Name _____ Date _____

# Mysteries

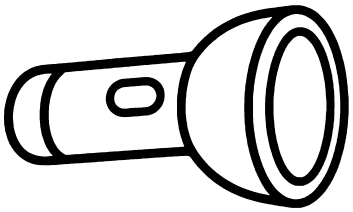
**Read the story. The questions are on the next page.**

## The Case of the Missing Medal



On Monday morning, the gold medal from last year's state science fair was missing from the trophy case outside the library. By lunchtime, the whole fifth grade was whispering about Leo.

Leo had arrived three weeks earlier, in the middle of the school year. He wore the same faded sweatshirt nearly every day, he hardly spoke to anyone, and on Friday afternoon someone had seen him standing alone beside the trophy case for a long time. “It has to be him,” said Mason. “Who else would stare at it like that?”



Ava was not so sure. Her grandmother, a retired police detective, liked to say that a hunch is only a question, not an answer. So Ava went looking for evidence. She learned that the custodian had cleaned the trophy case over the weekend, moving everything onto a cart. She noticed that the case stood slightly away from the wall. Kneeling on the floor with a flashlight, she spotted a glint of gold in the narrow gap behind it.

The medal had slipped off the cart and fallen behind the case. When Ava handed it to the principal, the whispers about Leo stopped. Later, Ava asked Leo why he had been staring at the case. He shrugged and smiled for the first time she could remember. “At my old school, I was on the science team,” he said. “I was just wondering if I could win one here.”


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Name _____ Date _____

# The Case of the Missing Medal

**Look back at the story to answer.**

**1.** Why did the other students suspect Leo? List two reasons.

**2.** What did Ava's grandmother mean by "a hunch is only a question, not an answer"?

You should always trust your first guess.

A guess is a reason to look for evidence, not proof.

Detectives never make guesses.

**3.** What clues helped Ava solve the mystery?

**4.** Why had Leo been staring at the trophy case? How does this change how you see him?

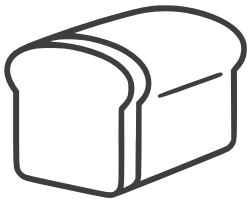

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Name _____ Date _____

# Mysteries

**Read the story. The questions are on the next page.**

## The Stranger at the Bakery



Every morning at six o'clock, before Grandpa Teo's bakery even opened, a tall man in a stained work coat knocked on the back door. He never smiled. He would hand Grandpa an envelope, take two large bags of day-old bread and walk away down the alley without a word.

Maribel, who helped at the bakery on Saturdays, did not like the look of him. Then, one Saturday, she counted the cash drawer and found that it held forty dollars more than the sales slips said it should. A week later, it happened again. Maribel was certain the gruff stranger was part of some kind of scheme.



The next Saturday, she followed him. She kept half a block behind as he carried the bread bags through the quiet streets, past the park and around the corner to a brick building with a hand-painted sign: Community Kitchen. Through the window, she watched him set the loaves out on long tables, where families were sitting down to breakfast.

That afternoon, Maribel told Grandpa what she had seen. Grandpa laughed gently. “Mr. Hale runs that kitchen,” he said. “He insists on paying for the bread, even though I tell him he doesn't have to. When I refuse his money, he slips it into the drawer anyway.” Maribel felt her cheeks grow hot. The man she had suspected of a scheme was the most generous customer the bakery had.


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Name _____ Date _____

# The Stranger at the Bakery

**Look back at the story to answer.**

**1.** What made Maribel suspicious of the stranger?

**2.** Which detail is the clue that explains the extra money?

When Grandpa refuses his money, Mr. Hale slips it into the drawer.

Mr. Hale wears a stained work coat.

Mr. Hale walks down the alley.

**3.** How did Maribel find out the truth?

**4.** "Maribel felt her cheeks grow hot." What does this show about how she feels?


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Name _____ Date _____

# Comparing the Mysteries

**Both stories are mysteries. Compare how they handle the same theme.**

**1.** Both stories share a theme. Which one fits both best?

Always lock up money and medals.

New students should talk more.

Don't judge people by how they look; look for evidence.

**2.** How are Leo and Mr. Hale alike? Use details from both stories.

**3.** Ava and Maribel both solve a mystery. How are their ways of solving it different?

**4.** In one story, the main character was wrong at first. In the other, she doubted the others from the start. Which is which? Explain.

**5.** Which story shows the theme more strongly? Explain.

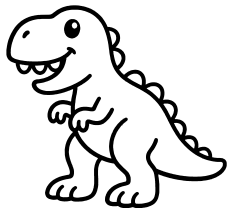

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Name _____ Date _____

# How Characters Talk

**Read the story. Notice how each character talks.**

## A Day at the Museum



Jamal's cousin Lacey was visiting for a week from her home in Georgia, and the principal had given her permission to join Jamal's fifth-grade class on its field trip to the enormous natural history museum downtown. As the yellow school bus pulled up in front of the building's tall stone columns, Lacey bounced excitedly in her seat. “Y'all, I'm fixing to see a real dinosaur!”

“You guys, quiet down for a second,” Jamal said to his friends, grinning. “She's never seen one up close.”

Inside the echoing entrance hall, a museum guide wearing a crisp blue jacket and a shiny name badge stepped forward to welcome the whole group. “Good morning, students. Welcome to the Hall of Ancient Life. I must ask that you refrain from touching the exhibits, as many of the specimens are extremely fragile.”

“That means don't touch stuff,” Jamal whispered to Lacey.

“I know what it means,” she whispered back, rolling her eyes. “We have museums in Georgia too, you know.”

At lunchtime, after two hours of fossils and minerals, Jamal bought two cans of soda from the vending machine in the cafeteria. “Thanks for the Coke,” Lacey said, holding hers up. Jamal laughed. “It's lemon-lime,” he said. “Where I live, we call it soda.” “Back home in Georgia, we call any kind a Coke,” Lacey said.

Before the class climbed back onto the bus that afternoon, the guide stood beside the entrance and politely shook each student's hand. “Thank you for your attention today. I hope you will return.” On the long ride home, Lacey leaned her head against the window and then turned to Jamal. “That was the best day ever,” she said. “Thanks for bringing me along, cuz.”


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Name _____ Date _____

# How Characters Talk

**Look back at "A Day at the Museum" to answer.**

**1.** The guide uses formal English, the careful kind people use with strangers or at work. Copy one formal sentence the guide says.

**2.** Jamal turns the guide's words into informal English: "That means don't touch stuff." Why does he talk differently than the guide?

**3.** Lacey says, "Y'all, I'm fixing to see a real dinosaur!" Many people in the southern United States talk this way. What does "fixing to" mean?

repairing afraid to about to

**4.** Lacey and Jamal use different words for the same drink. What are they? Is one of them wrong? Explain.

**5.** How do the different ways of talking help you get to know the characters?


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Name _____ Date _____

# Formal or Informal?

**Each sentence on the left is informal. Draw a line to the formal way to say it.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Hey, what's up?** | ● | ● The test was very difficult. |
| **Gotta go!** | ● | ● May I please borrow a pencil? |
| **Can I grab a pencil?** | ● | ● Thank you very much. |
| **That test was super hard.** | ● | ● I am not sure. |
| **Thanks a bunch!** | ● | ● Please refrain from touching the exhibits. |
| **I dunno.** | ● | ● Good morning. How are you? |
| **Don't touch stuff.** | ● | ● I am afraid I must leave now. |


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# The Case of the Missing Medal

**Look back at the story to answer.**

**1.** Why did the other students suspect Leo? List two reasons.

He was new and quiet, wore the same sweatshirt, and was seen standing by the trophy case for a long time.

**2.** What did Ava's grandmother mean by "a hunch is only a question, not an answer"?

You should always trust your first guess.

A guess is a reason to look for evidence, not proof.

Detectives never make guesses.

**3.** What clues helped Ava solve the mystery?

The custodian had moved everything onto a cart, and the case stood away from the wall, so she looked behind it.

**4.** Why had Leo been staring at the trophy case? How does this change how you see him?

He was on the science team at his old school and hoped to win a medal here. He was not a thief; he was hopeful.


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# The Stranger at the Bakery

**Look back at the story to answer.**

**1.** What made Maribel suspicious of the stranger?

He never smiled, wore a stained coat and came before opening, and the cash drawer had extra money in it.

**2.** Which detail is the clue that explains the extra money?

When Grandpa refuses his money, Mr. Hale slips it into the drawer

Mr. Hale wears a stained work coat.

Mr. Hale walks down the alley.

**3.** How did Maribel find out the truth?

She followed him to the Community Kitchen and saw him serve the bread to families, then asked Grandpa.

**4.** "Maribel felt her cheeks grow hot." What does this show about how she feels?

She is embarrassed that she judged him wrongly.


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# Comparing the Mysteries

**Both stories are mysteries. Compare how they handle the same theme.**

**1.** Both stories share a theme. Which one fits both best?

Always lock up money and medals.

New students should talk more.

Don't judge people by how they look; look for evidence.

**2.** How are Leo and Mr. Hale alike? Use details from both stories.

Both are quiet and look a little rough, so people suspect them, but both turn out to be good people.

**3.** Ava and Maribel both solve a mystery. How are their ways of solving it different?

Ava looks for clues on the spot and finds the medal. Maribel follows the stranger and then asks her grandfather.

**4.** In one story, the main character was wrong at first. In the other, she doubted the others from the start. Which is which? Explain.

Maribel was wrong at first: she suspected Mr. Hale. Ava doubted the others from the start and went looking for evidence.

**5.** Which story shows the theme more strongly? Explain.

The bakery story, because Maribel herself made the mistake and learned from it.


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# How Characters Talk

**Look back at "A Day at the Museum" to answer.**

**1.** The guide uses formal English, the careful kind people use with strangers or at work. Copy one formal sentence the guide says.

"I must ask that you refrain from touching the exhibits, as many of the specimens are extremely fragile."

**2.** Jamal turns the guide's words into informal English: "That means don't touch stuff." Why does he talk differently than the guide?

He is talking to his cousin, someone he knows well, so he uses relaxed, everyday words.

**3.** Lacey says, "Y'all, I'm fixing to see a real dinosaur!" Many people in the southern United States talk this way. What does "fixing to" mean?

repairing  afraid to  (about to)

**4.** Lacey and Jamal use different words for the same drink. What are they? Is one of them wrong? Explain.

Coke and soda. Neither is wrong; people in different places use different words for the same thing.

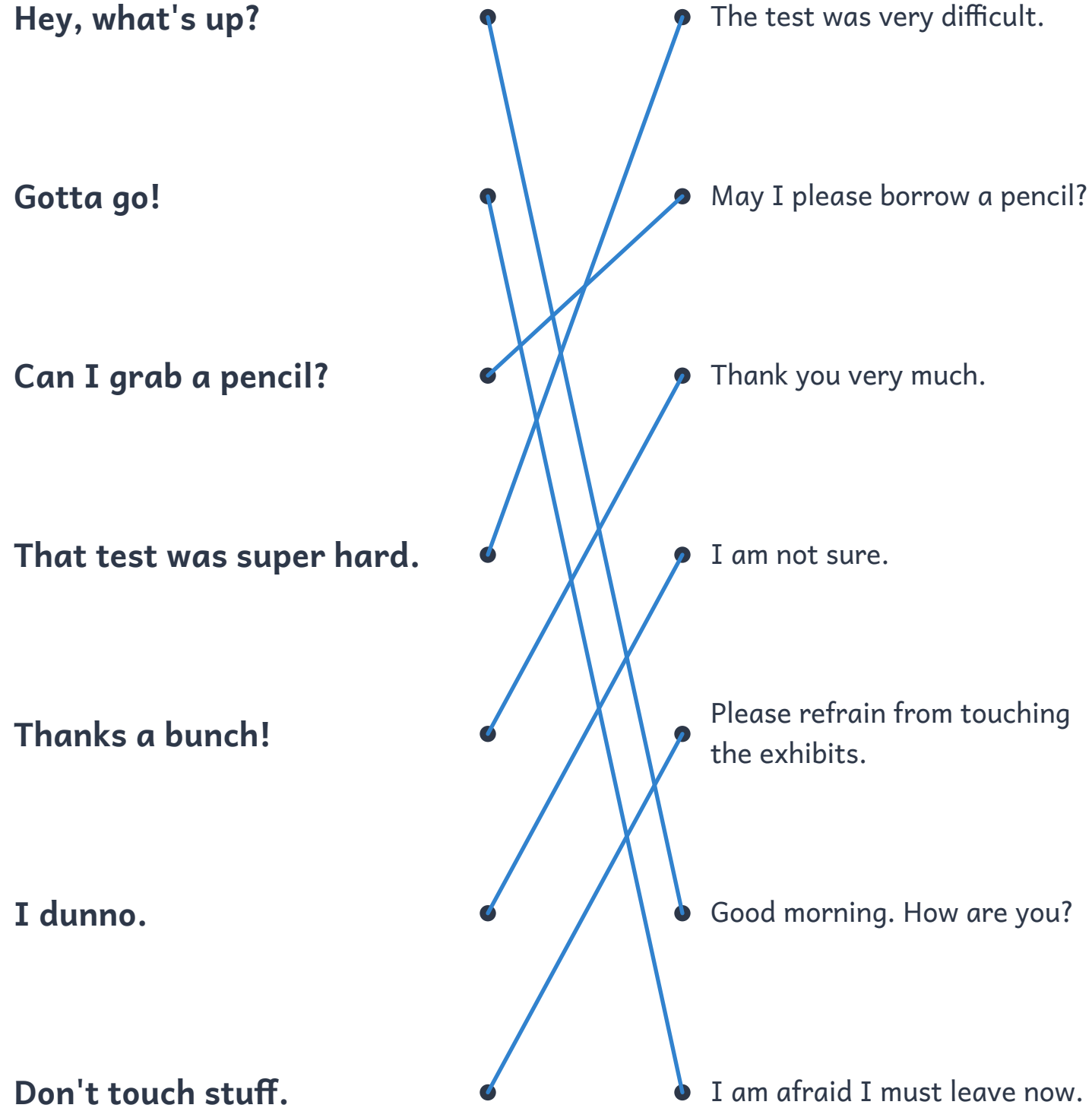
**5.** How do the different ways of talking help you get to know the characters?

They show where Lacey is from, that the guide is polite and serious, and that Jamal and Lacey are close and relaxed with each other.


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# Formal or Informal?

**Each sentence on the left is informal. Draw a line to the formal way to say it.**





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