The Case of the Missing Golden Corn

Grade 1 math · Addition, Subtraction, Skip counting, Place value, Missing addends · Reading level grades 1-2

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

Someone snuck into the cornfield at night and took the golden ears! The farm animals saw a shadowy scarecrow sneaking around. Use your math clues to find out who did it!

1. Solve each math problem. The answer is a number, and the letter beside it is what that number stands for.
2. In the clue boxes, write that letter in every box showing the same number, then read the secret clue.
3. Use each clue to cross suspects off the list. The one suspect left at the end is the culprit!

My answer: the Haystack Thief is _____

Possible suspects

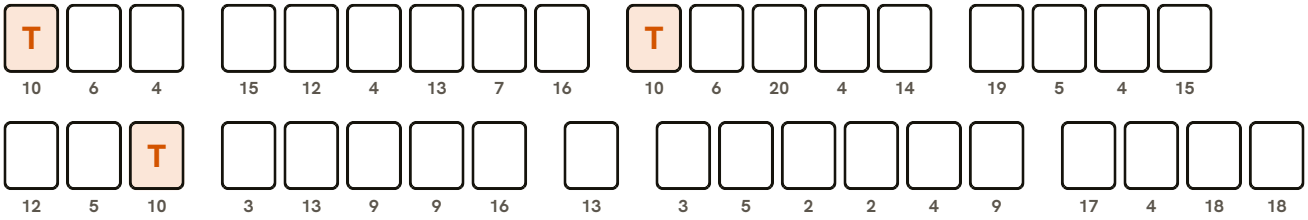
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	MAIN TRICK	FARM GEAR	GLOVE TYPE	STRAW COLOR	SCARED BY
Pip Seedling	Fence Jumping	Wooden Pitchfork	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Loud Crows
Crowsy Clara	Fence Jumping	Copper Bell	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Farmer Jed	Sack Hoisting	Copper Bell	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Barking Dogs
Scrappy Sam	Tractor Steering	Tin Lantern	Right Handed	Red Straw	Barking Dogs
Oatsie Miller	Tractor Steering	Wooden Pitchfork	Left Handed	Brown Straw	Barking Dogs
Willa Wheat	Fence Jumping	Wooden Pitchfork	Right Handed	Red Straw	Loud Crows
Barnaby Straw	Tractor Steering	Tin Lantern	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Abby Acorn	Fence Jumping	Wooden Pitchfork	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Tractor Tim	Tractor Steering	Copper Bell	Left Handed	Brown Straw	Barking Dogs
Plowman Paul	Pumpkin Rolling	Burlap Sack	Right Handed	Brown Straw	Barking Dogs
Corny Carl	Fence Jumping	Tin Lantern	Right Handed	Yellow Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Silo Susan	Sack Hoisting	Rusty Rake	Left Handed	Red Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Burlap Bob	Fence Jumping	Burlap Sack	Left Handed	Brown Straw	Loud Crows
Barley Ben	Sack Hoisting	Rusty Rake	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Loud Crows
Sunny Harvest	Crow Whistling	Copper Bell	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Barking Dogs
Rusty Field	Pumpkin Rolling	Rusty Rake	Left Handed	Brown Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Rowan Roots	Crow Whistling	Burlap Sack	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Sally Sunflower	Sack Hoisting	Wooden Pitchfork	Left Handed	Brown Straw	Loud Crows
Haystack Hannah	Sack Hoisting	Burlap Sack	Left Handed	Yellow Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Maizie Cob	Pumpkin Rolling	Rusty Rake	Left Handed	Red Straw	Shiny Pie Pans
Crowley Jack	Sack Hoisting	Tin Lantern	Right Handed	Yellow Straw	Shiny Pie Pans

CLUE 1 Addition

Farmer Jed counted ears of corn in two baskets to find a hint.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.



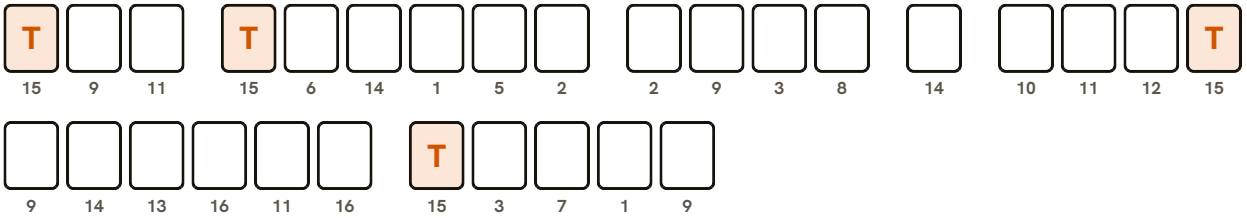
5 + 5 = ☐ → T	5 + 10 = ☐ → S	4 + 1 = ☐ → O	3 + 6 = ☐ → R
11 + 8 = ☐ → D	6 + 6 = ☐ → N	8 + 8 = ☐ → Y	1 + 5 = ☐ → H
3 + 1 = ☐ → E	12 + 8 = ☐ → I	9 + 4 = ☐ → A	5 + 9 = ☐ → F
1 + 1 = ☐ → P	12 + 5 = ☐ → B	10 + 8 = ☐ → L	
1 + 2 = ☐ → C	3 + 4 = ☐ → K		

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Subtraction

Sally subtracted the eaten apples from the total to track the thief.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.



16 - 1 = ☐ → T

20 - 8 = ☐ → F

16 - 6 = ☐ → L

18 - 2 = ☐ → D

15 - 6 = ☐ → H

10 - 9 = ☐ → C

7 - 2 = ☐ → K

10 - 4 = ☐ → R

4 - 2 = ☐ → S

12 - 1 = ☐ → E

17 - 4 = ☐ → N

17 - 9 = ☐ → W

17 - 3 = ☐ → A

4 - 1 = ☐ → O

14 - 7 = ☐ → U

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Skip counting

> Pip counted cornstalks by twos down the long muddy row.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.

S																														
60	55	35	28	42	36	35	70	36	40	28	60																			
26	50	35	6	55	39	70	28	70	90	39	55	70	30	35	24	24	40	35	28											

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, ___, 70, 80 ☐ → **S**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, ___, 40, 50 ☐ → **V**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, ___, 75, 80 ☐ → **E**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, ___, 30, 32 ☐ → **N**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, ___, 45, 48 ☐ → **Y**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, ___, 60, 70 ☐ → **R**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, ___, 39, 42 ☐ → **P**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, ___, 26, 28 ☐ → **L**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, ___, 42, 45 ☐ → **T**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, ___, 40, 45 ☐ → **I**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, ___, 60, 65 ☐ → **H**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, ___, 45, 50 ☐ → **A**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, ___, 100, 110 ☐ → **D**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, ___, 28, 30 ☐ → **F**

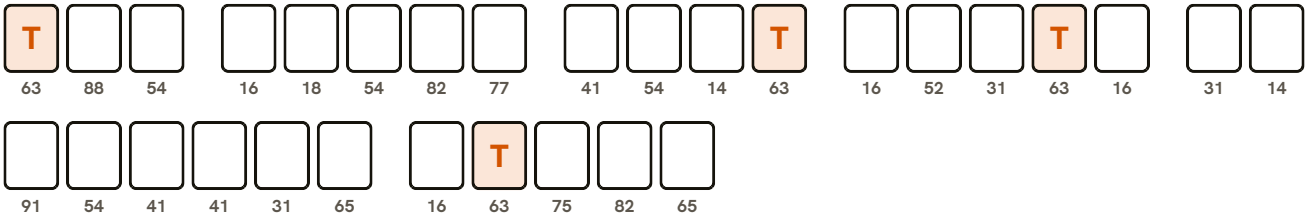
Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, ___, 8, 10 ☐ → **G**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Place value

Oatsie looked at the tens and ones on the barn storage board.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in every clue box that shows the same number.



What number has 6 tens and 3 ones? ☐ → T

What number has 8 tens and 8 ones? ☐ → H

What number has 3 tens and 1 one? ☐ → O

What number has 7 tens and 7 ones? ☐ → K

What number has 6 tens and 5 ones? ☐ → W

What number has 1 ten and 4 ones? ☐ → F

What number has 5 tens and 2 ones? ☐ → P

What number has 1 ten and 6 ones? ☐ → S

What number has 4 tens and 1 one? ☐ → L

What number has 7 tens and 5 ones? ☐ → R

What number has 1 ten and 8 ones? ☐ → N

What number has 8 tens and 2 ones? ☐ → A

What number has 9 tens and 1 one? ☐ → Y

What number has 5 tens and 4 ones? ☐ → E

Scratch space:

CLUE 5 Missing addends - the last clue

> Carl had to figure out how many missing pumpkins were taken.

First solve each problem. Then find each answer in the numbered list below and cross that sentence out. One sentence will be left - that is exactly what the villain did!

Step 1 - solve these:

7 + ___ = 17 ☐	2 + ___ = 9 ☐	6 + ___ = 11 ☐	7 + ___ = 8 ☐
7 + ___ = 19 ☐	3 + ___ = 5 ☐	2 + ___ = 10 ☐	6 + ___ = 10 ☐
10 + ___ = 21 ☐	2 + ___ = 5 ☐	6 + ___ = 15 ☐	

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain rolls heavy pumpkins, then jingles a copper bell.
2. The villain whistles to crows, then scrapes a rusty rake.
3. The villain hoists big grain sacks, then waves a wooden pitchfork.
4. The villain rolls heavy pumpkins, then grabs a burlap sack.
5. The villain steers old tractors, then shines a tin lantern.
6. The villain jumps high fences, then waves a wooden pitchfork.
7. The villain whistles to crows, then grabs a burlap sack.
8. The villain jumps high fences, then scrapes a rusty rake.
9. The villain rolls heavy pumpkins, then waves a wooden pitchfork.
10. The villain hoists big grain sacks, then grabs a burlap sack.
11. The villain jumps high fences, then shines a tin lantern.
12. The villain hoists big grain sacks, then jingles a copper bell.

make your own at mathcrackers.com

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Golden Corn

Culprit: Abby Acorn

Fence Jumping · Wooden Pitchfork · Left Handed · Yellow Straw · Shiny Pie Pans

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE SNEAKY THIEF DOES NOT CARRY A COPPER BELL"

5 + 5 = 10 (T) · 5 + 10 = 15 (S) · 4 + 1 = 5 (O) · 3 + 6 = 9 (R) · 11 + 8 = 19 (D) · 6 + 6 = 12 (N) · 8 + 8 = 16 (Y) · 1 + 5 = 6 (H) · 3 + 1 = 4 (E) · 12 + 8 = 20 (I) · 9 + 4 = 13 (A) · 5 + 9 = 14 (F) · 1 + 1 = 2 (P) · 12 + 5 = 17 (B) · 10 + 8 = 18 (L) · 1 + 2 = 3 (C) · 3 + 4 = 7 (K)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE TRACKS SHOW A LEFT HANDED TOUCH"

16 - 1 = 15 (T) · 20 - 8 = 12 (F) · 16 - 6 = 10 (L) · 18 - 2 = 16 (D) · 15 - 6 = 9 (H) · 10 - 9 = 1 (C) · 7 - 2 = 5 (K) · 10 - 4 = 6 (R) · 4 - 2 = 2 (S) · 12 - 1 = 11 (E) · 17 - 4 = 13 (N) · 17 - 9 = 8 (W) · 17 - 3 = 14 (A) · 4 - 1 = 3 (O) · 14 - 7 = 7 (U)

Clue 3 (Skip counting): "SHINY PIE PANS FRIGHTENED THE VILLAIN"

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, ___, 70, 80 = 60 (S) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, ___, 40, 50 = 30 (V) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, ___, 75, 80 = 70 (E) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, ___, 30, 32 = 28 (N) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, ___, 45, 48 = 42 (Y) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, ___, 60, 70 = 50 (R) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, ___, 39, 42 = 36 (P) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, ___, 26, 28 = 24 (L) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, ___, 42, 45 = 39 (T) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, ___, 40, 45 = 35 (I) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, ___, 60, 65 = 55 (H) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, ___, 45, 50 = 40 (A) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, ___, 100, 110 = 90 (D) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, ___, 28, 30 = 26 (F) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, ___, 8, 10 = 6 (G)

Clue 4 (Place value): "THE SNEAK LEFT SPOTS OF YELLOW STRAW"

What number has 6 tens and 3 ones? = 63 (T) · What number has 8 tens and 8 ones? = 88 (H) · What number has 3 tens and 1 one? = 31 (O) · What number has 7 tens and 7 ones? = 77 (K) · What number has 6 tens and 5 ones? = 65 (W) · What number has 1 ten and 4 ones? = 14 (F) · What number has 5 tens and 2 ones? = 52 (P) · What number has 1 ten and 6 ones? = 16 (S) · What number has 4 tens and 1 one? = 41 (L) · What number has 7 tens and 5 ones? = 75 (R) · What number has 1 ten and 8 ones? = 18 (N) · What number has 8 tens and 2 ones? = 82 (A) · What number has 9 tens and 1 one? = 91 (Y) · What number has 5 tens and 4 ones? = 54 (E)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 6 → Abby Acorn

7 + ___ = 17 = 10 · 2 + ___ = 9 = 7 · 6 + ___ = 11 = 5 · 7 + ___ = 8 = 1 · 7 + ___ = 19 = 12 · 3 + ___ = 5 = 2 · 2 + ___ = 10 = 8 · 6 + ___ = 10 = 4 · 10 + ___ = 21 = 11 · 2 + ___ = 5 = 3 · 6 + ___ = 15 = 9