



The Golden Whistle Mystery

Grade 3 math · Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Rounding, Division · Reading level grades 3-4

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

Oh no! The big championship game is tonight, but someone swiped the lucky Golden Whistle from the Head Coach's locker! The only clues left behind are colorful scuffs on the floor and some strange court footprints. We need to find which superstar player is secretly the Sneaker Bandit before the buzzer sounds!

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 Sneaker Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	LUCKY GEAR	SHOOTING HAND	SWEATBAND COLOR	COURT WEAKNESS
Kevin Durant	Ankle-Breaker Crossover	Golden Wrist Coach	Right-Handed Shooter	Blue Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Devin Booker	Ankle-Breaker Crossover	Glow-in-the-Dark Basketball	Left-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Jayson Tatum	Lightning Fast Break	High-Bounce Knee Sleeves	Left-Handed Shooter	Green Hair Wrap	Squeaky Floor Distraction
Donovan Mitchell	Lightning Fast Break	Squeaky Neon Sneakers	Right-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Kawhi Leonard	Lightning Fast Break	Super Grip Socks	Right-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Zion Williamson	Ankle-Breaker Crossover	Golden Wrist Coach	Right-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Cold Water Splash
Luka Doncic	Ankle-Breaker Crossover	Squeaky Neon Sneakers	Right-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Ja Morant	Lightning Fast Break	High-Bounce Knee Sleeves	Left-Handed Shooter	Green Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Anthony Davis	Lightning Fast Break	Squeaky Neon Sneakers	Left-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Squeaky Floor Distraction
Nikola Jokic	Half-Court Hook Shot	High-Bounce Knee Sleeves	Left-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Damian Lillard	Half-Court Hook Shot	High-Bounce Knee Sleeves	Right-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	No-Look Bounce Pass	Golden Wrist Coach	Right-Handed Shooter	Green Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Paul George	Half-Court Hook Shot	High-Bounce Knee Sleeves	Right-Handed Shooter	Blue Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Trae Young	No-Look Bounce Pass	Glow-in-the-Dark Basketball	Right-Handed Shooter	Green Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Klay Thompson	Ankle-Breaker Crossover	Super Grip Socks	Right-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Kyrie Irving	Lightning Fast Break	Super Grip Socks	Right-Handed Shooter	Green Hair Wrap	Squeaky Floor Distraction
Joel Embiid	Double-Pump Dunk	High-Bounce Knee Sleeves	Right-Handed Shooter	Blue Hair Wrap	Squeaky Floor Distraction
LeBron James	Half-Court Hook Shot	Golden Wrist Coach	Right-Handed Shooter	Blue Hair Wrap	Squeaky Floor Distraction
Bam Adebayo	No-Look Bounce Pass	Golden Wrist Coach	Right-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw
Jimmy Butler	Double-Pump Dunk	Squeaky Neon Sneakers	Right-Handed Shooter	Red Hair Wrap	Cold Water Splash
DeAaron Fox	Lightning Fast Break	Golden Wrist Coach	Right-Handed Shooter	Green Hair Wrap	Double Dribble Flaw

CLUE 1

The arena manager counted the extra basketballs on the rack. She added the orange balls and the striped balls to find the total count.

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

227 345 458 263 309 536 433 894 227 433 696 458 400 536 696 227

846 458 309 840 400 301 614 458 840 273 840 894 614 400 696 809 247 400

$121 + 106 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$111 + 198 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$$291 + 245 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$$

$$159 + 186 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$$

$138 + 109 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$$328 + 368 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{0}$$

$$422 + 472 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$$

$380 + 429 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$91 + 172 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$$172 + 261 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$$

$$222 + 178 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$$

$$138 + 320 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$$

$$356 + 490 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$$

$$302 + 312 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$$

$$176 + 125 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{U}}$$

$84 + 189 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$$392 + 448 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$$

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Subtraction

We checked the inventory of team jerseys. We started with the full box and subtracted the ones left on the bench to see how many were stolen.

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

T								T											
586	633	198	704	663	342	553	586	577	679	553	120	573	573	633	663	226	679		
				T											T				
553	390	318	633	586	633	679	760	370	198	370	573	633	663	663	586	198	553		

$748 - 162 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$590 - 37 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$838 - 78 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$708 - 338 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$884 - 180 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$499 - 379 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$718 - 39 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$962 - 329 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$419 - 77 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{U}}$

$683 - 293 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$434 - 236 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$741 - 78 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$555 - 237 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{G}}$

$460 - 234 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$885 - 308 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{M}}$

$618 - 45 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Multiplication facts (1-12)

The detective found a pattern of muddy footprints on the gym floor. They were arranged in equal rows, so we multiplied the rows to count them all.

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

T																
18	99	32	70	144	70	11	32	64	18	99	55	70	55			
3	7	144	16	77	32	3	35	110	16	16	77	32	60	77	55	33

$2 \times 9 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$11 \times 10 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$9 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$5 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{R}}$

$1 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$4 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$5 \times 11 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$12 \times 12 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{U}}$

$8 \times 8 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$12 \times 5 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$11 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

$8 \times 2 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$1 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$11 \times 1 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{P}}$

$11 \times 3 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$10 \times 7 = \square \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Rounding

The shot-clock timer is glitching and only displays numbers rounded to the nearest ten. We have to round the final play time to read the screen.

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

W 30	900	500	2000	200	9000	3000	600	800	70	80	9000	3000	600	2000	500	80
70	900	3000	300	80	7000	70	W 30	70	80	400						

Round 28 to the nearest ten → **W**

Round 573 to the nearest hundred → **S**

Round 197 to the nearest hundred → **U**

Round 72 to the nearest ten → **R**

Round 376 to the nearest hundred → **P**

Round 7,029 to the nearest thousand → **I**

Round 455 to the nearest hundred → **F**

Round 896 to the nearest hundred → **E**

Round 8,949 to the nearest thousand → **N**

Round 3,105 to the nearest thousand → **D**

Round 78 to the nearest ten → **A**

Round 847 to the nearest hundred → **T**

Round 265 to the nearest hundred → **H**

Round 1,839 to the nearest thousand → **O**

Scratch space:

CLUE 5**Division facts (1-12) - the last clue**

We need to divide the practice cones equally among the training groups. Sharing them fairly will help us unlock the final locker room code.

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:

$66 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

$48 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$90 \div 10 = \boxed{}$

$108 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$49 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$60 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$10 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$9 \div 9 = \boxed{}$

$36 \div 12 = \boxed{}$

$66 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$4 \div 1 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain pulls off an ankle-breaker crossover, then slips away wearing super grip socks.
2. The villain runs a lightning fast break, then slips away wearing super grip socks.
3. The villain runs a lightning fast break, then dribbles off with a glowing basketball.
4. The villain throws a no-look bounce pass, then dribbles off with a glowing basketball.
5. The villain performs a double-pump dunk, then springs over the fence with high-bounce knee sleeves.
6. The villain does a half-court hook shot, then springs over the fence with high-bounce knee sleeves.
7. The villain performs a double-pump dunk, then dribbles off with a glowing basketball.
8. The villain throws a no-look bounce pass, then checks the golden wrist coach for the time.
9. The villain pulls off an ankle-breaker crossover, then squeaks away in neon sneakers.
10. The villain runs a lightning fast break, then squeaks away in neon sneakers.
11. The villain does a half-court hook shot, then checks the golden wrist coach for the time.
12. The villain performs a double-pump dunk, then squeaks away in neon sneakers.

Answer Key

The Golden Whistle Mystery

Culprit: Donovan Mitchell

Lightning Fast Break · Squeaky Neon Sneakers · Right-Handed Shooter · Red Hair Wrap · Double Dribble Flaw

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 13 → Clue 3 9 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE BANDIT DOES NOT WEAR SUPER GRIP SOCKS"

$121 + 106 = 227$ (T) · $111 + 198 = 309$ (A) · $291 + 245 = 536$ (N) · $159 + 186 = 345$ (H) · $138 + 109 = 247$ (K) · $328 + 368 = 696$ (O) · $422 + 472 = 894$ (I) · $380 + 429 = 809$ (C) · $91 + 172 = 263$ (B) · $172 + 261 = 433$ (D) · $222 + 178 = 400$ (S) · $138 + 320 = 458$ (E) · $356 + 490 = 846$ (W) · $302 + 312 = 614$ (P) · $176 + 125 = 301$ (U) · $84 + 189 = 273$ (G) · $392 + 448 = 840$ (R)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "THE COURT MARKS SHOW A RIGHT HANDED SHOOTER"

$748 - 162 = 586$ (T) · $590 - 37 = 553$ (R) · $838 - 78 = 760$ (N) · $708 - 338 = 370$ (D) · $884 - 180 = 704$ (C) · $499 - 379 = 120$ (K) · $718 - 39 = 679$ (A) · $962 - 329 = 633$ (H) · $419 - 77 = 342$ (U) · $683 - 293 = 390$ (I) · $434 - 236 = 198$ (E) · $741 - 78 = 663$ (O) · $555 - 237 = 318$ (G) · $460 - 234 = 226$ (W) · $885 - 308 = 577$ (M) · $618 - 45 = 573$ (S)

Clue 3 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "THE SUSPECT HAS A DOUBLE DRIBBLE FLAW"

$2 \times 9 = 18$ (T) · $11 \times 10 = 110$ (I) · $9 \times 11 = 99$ (H) · $5 \times 7 = 35$ (R) · $1 \times 7 = 7$ (O) · $4 \times 8 = 32$ (E) · $5 \times 11 = 55$ (A) · $12 \times 12 = 144$ (U) · $8 \times 8 = 64$ (C) · $12 \times 5 = 60$ (F) · $11 \times 7 = 77$ (L) · $8 \times 2 = 16$ (B) · $1 \times 3 = 3$ (D) · $11 \times 1 = 11$ (P) · $11 \times 3 = 33$ (W) · $10 \times 7 = 70$ (S)

Clue 4 (Rounding): "WE FOUND STRANDS OF A RED HAIR WRAP"

Round 28 to the nearest ten = 30 (W) · Round 573 to the nearest hundred = 600 (S) · Round 197 to the nearest hundred = 200 (U) · Round 72 to the nearest ten = 70 (R) · Round 376 to the nearest hundred = 400 (P) · Round 7,029 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (I) · Round 455 to the nearest hundred = 500 (F) · Round 896 to the nearest hundred = 900 (E) · Round 8,949 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (N) · Round 3,105 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (D) · Round 78 to the nearest ten = 80 (A) · Round 847 to the nearest hundred = 800 (T) · Round 265 to the nearest hundred = 300 (H) · Round 1,839 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (O)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 10 → Donovan Mitchell

$66 \div 11 = 6$ · $48 \div 6 = 8$ · $90 \div 10 = 9$ · $108 \div 9 = 12$ · $49 \div 7 = 7$ · $60 \div 12 = 5$ · $10 \div 5 = 2$ · $9 \div 9 = 1$ · $36 \div 12 = 3$ · $66 \div 6 = 11$ · $4 \div 1 = 4$