

# Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?

## Math Project





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# *solve a* MYSTERY

where math & science collide!

Professional forensic scientists use a large amount of high-level math. One way for young learners to prepare for that type of math now is to strengthen their math fact fluency. Your child will get the opportunity to do just that, all the while solving a mystery!

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Mathematics Topics Addressed	Primary	Post-Primary	Comprehensive
Develop a concept of numeracy through play	✓		
Focus on asking and answering questions	✓		
Compare, classify, and organize information through observations and measurements	✓		
Focus on drawing conclusions	✓		
Focus on solving everyday problems	✓		
Follow simple step-by-step directions	✓		
Practice mental arithmetic operations		✓	✓
Perform basic mathematic operations using natural numbers		✓	
Decompose numbers from 1 to 10		✓	
Practice basic addition and subtraction skills/ algorithms 0-100		✓	
Learn 0-10 multiplication tables		✓	
Solve equations by reasoning and experiment		✓	✓
Understand the connection between multiplication and division		✓	

Which of these friends stole the cookies from the cookie jar?

Read the mystery to find out!





**Directions:**

Read the following mystery and be on the lookout for clues!

It was 11:47 a.m. on a Saturday morning when a scream erupted from downstairs, making Octavious jump. He had been reading his favorite graphic novel and getting some much needed “me-time.” Octavious was famously introverted and even though it was technically his birthday party, it was less than an hour in and he already needed a break. “So much for that plan,” he mumbled to himself as he scrambled to his feet.

He ran downstairs, concern growing as he heard his friend, Chelsea, sobbing. What happened? He thought to himself. He followed the sound to his kitchen, where all his closest friends stood around Chelsea, comforting her.

“Chelsea, what’s wrong?” Octavious asked.

It was Maxwell that spoke first. “Did you hear her screaming? It almost ruptured my eardrums!”

Amari rolled his eyes. Amari was athletic and confident. He didn’t like foolishness, especially when that foolishness was coming from Maxwell, who was classically goofy and unusually tall for a ten year old. “She’s clearly upset, Maxwell. Don’t be so rude.”

“*She’s* upset?! My hearing is damaged beyond repair! I’m having a medical emergency!” Maxwell’s arms flailed and his red baseball cap shifted down over his forehead with all the motion.

“Let’s all calm down.” Anamaria’s voice was quiet, but strong. She was always the peacemaker, when she wasn’t tucked in a corner with her nose behind a book. She had more knowledge than anyone Octavious could think of, and he trusted her completely. She looked at him and said, “Octavious, I hate to be the one to tell you this, but someone has to. Your birthday cookies.... They’re gone. Someone ate them ALL.”

Octavious blinked. Horror clouded his vision. No cookies? His mother, Amanda, had made them special for his birthday. He imagined a world where birthdays didn’t have cookies, and it was soul-shattering. No chewy goodness. No chocolate melting on his tongue. No sugar rush to give a kid the power of the

sun. Worst of all, no post-cookie-sugar-crash nap. Octavious could feel the tear welling in his eyes.

“This is the worst birthday ever,” he thought.

Suddenly, he felt an arm come around his shoulder. “Don’t cry, Octavious. We’ll find out who did this. We just need to look for the clues.” Rachel was kind and as hopeful as the yellow of her dress. Octavious wasn’t sure if they could do it, but her smile and the mischievous glint in her eyes was infectious. He smiled back.

“Yes!” Amari practically screamed, “A mystery! I’ve always wanted to be a detective!”

Everyone started smiling, even Chelsea sniffled away her tears. “So... what do we do first?”

“Well,” Anamaria said, “in all the detective books I’ve read, the most important thing is to begin by looking for clues.”

“What kind of clues?” Maxwell asked.

“Perhaps we should start with who our suspects are.” Amari suggested. She squinted her eyes and peered at her friends. “There are only six people at this party. Odds are, the person who stole all the cookies is right here in this room.” Everyone looked around. Octavious gulped.

“Well, I think this is silly!” said Maxwell. “How are we going to find out who stole the cookies? It’s not like there’s any video evidence. We shouldn’t waste our time solving impossible problems when there are perfectly good party games to start and gifts for Octavious to open. This is—”

“Look at that!” Chelsea interrupted his rant, pointing to a greasy footprint on the floor. “There’s a footprint! Right next to the empty cookie sheet! The thief must have left a footprint when they were stealing the cookie!”

“I know!” Rachel said, “Let’s compare the bottom of our shoes with the shoe print on the floor. Everybody, take off your left shoe!”

“This is crazy!” Maxwell said.

“Come on, Maxwell,” Rachel encouraged, “even if we can’t solve it, we can at least try!”

“Fine.” Maxwell bent down to untie his shoe.

# Finding Footprints

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Use the key below to match the numbers in the squares to the ones in the key below, in order to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

9	9	9	6	10	10	8	10	8	7	7
9	10	9	6	10	10	8	10	8	7	10
9	9	9	6	10	10	8	10	8	7	7
9	10	9	6	10	10	8	10	8	7	10
9	9	9	6	6	6	8	8	8	7	7
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
1	1	1	5	10	5	2	2	2	4	4
1	10	10	5	10	5	2	10	2	4	10
1	1	1	5	5	5	2	10	2	4	4
10	10	1	5	10	5	2	10	2	4	10
1	1	1	5	10	5	2	2	2	4	4

**KEY**

**Red = 9**

**Yellow = 6**

**Green = 8**

**Purple = 7**

**Blue = 1**

**Orange = 5**

**Black = 2**

**Pink = 4**



# Finding Footprints

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Solve the math problems below, then use the key to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

$9+60$	$7+4$	$10+27$	$69+4$	$10+6$	$11+15$	$34+9$	$60+4$	$30+15$	$7+88$	$66+3$
$9+40$	$3+45$	$23+10$	$63+6$	$11+13$	$8+2$	$14+7$	$50+2$	$7+16$	$24+5$	$45+65$
$9+20$	$7+6$	$2+87$	$65+2$	$6+18$	$80+6$	$55+8$	$6+18$	$73+4$	$88+9$	$71+4$
$9+80$	$5+77$	$2+61$	$7+62$	$9+3$	$45+15$	$95+2$	$13+13$	$6+31$	$75+8$	$18+18$
$10+91$	$2+23$	$2+43$	$32+7$	$23+8$	$45+6$	$33+12$	$7+78$	$65+12$	$79+0$	$65+4$
$1+33$	$55+77$	$11+87$	$55+3$	$45+13$	$33+17$	$22+12$	$55+3$	$66+6$	$33+3$	$99+1$
$15+6$	$9+14$	$14+9$	$23+6$	$60+4$	$89+4$	$15+30$	$6+77$	$22+5$	$40+15$	$43+6$
$19+8$	$12+6$	$18+8$	$5+68$	$6+8$	$8+13$	$13+10$	$75+3$	$2+67$	$43+8$	$12+12$
$14+5$	$55+8$	$85+2$	$5+18$	$5+50$	$90+3$	$17+6$	$15+9$	$12+13$	$41+4$	$4+89$
$60+8$	$88+6$	$60+7$	$3+18$	$10+8$	$55+2$	$77+6$	$17+3$	$20+9$	$88+3$	$24+12$
$14+7$	$39+4$	$1+60$	$17+4$	$22+2$	$88+13$	$50+45$	$9+50$	$27+6$	$45+9$	$4+7$

**KEY**

**Red =**  
**odd numbers**

**Purple =**  
**even numbers**

# Finding Footprints

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Solve the math problems below, then use the key to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

9x9	9x1	9x3	5x7	6x2	4x2	7x5	6x4	3x3	7x1	7x3
11x5	10x2	3x9	3x5	6x4	4x1	5x3	8x4	3x5	7x5	4x4
3x11	9x2	1x9	7x4	6x7	4x10	3x3	7x4	3x9	7x7	7x5
5x5	10x3	5x9	5x5	6x8	4x11	3x11	4x6	11x3	7x9	4x5
3x3	3x9	7x9	3x9	11x11	5x7	3x9	3x5	7x3	7x11	7x3
4x6	5x4	8x8	9x6	6x3	6x5	6x8	6x7	6x9	9x8	9x4
1x5	1x7	1x9	9x3	6x4	5x11	11x3	7x1	9x1	7x7	3x3
4x6	2x8	8x4	9x5	8x8	5x9	11x7	8x4	1x1	5x5	9x3
1x3	3x1	5x9	9x9	3x3	5x7	1x5	8x6	3x3	3x3	9x9
8x3	8x5	5x7	9x3	8x4	5x1	3x3	8x7	5x5	3x7	6x4
3x3	5x1	5x5	5x3	9x2	3x1	11x11	9x9	7x7	3x9	9x1

**KEY**

**Green =**  
**odd numbers**

**Blue =**  
**even numbers**

Now that you know the culprit wore blue shoes, cross out any suspect without blue shoes.



Anamaria



Maxwell



Amari



Rachel



Octavius



Chelsea



**Directions:** Read on to look for more clues!

“See! I told you this was pointless! We might as well give up now!” Maxwell crossed his arms.

They had compared all their shoes to the greasy shoe print on the floor and the tread marks matched four of their shoes. Maxwell, Octavious, Amari, and Chelsea all wore sneakers with identical soles to the shoe print on the floor.

“That’s okay! We’ve already narrowed down our suspects to just 4 people. We just have to look for a few more clues to help us find out who stole the cookies.” Anamaria smiled.

“More clues? What other clues could there possibly be?” Maxwell complained.

“I know!” said Rachel. “Let’s change our perspective. We need to get real close to look for trace evidence.”

“What is trace evidence?” asked Chelsea.

“Trace evidence is small particles and fibers, like hairs, seeds, and pollen, that transfer from one person or thing to another.” Anamaria explained.

Amari jumped with excitement. “This is awesome! But how will we see evidence so small?”

Octavious chewed on his tongue. It was a habit he had picked up when he was thinking really hard, and this problem needed some hard thinking in order to solve it. Suddenly, he said, “I’ve got it! I have a magnifying glass in my room!”

“Go get it!” Chelsea encouraged.

Octavious ran up the stairs, and back into his bedroom. He ran straight up to his desk, where he did all his writing. He opened the drawer and rummaged through it until his fingers grasped around the magnifying glass. He was about to run back downstairs when he realized something. One of my friends stole all my birthday cookies. For a moment, Octavious was sad. But he knew he didn’t have long, so he pushed the thought away and raced back downstairs.

“I’ve got it!” He shouted.

“Perfect!” Amari held out his hand. “May I use it?”

“Sure!”

Amari took the magnifying glass and began searching around the cookie sheet. He hummed quietly as he worked. His eyes scanned all the corners.

“Nothing,” he said.

“Can I try?” Asked Chelsea.

“Here.” Amari handed the magnifying glass over.

Chelsea began looking around, but instead of focusing on the pan, she bent down and looked over the cabinets. A small red fiber stuck out from the corner of one of the drawers. “Look!” She exclaimed.

Everyone gathered around to get a look.

“What does it mean?” Octavious asked.

Anamaria looked around. “We have to match this fiber to the clothes it came from. If we can find a match, we can narrow down our suspects and find the thief!”

Primary: Clue #2

# Clothing Clue

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Use the key below to match the numbers in the squares to the ones in the key below, in order to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

4+5	2+7	1+8	1+1	3+3	5+1	2+4	1+2	4+4	6+2	1+2
5+4	3+1	3+6	2+1	5+1	3+1	2+1	1+2	5+3	4+0	6+2
8+1	5+4	2+2	1+1	4+2	3+3	1+3	1+2	7+1	3+1	6+2
2+7	1+2	6+3	3+1	5+1	3+1	2+1	1+2	3+5	1+1	4+4
3+6	1+1	4+5	2+1	2+4	6+0	5+1	3+1	4+4	3+5	3+1
2+1	1+2	1+1	3+1	4+0	3+1	2+1	1+2	0+3	1+1	0+4
6+1	1+2	5+2	3+1	9+1	8+2	7+3	1+2	2+3	4+1	3+2
3+4	1+1	7+0	3+1	8+2	1+0	3+7	1+2	2+1	2+3	0+4
2+5	6+1	4+3	3+1	1+9	2+8	3+7	1+2	2+1	4+1	0+4
6+1	1+1	6+1	1+3	6+4	1+0	2+8	1+2	2+1	1+4	0+4
3+4	1+1	7+0	3+1	8+2	1+0	3+7	1+2	2+1	2+3	0+4

**KEY**

**Blue = 1**

**Orange = 2**

**Red = 3**

**Yellow = 4**

**Purple = 5**

**Green = 6**



# Clothing Clue

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Use the key below to match the numbers in the squares to the ones in the key below, in order to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

74-10	66-10	80-10	43-22	72-50	68-48	80-30	76-43	72-20	68-28	24-13
96-10	43-22	22-10	33-12	98-78	75-22	95-12	45-12	98-18	83-12	55-44
78-10	24-10	83-72	43-22	72-70	100-70	85-24	75-24	72-20	24-11	100-10
58-10	76-43	92-10	87-36	50-40	58-17	75-54	85-54	50-10	76-43	78-10
82-10	95-12	86-10	66-13	88-18	94-62	78-70	55-44	88-8	94-4	99-76
65-10	85-24	78-65	77-14	45-30	75-22	65-30	85-22	78-63	77-24	65-10
70-60	75-54	82-60	75-14	74-24	62-27	86-74	75-54	70-40	66-34	80-10
92-10	65-44	60-20	76-43	98-88	55-44	88-64	67-45	45-12	92-22	95-12
70-20	18-9	90-30	78-65	70-60	10-9	58-17	89-32	75-24	18-8	85-24
50-30	99-76	94-22	99-78	52-40	89-12	86-54	77-30	85-54	86-12	75-54
88-66	65-10	82-70	83-72	86-66	76-13	88-72	85-10	55-44	96-44	65-44

**KEY**

**Yellow =**  
**odd numbers**

**Green =**  
**even numbers**

# Clothing Clue

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Use the key below to match the numbers in the squares to the ones in the key below, in order to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

74- 13	66- 27	80- 13	76- 48	70- 13	66- 27	80- 13	40- 22	72- 13	68- 27	27- 19
96- 13	80- 52	22- 9	98- 72	92- 13	27- 19	55- 17	88- 70	98- 13	70- 12	80- 13
78- 15	24- 9	70- 24	56- 18	76- 15	18- 9	56- 28	50- 18	72- 15	95- 23	10- 9
58- 17	70- 48	92- 19	58- 48	50- 17	93- 23	56- 50	58- 18	50- 17	55- 19	78- 15
82- 17	90- 72	86- 17	44- 38	84- 17	96- 19	86- 17	44- 38	88- 17	94- 19	93- 23
56- 18	50- 18	93- 19	76- 28	56- 18	40- 38	93- 19	13- 11	77- 15	86- 28	93- 19
70- 13	50- 48	82- 13	70- 12	74- 13	62- 27	86- 13	99- 17	70- 13	66- 27	80- 13
90- 13	50- 48	60- 27	95- 23	98- 13	98- 72	88- 17	76- 28	76- 48	92- 13	76- 28
70- 15	18- 9	90- 19	55- 19	70- 15	10- 9	58- 17	70- 12	98- 72	18- 9	70- 12
50- 17	56- 18	94- 19	10- 9	52- 17	50- 17	86- 17	95- 23	56- 18	86- 17	95- 23
88- 17	58- 48	82- 17	78- 15	86- 17	88- 17	88- 17	55- 19	58- 48	96- 19	55- 19

**KEY**

**Red =**  
**odd numbers**

**Purple =**  
**even numbers**

Now that you know the culprit wore a red hat, cross out any suspect without a red hat.





**Directions:** Read on to look for more clues!

“A RED HAT!” Amari screeches!

“A red hat and blue shoes...” Anamaria reminds her.

Everyone looks around.

“That’s...” Rachel looked skeptically at her friends. “That leaves Maxwell and Octavious.”

“I DID NOT EAT THE COOKIES.” Maxwell shouted. “I was in the living room with Anamaria playing chess when I heard Chelsea scream. It must have been you, Octavious.”

“Why would I steal my own cookies?” Octavious asked defensively.

Chelsea looked at him through furrowed brows, “Octavious, you’re the only one that was alone when the cookies were stolen. Are you sure you didn’t move them and forget or something?”

Octavious felt the tears pooling behind his eyes. *This is the worst birthday ever*, he thought. The children looked at him with confusion and hurt in their eyes. “Why would I take my own cookies?” He said in a mumble, almost too low to be heard.

This was terrible. All his friends thought he would steal his own cookies and lie about it! He had never felt so hurt. He couldn’t take it anymore. Octavious turned and ran back to his room, slamming the door behind him. The rest of the children stood in the kitchen looking at each other awkwardly. “I feel kind of bad.” Rachel admitted. “No one should have to cry on their birthday.”

“But he stole his own cookies! That’s not our fault!” Maxwell argued.

“Maybe he felt like he had to lie.” Said Chelsea. “Maybe I was crying and he felt so bad he couldn’t find a way to tell us the truth.”

Several of the kids nodded. They had all felt embarrassed before, and knew what

it was like feel pressure to make your friends happy.

Amari picked up the magnifying glass and began looking around.

“What are you doing, Amari?” Anamaria asked. “The mystery is solved.”

“Something doesn’t seem quite right.” Amari explained, leaning down to examine the floor with the magnifying glass.

“What do you mean?” Maxwell asked.

“It just doesn’t sit right with me.” Amari said. “Why would Octavious steal his own cookies? His mom made them for his party. It would be totally nonsensical to steal from himself.” He got down on his hands and knees and peered through the magnifying glass.

“You’re right.” Chelsea said. “It doesn’t make sense.”

Maxwell’s jaw dropped. “But–” he sputtered, “But...we collected the evidence! The shoes match. The red hat. Everything adds up.”

“Except for motive.” Anamaria pointed out.

“I’ve got something!” Amari shouted. He reached down and picked a stray fiber between his fingers, holding it up to the light.

Primary: Clue #3

# The Missing Piece of Evidence

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Use the key below to match the numbers in the squares to the ones in the key below, in order to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

10-5	10-2	8-3	9-2	10-9	1-0	8-7	9-2	10-2	3-1	4-2
9-4	10-3	7-2	9-1	9-8	9-2	7-6	9-1	9-7	10-1	9-2
8-3	7-2	6-1	7-0	8-7	7-6	6-5	7-0	8-6	7-5	6-4
5-0	7-0	10-5	10-2	5-4	9-1	10-9	10-2	8-1	10-1	10-8
6-1	10-2	9-4	10-3	6-5	7-0	9-8	10-3	6-4	7-5	9-7
10-3	10-3	10-1	9-2	9-2	8-1	10-1	9-2	8-1	10-1	9-2
10-7	9-6	8-5	10-3	10-6	4-0	5-1	9-1	10-4	6-0	8-2
9-6	7-0	7-4	9-2	9-5	8-1	10-1	7-0	9-2	9-3	9-2
8-5	7-4	6-3	9-1	8-4	7-3	10-1	10-2	9-1	7-1	9-1
5-2	9-2	10-1	9-2	10-6	10-1	9-2	10-3	7-0	8-2	7-0
6-3	10-3	9-2	8-1	6-2	7-3	9-5	9-2	10-2	6-0	10-2

**KEY**

**Blue = 1**

**Orange = 2**

**Red = 3**

**Yellow = 4**

**Purple = 5**

**Green = 6**



Post-Primary:

# Clue #3

## The Missing Piece of Evidence

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Use the key below to match the numbers in the squares to the ones in the key below, in order to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

1x1	4x1	3x1	2x2	1x1	1x1	3x1	2x2	1x1	1x1	3x1
3x1	1x4	1x5	4x1	3x1	4x1	1x5	4x1	3x1	2x2	4x1
5x1	1x1	1x3	1x4	5x1	1x1	1x3	1x4	5x1	1x1	1x3
1x5	4x1	3x1	1x2	1x5	4x1	3x1	1x2	2x2	4x1	3x1
1x3	1x4	5x1	1x4	1x3	1x4	5x1	1x4	1x3	1x5	5x1
2x2	4x1	2x1	2x2	4x1	2x2	2x1	2x2	4x1	2x2	4x1
1x1	3x1	3x1	4x1	1x1	1x1	3x1	2x2	1x1	1x1	3x1
3x1	2x2	1x5	1x4	3x1	2x2	4x1	4x1	2x2	5x1	4x1
5x1	1x1	1x3	1x2	5x1	1x1	2x2	1x4	4x1	1x1	1x4
1x5	4x1	2x2	1x4	1x5	2x2	4x1	1x2	1x4	3x1	1x2
1x3	2x2	4x1	1x2	1x3	1x3	5x1	1x4	1x2	1x5	1x4

**KEY**

**Yellow =**  
**odd numbers**

**Green =**  
**even numbers**

# Comprehensive: Clue #3 The Missing Piece of Evidence

**Directions:** It's time to learn more about the footprint in question! Use the key below to match the numbers in the squares to the ones in the key below, in order to color the squares and decipher a secret message.

$5 \div 1$	$6 \div 3$	$3 \div 1$	$8 \div 1$	$5 \div 1$	$6 \div 2$	$3 \div 1$	$8 \div 1$	$5 \div 1$	$6 \div 2$	$3 \div 1$
$9 \div 3$	$8 \div 1$	$2 \div 2$	$6 \div 1$	$9 \div 3$	$4 \div 2$	$2 \div 2$	$6 \div 1$	$9 \div 3$	$2 \div 1$	$8 \div 4$
$9 \div 1$	$3 \div 3$	$6 \div 6$	$4 \div 2$	$9 \div 1$	$3 \div 3$	$6 \div 6$	$4 \div 2$	$9 \div 1$	$3 \div 3$	$6 \div 6$
$7 \div 1$	$6 \div 1$	$5 \div 1$	$2 \div 1$	$7 \div 1$	$6 \div 1$	$5 \div 1$	$2 \div 1$	$2 \div 1$	$8 \div 4$	$5 \div 1$
$6 \div 2$	$4 \div 2$	$9 \div 9$	$4 \div 1$	$6 \div 2$	$4 \div 2$	$9 \div 9$	$4 \div 1$	$6 \div 2$	$2 \div 2$	$9 \div 9$
$2 \div 1$	$2 \div 1$	$8 \div 4$	$8 \div 1$	$6 \div 3$	$2 \div 1$	$6 \div 3$	$6 \div 3$	$2 \div 1$	$8 \div 4$	$8 \div 1$
$5 \div 1$	$6 \div 2$	$3 \div 1$	$6 \div 1$	$5 \div 1$	$6 \div 2$	$3 \div 1$	$8 \div 1$	$5 \div 1$	$6 \div 2$	$3 \div 1$
$9 \div 3$	$6 \div 1$	$9 \div 9$	$4 \div 2$	$9 \div 3$	$4 \div 2$	$6 \div 1$	$6 \div 1$	$6 \div 1$	$9 \div 3$	$6 \div 1$
$9 \div 1$	$3 \div 3$	$6 \div 6$	$2 \div 1$	$9 \div 1$	$3 \div 3$	$4 \div 2$	$4 \div 2$	$4 \div 2$	$3 \div 3$	$4 \div 2$
$5 \div 1$	$8 \div 1$	$6 \div 3$	$4 \div 1$	$5 \div 1$	$6 \div 1$	$2 \div 1$	$2 \div 1$	$2 \div 1$	$5 \div 1$	$2 \div 1$
$6 \div 2$	$8 \div 4$	$8 \div 1$	$6 \div 3$	$6 \div 2$	$9 \div 9$	$6 \div 6$	$4 \div 1$	$4 \div 1$	$9 \div 9$	$4 \div 1$

**KEY**

**Purple =**  
**odd numbers**

**Orange =**  
**even numbers**

Now that you know the culprit had a pet, cross out any suspect without a pet.

Do you know who did it?





**Directions:** Read on to learn how to this mystery concludes.

“It’s a pet hair!” Chelsea exclaimed. “Whoever committed this crime has a pet!”

“But... Octavious doesn’t have a pet.” Anamaria pointed out.

Rachel looks around the room. “Only three of us have pets. Amari, Chelsea, and Maxwell...”

“Whoever did this,” Anamaria said, “has blue shoes.... a red hat... and a pet.”

Everyone turned to look directly at Maxwell, who was standing by the cookie sheet with wide eyes.

“MAXWELL!” Amari yelled, “You stole the cookies! How dare you let us think Octavious stole his own cookies when the whole time it was you!”

“I didn’t- I wouldn’t-”

“Tell us the truth.” Rachel demanded with her hands on her hips.

Maxwell hung his head. “I’m sorry,” He said, “I didn’t mean to. My cat snuck in here and ripped open the bag. He loves cookies. I found him when I came in here to get a cup of water. It was so humiliating. It’s so hard to have friends, and I didn’t want to lose you all because of my cat. I threw the cookies away and pretended nothing happened. I didn’t think Chelsea would find them, and I definitely didn’t think we’d be able to solve the mystery. I’m sorry I didn’t say something sooner. I was just so worried that you guys would be mad at me and make me leave. I guess that’s what happened anyway.” Maxwell’s shoulder’s sagged. “I’ll show myself out.”

“Wait!” said Amari. Everyone looked to him. “We forgive you.”

“What?” Maxwell was shocked. “Why?”

“We know it was an accident. It could have happened to any of us. Once, my bird stole a whole sandwich from my dad. He was MAD. But it’s okay because when you care about someone, you forgive them. You shouldn’t have lied to us, but I understand why you did, and I forgive you. I know everyone else will, too.” Maxwell looked around the room. Everyone was smiling at him. “Really?” He asked. “Wow, guys. Thank you.”

Anamaria said quietly, “But you know... we really need to apologize to Octavious.”

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A knock sounded from the outside of Octavious’ room. He was laying with his head face-down in his pillow. “Oomph Phem” He mumbled into the cloth.

“What was that?” Chelsea’s voice spoke from behind the door.

Octavious lifted his head. “Come in.” He said again.

The door opened and all his friends stepped into his room. Octavious felt terrible. He didn’t want to talk to them, but he knew he had to face them.

Maxwell stepped close to the bed. “Octavious?” He asked. “Can I talk to you?”

Octavious sat up. “I guess so,” he shrugged.

Maxwell sat down next to him and looked around the room uncomfortably. “I have to be honest with you,” He began. “I know you didn’t steal the cookies.”

Octavious’ eyes went wide. “You do?”

Maxwell shrugged. “Well... see... It was me. I mean, I didn’t steal the cookies, but I may as well have, because my cat ripped up the cookies and I didn’t tell anyone. I just hid them in the trash. I should have been honest from the beginning, but I was scared.”

“Scared of what?” Octavious asked.

Maxwell sighed. “Scared that you guys wouldn’t want to be my friend anymore. I love hanging out with you guys and I didn’t want to ruin it. I’m really sorry.”

“And we’re sorry, too,” said Rachel, “For accusing you of stealing your own cookies. That wasn’t cool of us. I guess we got a little carried away with solving the mystery.”

Octavious paused for a second. He was still a little hurt that his friends had accused him, but he could already feel that hurt melting under the warmth of their apology.

Octavious smiled. “I forgive you guys. It was actually kind of fun to try to solve the mystery with you all.” All around the room, his friends began to smile. It was going to be okay.

Although his birthday had not gone the way he had planned, Octavious was glad he had friends that he could count on, even when they made mistakes.

# PROJECT RUBRIC

	Neatness	Effort	Mathematical Accuracy
Mastery	The project was completed very neatly with great attention to detail.	The child put a lot of time and effort into this project, taking great pride in their work. When met with challenges, they persevered.	The child showed <i>thorough</i> mathematical accuracy throughout the project, and was eager to correct any mistakes.
Progressing	The project was completed somewhat neatly. The child displayed some attention to detail.	The child put some time and effort into this project, sometimes taking pride in their work depending on the task.	The child showed <i>some</i> mathematical accuracy throughout the project, and was willing to correct mistakes.
Developing	The project was incomplete or completed messily with little or no attention to detail.	The child showed disinterest and put little effort into the project. They needed much prompting along the way to finish.	The child showed <i>little to no</i> mathematical accuracy throughout the project, and had difficulty completing the tasks.





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