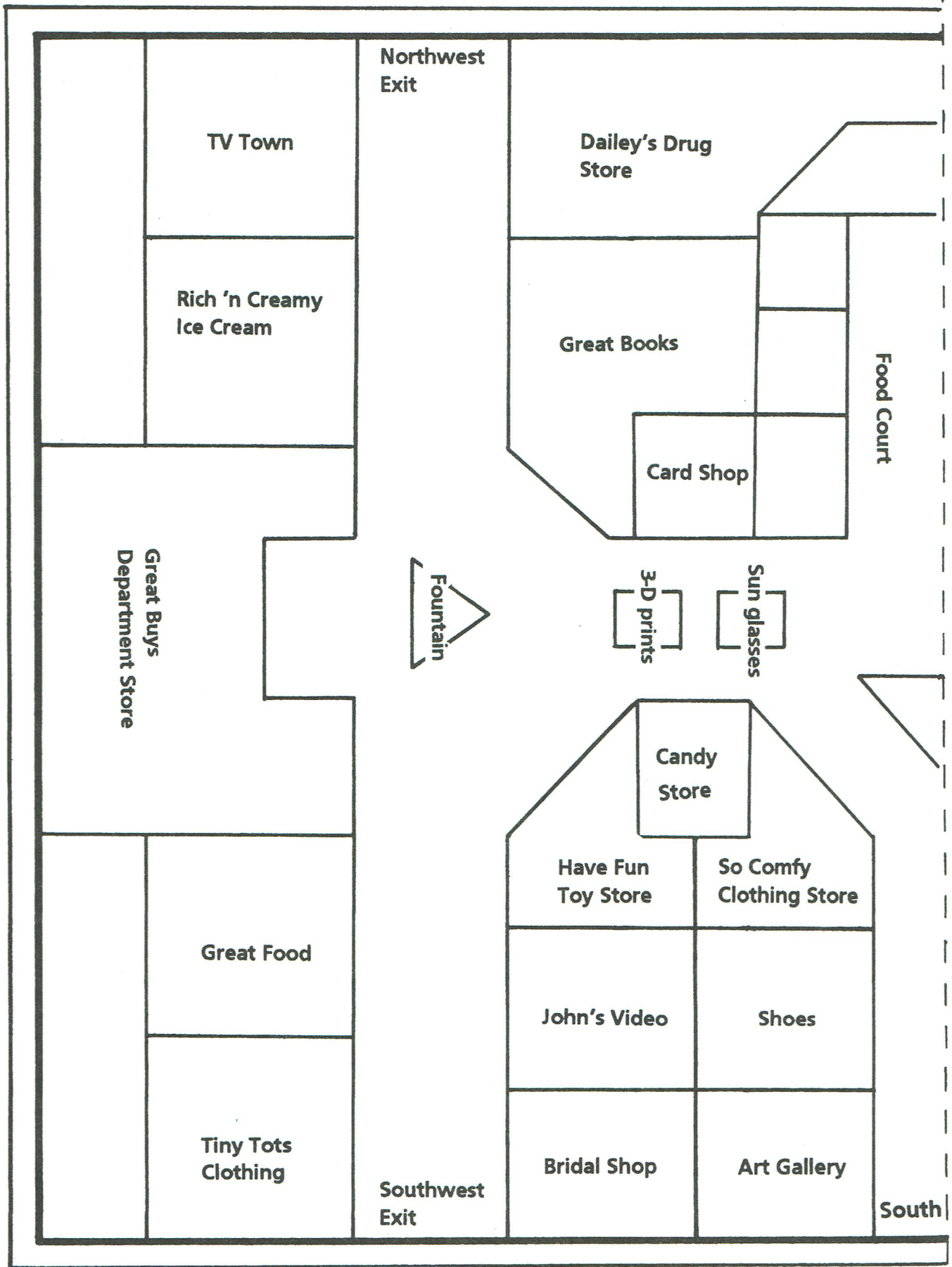
"This afternoon at four o'clock I am going to the mall to pick up an incredible treat for those wonderful students," she told the sixth period class. "A treat so delicious it is absolutely decadent." She paused, seeming to delight in the students' looks of envy. "A gigantic cookie, more than three feet in diameter, chocolate chip dipped in rich chocolate icing." She paused again, slowly licking her lips. "And of course, ice cream sundaes would be perfect with that. Ice cream and those scrumptious sauces from my favorite place at the mall, The Rich and Creamy Ice Cream Shop."

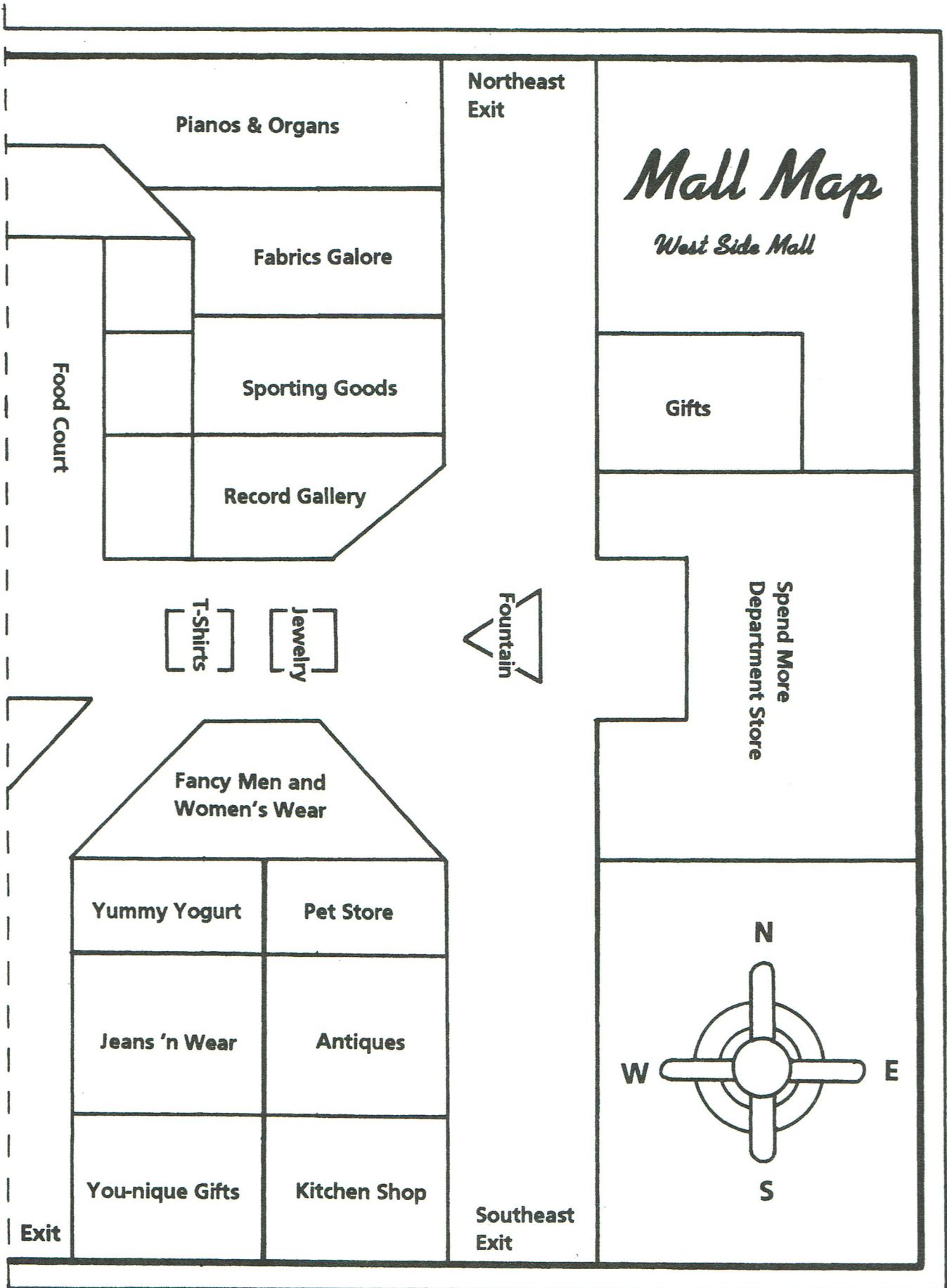
That afternoon at the mall, Miss Wink picked up the cookie from Mr. Hill's Cookies in the food court. She then went to the ice cream shop where, nodding to the clerk behind the cash register, she placed the cookie on a display of various packages of candy laid out on a wooden table next to the check-out counter. She then followed the clerk to the glass case where the clerk helped her select several flavors of ice cream, allowing her to sample several flavors. While the clerk was filling the cartons with the selected flavors, Miss Wink stepped to a nearby shelf where various sauces and toppings were displayed. Choosing enough for a feast, she headed back towards the check-out counter.

"Oh no!" she exclaimed as she neared the wooden table. The cookie was no longer on the candy display.

She asked the clerk if he had moved it, but the clerk said he had last seen it on the table. "It was the biggest cookie I ever saw," he said. "What could have happened to it?"

"It's been stolen!" Mrs. Wink exclaimed. She spotted a security guard outside the shop. "I've been robbed!" she screamed, racing toward him. She told the guard about the cookie and he immediately called the mall security on a portable phone attached to his belt.





Suspects and Alibis

Miss Wink was convinced the culprit was a student in her sixth period class. "They were the only ones who knew about my surprise," she stated, "and I'm sure many of those students were not happy about it, especially when I told them that after eating all the sundaes they wanted, the kids in my fifth period class would have free time so they could play their favorite CDs and dance.

Many of the twenty-one students in her 6th period class had alibis. Some of them had remained after school the afternoon of the crime for play practice, band practice, football practice and cheerleading. Each of these activities ended at 4:30 p.m. Some, however, could not account for their whereabouts in the afternoon. Complete the logic puzzle to determine how many students stayed after school for each activity and how many had no alibis.

Clues

1. Only one student was suspended.
2. The number of people at band practice was one less than the number at football practice.
3. The number of students at play practice was two less than the number of students with no alibis and one less than the number of cheerleaders.
4. There were twice as many football players as there were cheerleaders.
5. Twice as many people were at play practice as were suspended.

Number at play practice _____

Number at band practice _____

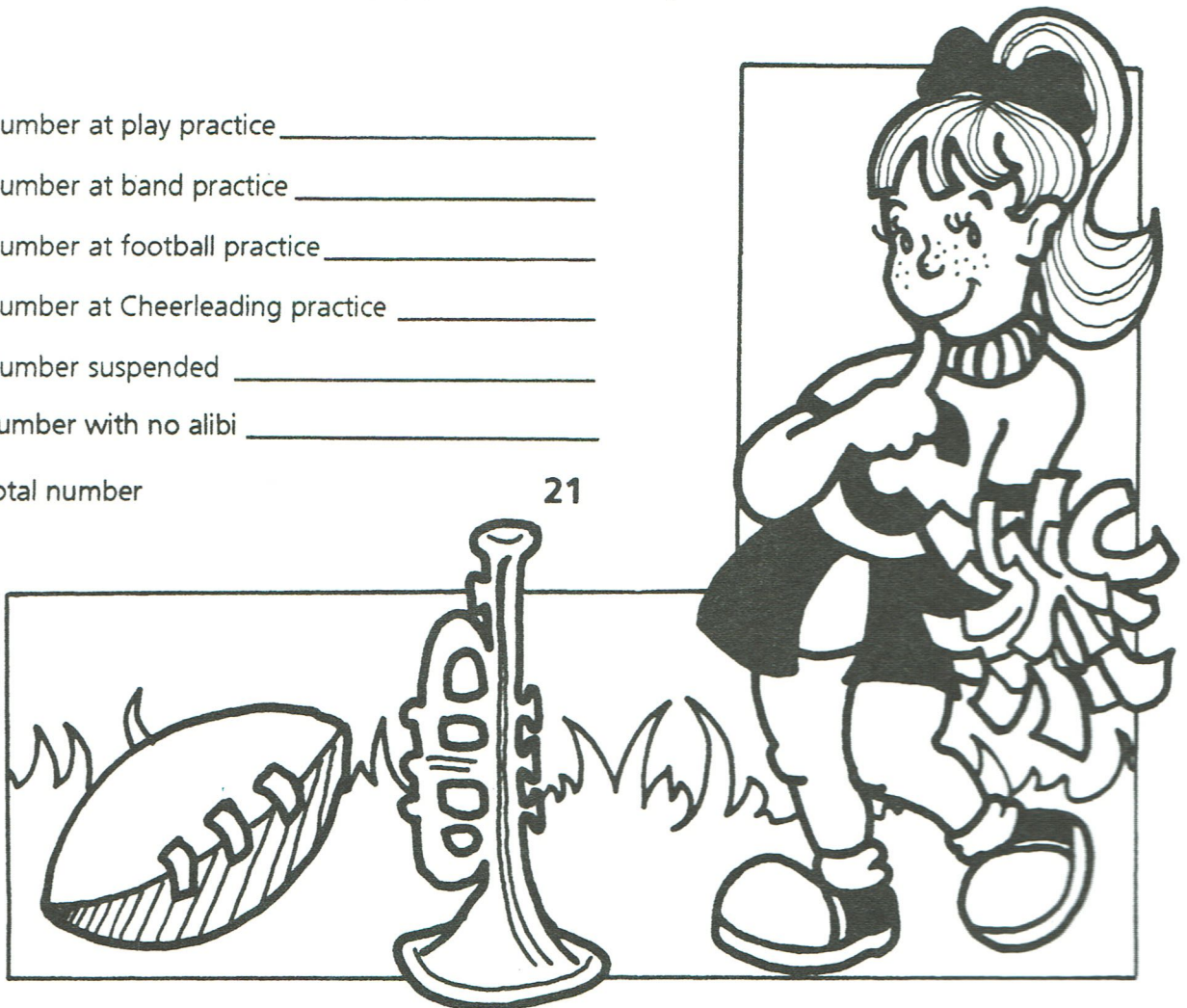
Number at football practice _____

Number at Cheerleading practice _____

Number suspended _____

Number with no alibi _____

Total number 21



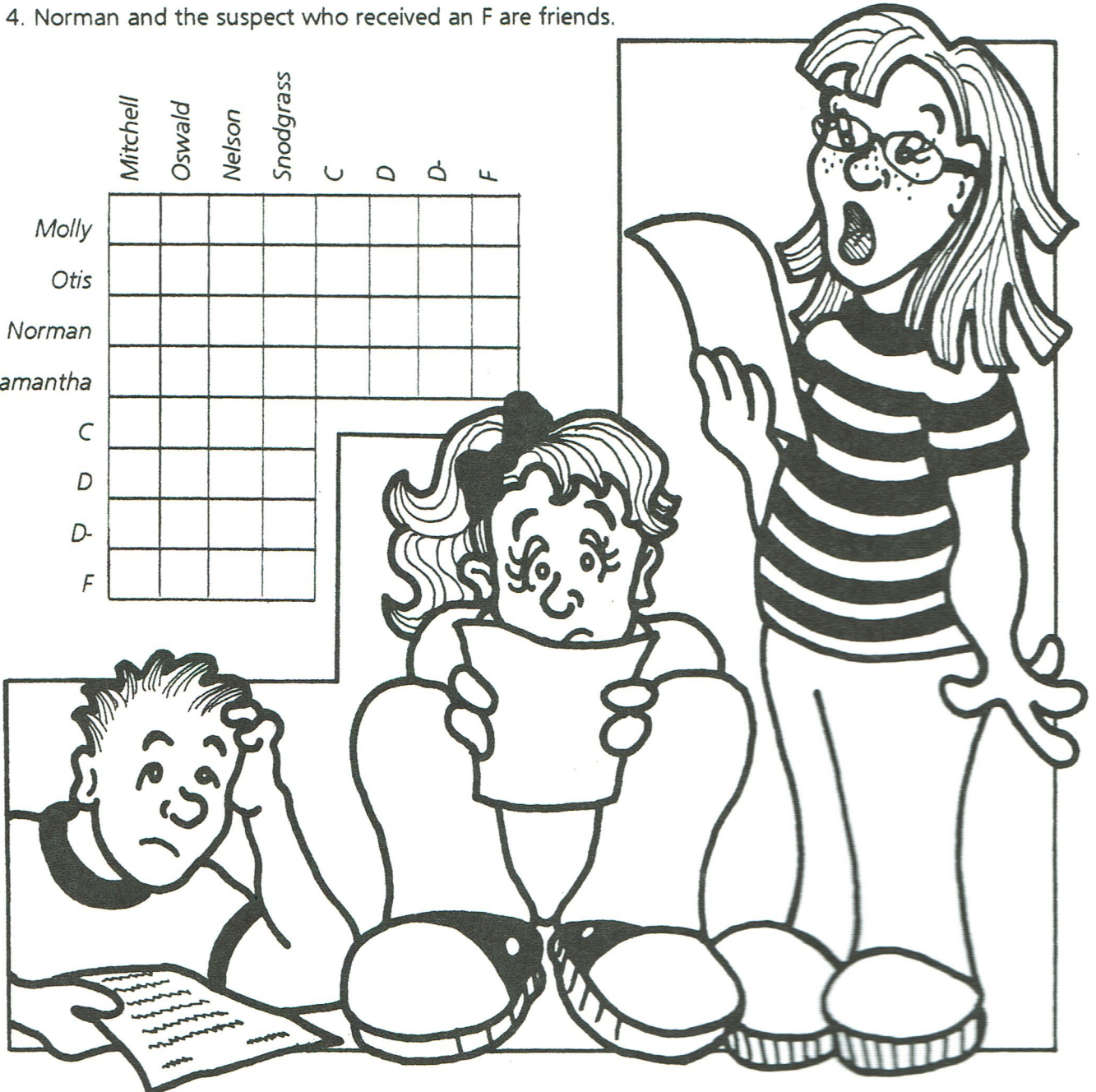
Suspects' Names and Grades

The four suspects who did not have alibis for the afternoon of the crime were Molly, Otis, Norman, and Samantha. Their last names are Mitchell, Oswald, Nelson and Snodgrass. None of the first names begin with the same letter as the last names. Each suspect received either a C, D, D-, or F on his or her term paper. Solve the logic puzzle to find out the last names of each suspect and what grade they received.

Clues

1. The suspect whose last name is Nelson received a C on the paper.
2. Neither Otis or the student who received a D- have last names beginning with M or N.
3. Molly was upset when she received the second to the lowest grade.
4. Norman and the suspect who received an F are friends.

| | Mitchell | Oswald | Nelson | Snodgrass | C | D | D- | F |
|----------|----------|--------|--------|-----------|---|---|----|---|
| Molly | | | | | | | | |
| Otis | | | | | | | | |
| Norman | | | | | | | | |
| Samantha | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | |
| D- | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | |



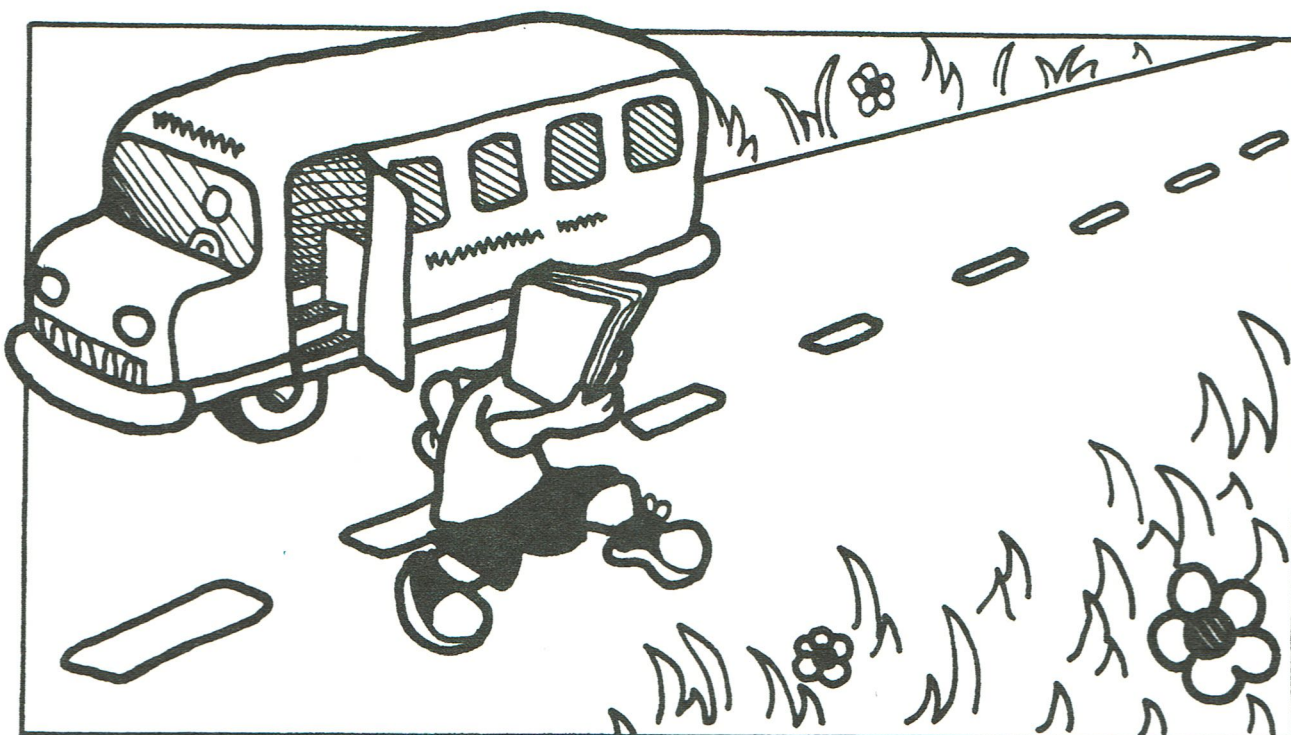
Time Clues

Each of the suspects rode a school bus on the afternoon of the crime and got home at different times. They arrived at 3:10 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 3:25 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. None of the students' parents were at home when they arrived. No one saw the suspects until after 5:00 p.m. that evening. The suspects live in neighborhoods not far from the mall. It takes no more than 10, 15, 20, or 30 minutes to walk to the mall from their homes. Solve the logic puzzle to find out what time each suspect arrived home and how long it would take him or her to walk to the mall.

Clues

1. The suspect who arrived home at 3:10 p.m. could walk to the mall in 30 minutes.
2. Neither Samantha or the student who could walk to the mall in 10 minutes arrived home before 3:20 p.m.
3. Molly arrived home at 3:30 p.m.
4. Otis and the suspect who needed 15 minutes to walk to the mall were friends.
5. It took Norman 20 minutes to walk to the mall.

| | 3:10 p.m. | 3:15 p.m. | 3:25 p.m. | 3:30 p.m. | 10 minutes | 15 minutes | 20 minutes | 30 minutes |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Molly | | | | | | | | |
| Otis | | | | | | | | |
| Norman | | | | | | | | |
| Samantha | | | | | | | | |
| 10 minutes | | | | | | | | |
| 15 minutes | | | | | | | | |
| 20 minutes | | | | | | | | |
| 30 minutes | | | | | | | | |



Description of the Suspects

The mall security asked Miss Wink for a physical description of the four suspects. She stated that the students had either brown, red, black or blonde hair. No two students had the same color hair. She also told security that the tallest student was 5'10" and the shortest was 4'8". The other two students were 5'1" and 5'5".

"This information is all in their school records," Miss Wink retorted when the security guard asked how she could be so certain about the students' heights.

The guard explained that many witnesses give information that is not exactly factual. "They think they are accurate but frequently they are not. They have forgotten what they have seen or they actually didn't know what they claimed to know."

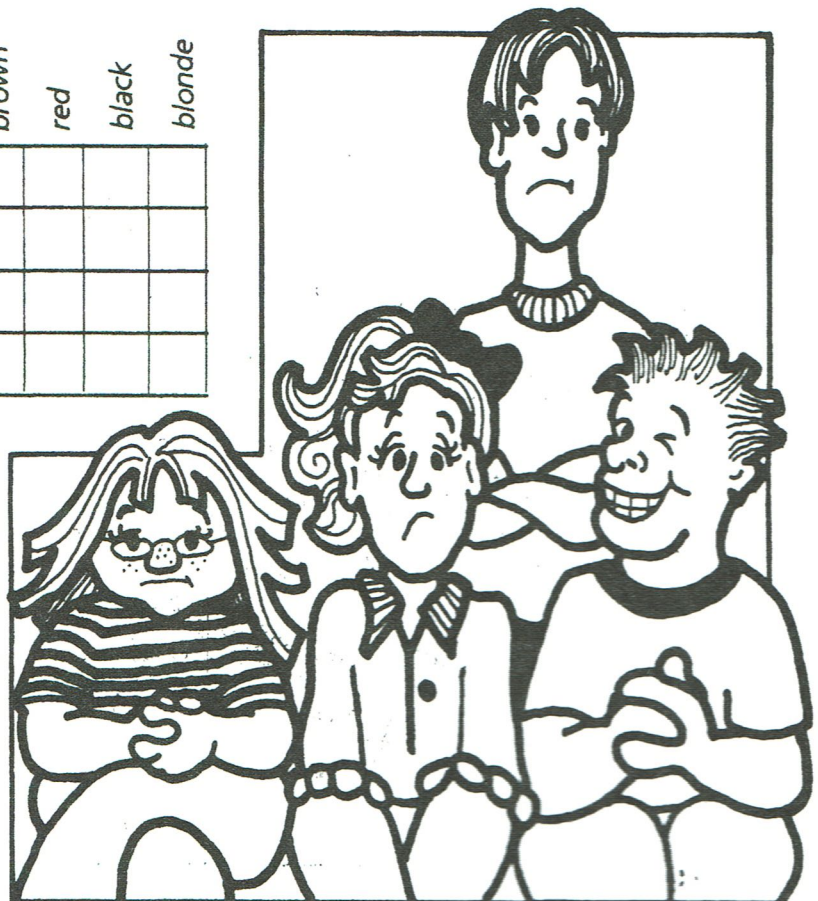
"Well, I never forget," Miss Wink defended. "After all, I do have a photographic memory. Whatever I see, I always remember." Miss Wink then began giving examples of her amazing memory, recalling not only exact quotes from famous literature but the page number on which each quote could be found in various books.

The guard listened politely for several moments then mentioned to Miss Wink that time was valuable when solving a crime. How quickly can you solve this logic puzzle to find out the height of the suspects and the colors of their hair?

Clues

1. The suspect with blonde hair is shorter than the others.
2. Norman is neither the tallest nor the shortest suspect.
3. Otis has brown hair.
4. The suspect with black hair is 5'5".
5. Molly is 5'1".

| | 5'10" | 4'8" | 5'1" | 5'5" | brown | red | black | blonde |
|----------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-------|--------|
| Molly | | | | | | | | |
| Otis | | | | | | | | |
| Norman | | | | | | | | |
| Samantha | | | | | | | | |
| brown | | | | | | | | |
| red | | | | | | | | |
| black | | | | | | | | |
| blonde | | | | | | | | |



Clothing Worn by the Suspects

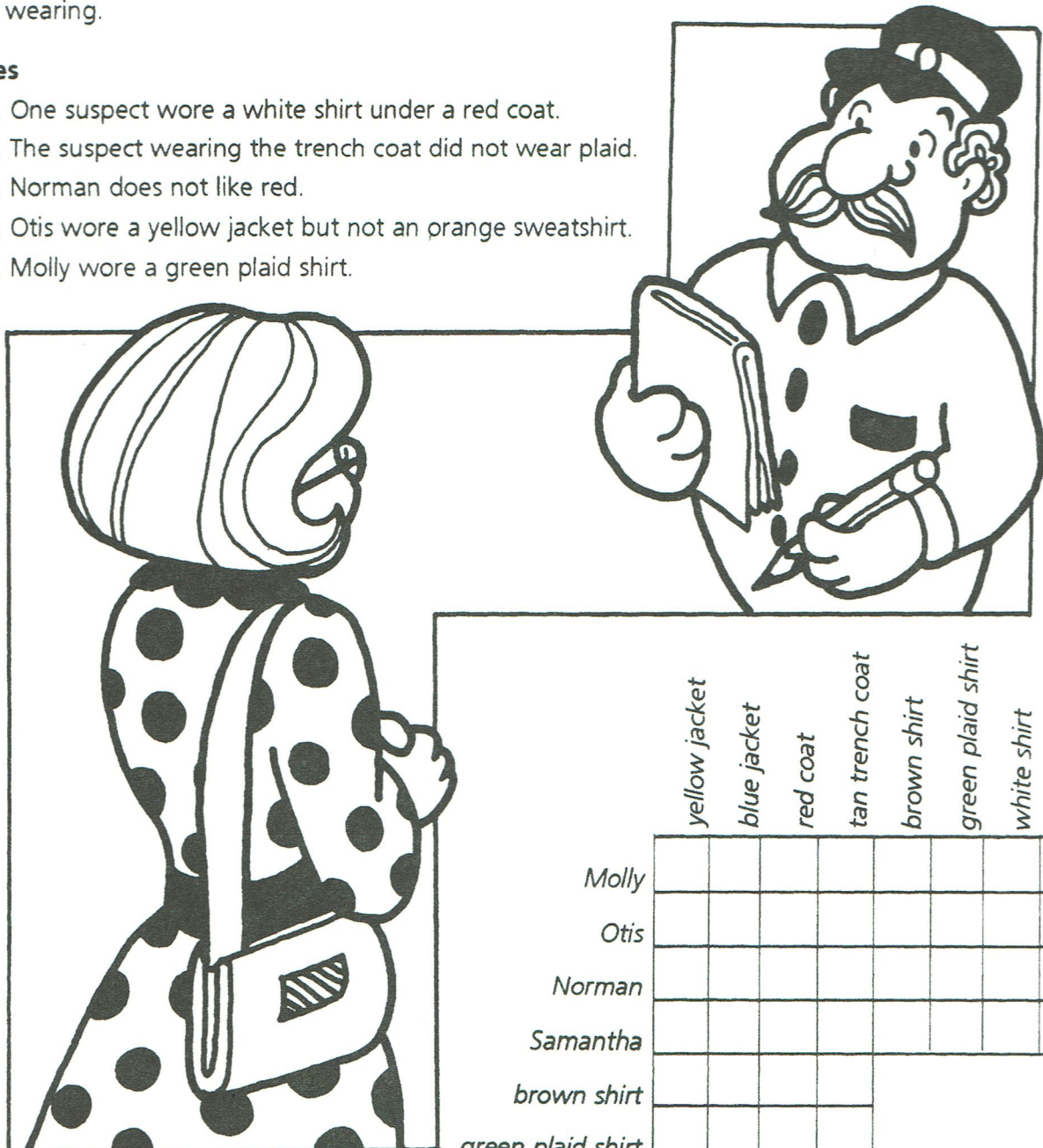
The security guard asked Miss Wink if she remembered what each of the suspects was wearing that day in school.

"I most certainly do," she said, and she quickly told the guard that the students were wearing a yellow jacket, a blue jean jacket, a red coat and a tan trench coat. They also were wearing a brown shirt, a green plaid shirt, a white shirt, and an orange sweatshirt.

Solve the logic puzzle to find out what color jacket or coat and what color shirt each suspect was wearing.

Clues

1. One suspect wore a white shirt under a red coat.
2. The suspect wearing the trench coat did not wear plaid.
3. Norman does not like red.
4. Otis wore a yellow jacket but not an orange sweatshirt.
5. Molly wore a green plaid shirt.



| | yellow jacket | blue jacket | red coat | tan trench coat | brown shirt | green plaid shirt | white shirt | orange sweatshirt |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Molly | | | | | | | | |
| Otis | | | | | | | | |
| Norman | | | | | | | | |
| Samantha | | | | | | | | |
| brown shirt | | | | | | | | |
| green plaid shirt | | | | | | | | |
| white shirt | | | | | | | | |
| orange sweatshirt | | | | | | | | |

One-Hour Mystery: “A Mystery at the Mall”

*Using the information provided solve the mystery of the missing cookie!
Use the guide below and follow the steps outlined.*

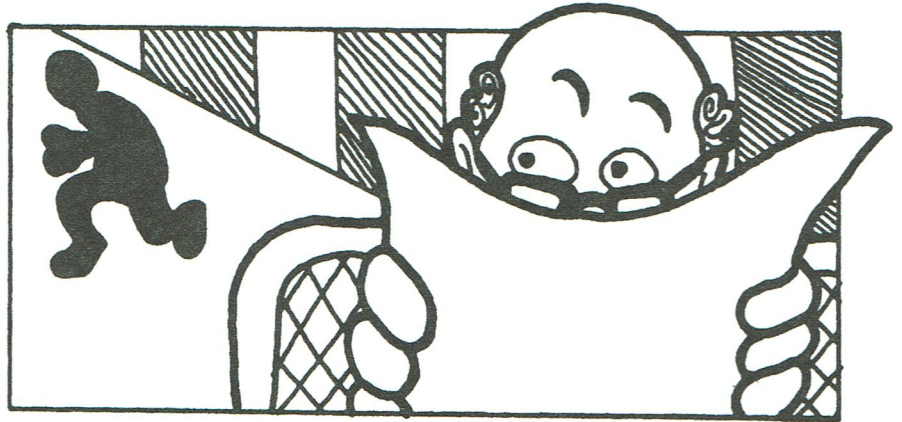
1. Read, “The Mystery at the Mall” story **Green Paper**.
2. Solve the Puzzle, “Suspects and Alibis”
3. When you have your suspect list narrowed down, go to your teacher and ask for the Organization Chart.
4. Now, solve the puzzle, “Suspects Names and Grades”.
Remember you are building on the information from the previous puzzle.
5. Solve, “Time Clues” to build even further on your evidence.
6. Complete the puzzle, “Descriptions of the Suspects”
7. Finally, complete the puzzle, “Clothing Worn by the Suspects”
8. Look at the **Blue** and **Yellow** portions of the map, lining up the two sides to create one big map! Now, mark the following locations using the clues:
 - a. A yellow jacket was found in the dressing room in the So Comfy Clothing Store.
 - b. Two sections of a large chocolate chip cookie were found in the Have Fun Toy Store. One piece was found in the bin with the beach balls. The other had been kicked beneath a shelf containing baby toys.
9. Next, using the **Pink** Witness statements and place each witness’s number on the map where he/she supposedly saw the suspect. Discuss whether some statements are relevant or not!
10. Determine who is the suspect.
10. See if you can reconstruct the crime on your maps of the mall.

Witnesses' Statements

Witnesses who claimed to have seen a teenager running in the mall or acting suspiciously were questioned by the mall security. Some of the witnesses were found to be reliable. The statements made by others, however, conflicted with the facts known about the possible suspects.

The witnesses were asked if they had noticed a young person in the mall with a giant cookie or one who was acting suspiciously. They were then asked where they saw the person, what the person was wearing, height, hair color, and if the person was carrying anything.

Read the statements made by each witness. Look for patterns in the statements. For example, did more than one of the witnesses see the same thing? Which statements seem to be relevant? Which do not seem to apply to the crime?



Witness 1

"A young person was in the book store, The Great Books Book Store. He looked suspicious to me, because he was looking through cookbooks. He was wearing a red shirt and red plaid pants. I didn't notice a jacket or anything. He had dark hair; I'm not sure whether it was brown or black. He was average height."

Witness 2

"I was standing in front of the Bridal Shop, waiting for my friend. I saw a boy, a teenager, head straight toward the south entrance. He seemed to be in a hurry, but when he reached the door, he spun around and hurried back down the hallway towards the main part of the mall. I couldn't figure it out until I saw the security guard standing outside the door. That's when I asked the guard if something had happened. The boy was wearing a brown shirt and blue jeans. He was tall, at least 5'9" and skinny, very skinny. I think he had brown hair. He was carrying one of those yellow bags from So Comfy Clothing Store."

Witness 3

"A boy wearing a bright yellow jacket ran past me. I was standing by the fountain in front of the Great Buy Department Store. The boy was carrying the largest cookie I have ever seen. He ran into the toy shop. He was tall with brown hair and lanky; not much meat on his body."

Witness 4

"There was a boy in the gift shop wearing a yellow shirt. He was just looking around, not buying anything. He was tall and heavy, like he had eaten way too many biscuits. He had brown hair. He was not carrying a package or anything."

Witness 5

"When I was waiting to pay for my new sunglasses at the small booth, I noticed a boy running in front of the candy store. He darted into So Comfy Clothing Store. He was wearing a yellow jacket and blue jeans, I think. He had brown hair and was tall, at least 5'9". He was not carrying anything."

Witness 6

"I was shopping in the men's department in the Great Buy Department Store when I noticed a young teenage boy in a yellow jacket looking for shirts. He was short, only about 5'1" or so. He had brown hair. He was carrying a package from Jeans'N Wear."

Witness 7

"I had been looking at Indian jewelry at that booth in the middle of the mall when I saw a teenage girl run into the Fancy Men and Women's Clothing Shop. She acted like she was being chased or something. I looked but saw no one following her. She had on a red shirt. She was tall, like a model, and had incredible hair, blonde and very long."

Witness 8

A young boy almost knocked me down when I was coming out of the Sports Center. He raced past me through the door. He didn't even say 'Excuse Me.' I got a good look at him. He was tall, very thin, and had brown hair. He was wearing a brown shirt and blue jeans. I noticed he had a package from my favorite store, So Comfy Clothing Store."

Witness 9

"I was sitting in front of the Spend More Department Store. I saw a kid walk by wearing a black baseball cap from the Baltimore Orioles. I said something to him as he passed, like 'Good Team,' but he didn't even look up. I was certain he heard me. I figured he didn't want to be bothered with an old man. He was heading down the mall toward the southeast entrance. He was about as tall as my son, 5'10' or so, and skinny like my boy too. His hair was brown. The boy had on a brown shirt and blue jeans and was carrying a package. I think it was yellow."

Witness 10


"I saw a boy coming out of the pet store. He was carrying what I guess was fish in a white container. He also had a yellow bag. I followed him out of the mall, out the southeast entrance. I noticed that he was tall, almost six feet, and skinny. He had on a brown shirt, blue jeans and a baseball cap. I don't know what team, but it was black."

Witness 11

"I was in the kitchen shop when I saw a kid wearing a yellow shirt and a baseball cap come into the store. He wasn't carrying anything, but he did buy a measuring cup that the clerk put in a brown bag. He looked suspicious. I noticed before he actually bought the cup, he was looking at dishes. He glanced around from side to side to see if anyone was watching him. He was tall and rather heavy-set."

Organizing your Information

Group Members _____ Group Number _____

| Suspects  | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Last Name | | | | | | | | |
| Grade | | | | | | | | |
| Time to Home | | | | | | | | |
| Time to Mall | | | | | | | | |
| Height | | | | | | | | |
| Hair | | | | | | | | |
| Coat | | | | | | | | |
| Shirt | | | | | | | | |