



The Mystery of the Scrambled Manuscripts

Grade 5 math · Addition, Subtraction, Word problems, Skip counting, Division · Reading level grades 5-6

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

A mysterious figure known as the Book Bandit has slipped into the Great Whispering Archives and scrambled the world's most valuable original manuscripts. It is up to the Page Turners to decode the clues, restore order, and catch the thief before the final chapter closes.

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 Book Bandit is _____

Possible suspects

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

NAME	LITERARY SUPERPOWER	ENCHANTED READING GEAR	READING HABIT	HAIR ACCESSORY	STORY WEAKNESS
Orwell	plot-twist bending	magical magnifying glass	uses a silk tassel bookmark	dusty library-scented curls	loud library shushing
Twain	word-erasing mist	whispering book bag	uses a silk tassel bookmark	dusty library-scented curls	loud library shushing
Snicket	word-erasing mist	infinite ink pen	uses a silk tassel bookmark	dusty library-scented curls	loud library shushing
Rowling	giant book flight	whispering book bag	dog-ears page corners	dusty library-scented curls	loud library shushing
Shelley	speed-reading flash	glowing reading glasses	uses a silk tassel bookmark	dusty library-scented curls	boring grammar lectures
Cleary	speed-reading flash	glowing reading glasses	uses a silk tassel bookmark	dusty library-scented curls	loud library shushing
Alcott	word-erasing mist	whispering book bag	uses a silk tassel bookmark	silver quill headband	spelling bee tongue twisters
Watson	speed-reading flash	magical magnifying glass	dog-ears page corners	dusty library-scented curls	boring grammar lectures
Poe	character summoning	infinite ink pen	uses a silk tassel bookmark	blue ink-stained streaks	loud library shushing
Holmes	speed-reading flash	levitating bookmark	dog-ears page corners	dusty library-scented curls	loud library shushing
Carroll	giant book flight	glowing reading glasses	dog-ears page corners	silver quill headband	loud library shushing
White	speed-reading flash	levitating bookmark	uses a silk tassel bookmark	blue ink-stained streaks	boring grammar lectures
Verne	character summoning	magical magnifying glass	uses a silk tassel bookmark	dusty library-scented curls	boring grammar lectures
Kipling	word-erasing mist	magical magnifying glass	uses a silk tassel bookmark	dusty library-scented curls	loud library shushing
Wells	plot-twist bending	glowing reading glasses	uses a silk tassel bookmark	silver quill headband	loud library shushing
Milne	plot-twist bending	levitating bookmark	uses a silk tassel bookmark	silver quill headband	loud library shushing
Tolkien	character summoning	levitating bookmark	uses a silk tassel bookmark	blue ink-stained streaks	boring grammar lectures
Montgomery	word-erasing mist	infinite ink pen	uses a silk tassel bookmark	blue ink-stained streaks	boring grammar lectures
Granger	character summoning	infinite ink pen	dog-ears page corners	silver quill headband	boring grammar lectures
Wilder	speed-reading flash	magical magnifying glass	uses a silk tassel bookmark	silver quill headband	loud library shushing
Lewis	word-erasing mist	infinite ink pen	uses a silk tassel bookmark	blue ink-stained streaks	loud library shushing

CLUE 1 Addition

You find a torn ledger on the floor. To find the total number of missing book chapters, you must add up the page counts listed in the margins.

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

T																		
5943	3076	3213	5634	6985	6763	9773	2198	5943	9773	3069	3213	9306	6763	3069	5943	6477	9306	3213

T																
5943	3076	3213	2198	6763	9054	2198	6763	2198	5943	3213	2198	6763	3223	2738	3213	6763

$2393 + 3550 = \square \rightarrow$ T	$1220 + 1993 = \square \rightarrow$ E	$1260 + 1963 = \square \rightarrow$ K
$2973 + 3504 = \square \rightarrow$ U	$1249 + 949 = \square \rightarrow$ I	$4808 + 2177 = \square \rightarrow$ A
$4195 + 5578 = \square \rightarrow$ D	$1667 + 1071 = \square \rightarrow$ P	$2844 + 6462 = \square \rightarrow$ S
$2757 + 4006 = \square \rightarrow$ N	$1242 + 1834 = \square \rightarrow$ H	$3585 + 5469 = \square \rightarrow$ F
$1019 + 2050 = \square \rightarrow$ O	$1698 + 3936 = \square \rightarrow$ B	

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Subtraction

The library shelves are suddenly lighter. Subtract the damaged paperbacks from the total inventory to find how many rare scrolls were taken.

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

A																			
6957	2111	1784	3481	6543	7794	6957	2111	2111	7555	3481	7574	6957	2111	3481	7555	7273	7794		

1407	7555	4365	1784	6835	4420	1784	6835	7794	4365	7555	6835	1812	6814	7555	3481

$10226 - 3269 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$2329 - 545 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{I}}$

$10663 - 3828 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{N}}$

$11495 - 4952 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{K}}$

$11379 - 3805 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{W}}$

$12224 - 4669 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{E}}$

$8685 - 1871 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{V}}$

$5005 - 2894 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{S}}$

$9019 - 4599 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

$9180 - 1386 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{T}}$

$3743 - 1931 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{O}}$

$11068 - 3795 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{F}}$

$6905 - 2540 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{H}}$

$3257 - 1850 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$6774 - 3293 = \boxed{} \rightarrow \boxed{\text{L}}$

Scratch space:

CLUE 3

Word problems

A riddle is tucked inside a dictionary. Solving this multi-step word problem about stacked encyclopedias reveals where the suspect fled.

Solve each problem, then write its letter in the boxes to fill in the missing word.

Someone scared the villain off with

L L A Y S H S H N G .
 44 34 58 19 44 18 95 16 16 58 18

Head Librarian lined up 4 rows of 11 dictionary. How many dictionary in all?

Answer: → L

Head Librarian found 8 dictionary yesterday and 11 more today. How many dictionary in all?

Answer: → D

There were 38 quill. 22 were used up. How many quill are left?

Answer: → R

There were 50 novel. 16 were used up. How many novel are left?

Answer: → O

Head Librarian found 23 manuscript yesterday and 35 more today. How many manuscript in all?

Answer: → U

There were 127 bookmark. 32 were used up. How many bookmark are left?

Answer: → B

Head Librarian lined up 2 rows of 9 bookmark. How many bookmark in all?

Answer: → I

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Skip counting

The villain escaped across numbered floor tiles. Skip count by sevens along the pathway to avoid stepping on the silent trap doors.

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

A										A									
120	36	65	8	140	90	9	6	28	40	120	40	90	8	12	27	20	140	27	36
					A														
12	65	40	9	24	120	8	60	42	65	20	36								

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, __, 130, 140 → **A**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 → **I**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, __, 12, 15 → **L**

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

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, __, 150, 160 → **T**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, __, 70, 75 → **U**

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, __, 65, 70 → **F**

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, __, 10, 12 → **S**

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

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, __, 22, 24 → **N**

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 → **E**

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

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

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, __, 14, 16 → **C**

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, __, 50, 60 → **R**

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

Scratch space:

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

We must divide the remaining book marks equally among the young detectives to make sure every corner of the library is searched.

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:

$63 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$35 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$56 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$9 \div 3 = \boxed{}$

$60 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$60 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$66 \div 6 = \boxed{}$

$7 \div 7 = \boxed{}$

$48 \div 8 = \boxed{}$

$35 \div 5 = \boxed{}$

$22 \div 11 = \boxed{}$

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain sprayed word-erasing mist on the map, then floated away with a levitating bookmark.
2. The villain summoned a dragon character to block the door, then activated their glowing reading glasses.
3. The villain bent the plot twist to escape, then floated away with a levitating bookmark.
4. The villain used speed-reading flash to read the code, then activated their glowing reading glasses.
5. The villain bent the plot twist to escape, then scanned for traps with a magical magnifying glass.
6. The villain summoned a dragon character to block the door, then wrote a decoy note with an infinite ink pen.
7. The villain flew away on a giant open book, then wrote a decoy note with an infinite ink pen.
8. The villain sprayed word-erasing mist on the map, then stashed the loot in a whispering book bag.
9. The villain sprayed word-erasing mist on the map, then scanned for traps with a magical magnifying glass.
10. The villain summoned a dragon character to block the door, then scanned for traps with a magical magnifying glass.
11. The villain used speed-reading flash to read the code, then floated away with a levitating bookmark.
12. The villain flew away on a giant open book, then scanned for traps with a magical magnifying glass.

Answer Key

The Mystery of the Scrambled Manuscripts

Culprit: Cleary

speed-reading flash · glowing reading glasses · uses a silk tassel bookmark · dusty library-scented curls · loud library shushing

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 16 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 7 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Addition): "THE BANDIT DOES NOT USE THE INFINITE INK PEN"

$2393 + 3550 = 5943$ (T) · $1220 + 1993 = 3213$ (E) · $1260 + 1963 = 3223$ (K) · $2973 + 3504 = 6477$ (U) · $1249 + 949 = 2198$ (I) · $4808 + 2177 = 6985$ (A) · $4195 + 5578 = 9773$ (D) · $1667 + 1071 = 2738$ (P) · $2844 + 6462 = 9306$ (S) · $2757 + 4006 = 6763$ (N) · $1242 + 1834 = 3076$ (H) · $3585 + 5469 = 9054$ (F) · $1019 + 2050 = 3069$ (O) · $1698 + 3936 = 5634$ (B)

Clue 2 (Subtraction): "A SILK TASSEL WAS LEFT BEHIND IN THE NOVEL"

$10226 - 3269 = 6957$ (A) · $2329 - 545 = 1784$ (I) · $10663 - 3828 = 6835$ (N) · $11495 - 4952 = 6543$ (K) · $11379 - 3805 = 7574$ (W) · $12224 - 4669 = 7555$ (E) · $8685 - 1871 = 6814$ (V) · $5005 - 2894 = 2111$ (S) · $9019 - 4599 = 4420$ (D) · $9180 - 1386 = 7794$ (T) · $3743 - 1931 = 1812$ (O) · $11068 - 3795 = 7273$ (F) · $6905 - 2540 = 4365$ (H) · $3257 - 1850 = 1407$ (B) · $6774 - 3293 = 3481$ (L)

Clue 3 (Word problems): "LOUD LIBRARY SHUSHING"

Head Librarian lined up 4 rows of 11 dictionary. How many dictionary in all? = 44 (L) · Head Librarian found 8 dictionary yesterday and 11 more today. How many dictionary in all? = 19 (D) · There were 38 quill. 22 were used up. How many quill are left? = 16 (R) · There were 50 novel. 16 were used up. How many novel are left? = 34 (O) · Head Librarian found 23 manuscript yesterday and 35 more today. How many manuscript in all? = 58 (U) · There were 127 bookmark. 32 were used up. How many bookmark are left? = 95 (B) · Head Librarian lined up 2 rows of 9 bookmark. How many bookmark in all? = 18 (I)

Clue 4 (Skip counting): "A DUSTY LIBRARY SCENTED CURL WAS FOUND"

Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, __, 130, 140 = 120 (A) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, __, 8, 10 = 6 (I) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, __, 12, 15 = 9 (L) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, __, 26, 28 = 24 (W) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, __, 150, 160 = 140 (T) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, __, 70, 75 = 65 (U) · Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, __, 65, 70 = 60 (F) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, __, 10, 12 = 8 (S) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, __, 39, 42 = 36 (D) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, __, 22, 24 = 20 (N) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, __, 30, 33 = 27 (E) · Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, __, 45, 48 = 42 (O) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, __, 30, 32 = 28 (B) · Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, __, 14, 16 = 12 (C) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, __, 50, 60 = 40 (R) · Skip-count by 10s. Fill the blank: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, __, 100, 110 = 90 (Y)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 4 → Cleary

$63 \div 7 = 9$ · $35 \div 7 = 5$ · $56 \div 7 = 8$ · $9 \div 3 = 3$ · $60 \div 6 = 10$ · $60 \div 5 = 12$ · $66 \div 6 = 11$ · $7 \div 7 = 1$ · $48 \div 8 = 6$ · $35 \div 5 = 7$ · $22 \div 11 = 2$