The Spooky Pumpkin Heist

Grade 3 math · Place value, Skip counting, Addition, Rounding, Missing addends · Reading level grades 3-4

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

Someone snuck into Whispering Hollow and stole the Golden Pumpkin prize right before the costume parade! Solve the math clues to uncover the culprit.

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 Pumpkin Thief is _____

Possible suspects

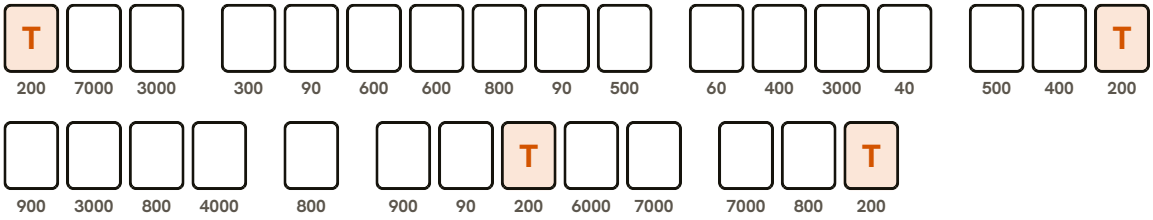
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	TRICK	DISGUISE	HABIT	COSTUME WIG	FEAR
Sabrina Spell	Ghostly Wail	Skeleton Mask	Uses Lantern	Jet Black Wig	Flashlights
Gomez Dark	Pumpkin Bomb	Spider Suit	Wears Ring	Jet Black Wig	Flashlights
Rory Raven	Ghostly Wail	Vampire Cape	Wears Ring	Bright Orange Wig	Squeaky Toys
Vince Vampire	Fog Cloak	Vampire Cape	Uses Lantern	Jet Black Wig	Flashlights
Frankenstein Frank	Pumpkin Bomb	Mummy Wraps	Uses Lantern	Bright Orange Wig	Garlic Sprays
Jack Lantern	Pumpkin Bomb	Vampire Cape	Uses Lantern	Jet Black Wig	Flashlights
Mindy Mummy	Ghostly Wail	Mummy Wraps	Uses Lantern	Jet Black Wig	Flashlights
Igor Beetle	Bat Swarm	Mummy Wraps	Wears Ring	Neon Green Wig	Garlic Sprays
Morticia Night	Pumpkin Bomb	Witch Hat	Wears Ring	Bright Orange Wig	Flashlights
Sam Skeleton	Candy Trap	Vampire Cape	Uses Lantern	Jet Black Wig	Squeaky Toys
Pippa Pumpkin	Pumpkin Bomb	Spider Suit	Wears Ring	Jet Black Wig	Garlic Sprays
Norman Bates	Candy Trap	Skeleton Mask	Wears Ring	Jet Black Wig	Flashlights
Elvira Shade	Pumpkin Bomb	Skeleton Mask	Uses Lantern	Jet Black Wig	Garlic Sprays
Wanda Witch	Fog Cloak	Witch Hat	Uses Lantern	Jet Black Wig	Flashlights
Draco Mal	Pumpkin Bomb	Skeleton Mask	Wears Ring	Neon Green Wig	Flashlights
Casper Cat	Fog Cloak	Mummy Wraps	Uses Lantern	Neon Green Wig	Flashlights
Bram Stoker	Candy Trap	Spider Suit	Wears Ring	Bright Orange Wig	Flashlights
Boris Karloff	Fog Cloak	Witch Hat	Uses Lantern	Neon Green Wig	Garlic Sprays
Wendy Wraith	Candy Trap	Vampire Cape	Uses Lantern	Neon Green Wig	Garlic Sprays
Gale Ghoul	Bat Swarm	Mummy Wraps	Wears Ring	Jet Black Wig	Garlic Sprays
Sweeney Todd	Bat Swarm	Witch Hat	Uses Lantern	Jet Black Wig	Squeaky Toys

CLUE 1 Place value

Check the house numbers along the dark street. The digit in the tens place gives you the clue code.

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



What is the value of the 2 in 255? ☐ → T

What is the value of the 8 in 857? ☐ → A

What is the value of the 3 in 390? ☐ → V

What is the value of the 3 in 3,204? ☐ → E

What is the value of the 9 in 894? ☐ → I

What is the value of the 9 in 7,981? ☐ → W

What is the value of the 6 in 4,654? ☐ → L

What is the value of the 5 in 6,568? ☐ → N

What is the value of the 6 in 86,820? ☐ → C

What is the value of the 4 in 8,845? ☐ → S

What is the value of the 4 in 84,677? ☐ → R

What is the value of the 7 in 47,580? ☐ → H

What is the value of the 4 in 483? ☐ → O

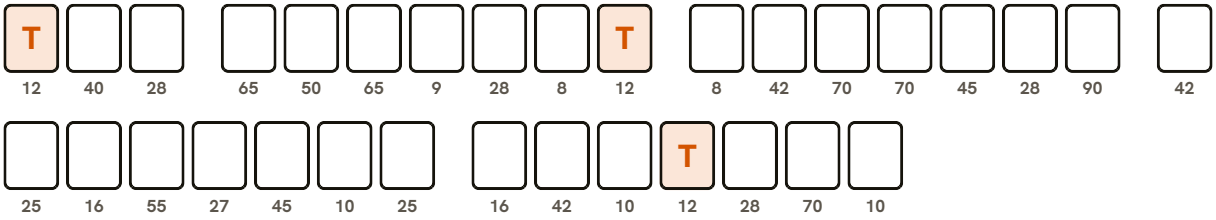
What is the value of the 6 in 5,164? ☐ → D

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Skip counting

Count the jack-o-lanterns along the sidewalk by tens to reveal the next piece of evidence.

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



Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, 9, ___, 15, 18 ☐ → T

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, ___, 10, 12 ☐ → C

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

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, ___, 50, 55 ☐ → I

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

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

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

Skip-count by 2s. Fill the blank: 2, 4, 6, 8, ___, 12, 14 ☐ → N

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

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

Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, ___, 55, 60 ☐ → U

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

Skip-count by 3s. Fill the blank: 3, 6, ___, 12, 15 ☐ → **P**

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

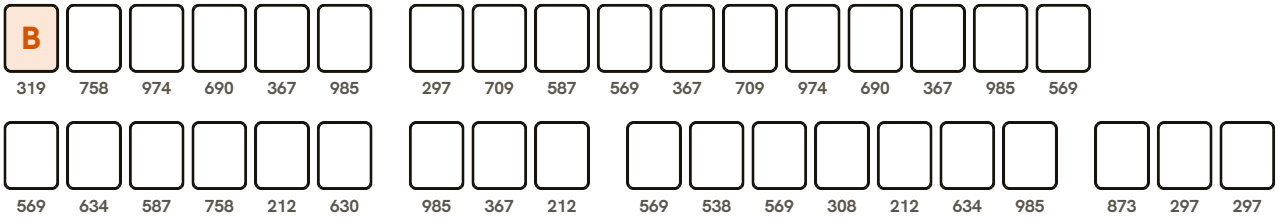
Skip-count by 5s. Fill the blank: 5, 10, 15, 20, ___, 30, 35 ☐ → **G**

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Addition

Add up all the trick-or-treat bags collected at the pumpkin patch to unlock a secret message.

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



125 + 194 = ☐ → B

172 + 136 = ☐ → P

312 + 275 = ☐ → A

287 + 282 = ☐ → S

318 + 316 = ☐ → C

303 + 235 = ☐ → U

322 + 368 = ☐ → G

586 + 287 = ☐ → O

78 + 134 = ☐ → E

204 + 426 = ☐ → D

317 + 392 = ☐ → L

592 + 382 = ☐ → I

618 + 367 = ☐ → T

139 + 158 = ☐ → F

453 + 305 = ☐ → R

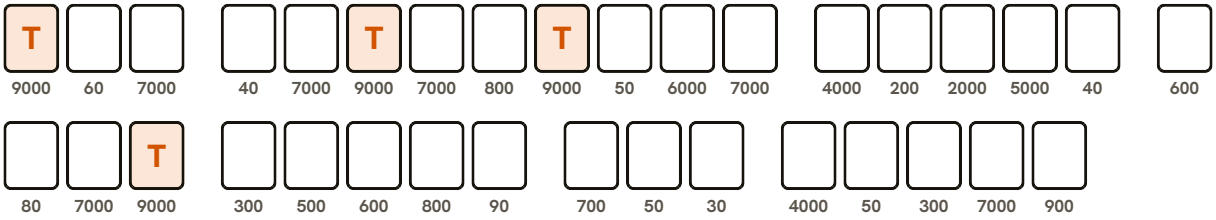
131 + 236 = ☐ → H

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Rounding

The spooky radar screen rounds the villain distance to the nearest hundred.

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



Round 8,634 to the nearest thousand ☐ → T

Round 287 to the nearest hundred ☐ → B

Round 5,492 to the nearest thousand ☐ → N

Round 4,483 to the nearest thousand ☐ → F

Round 27 to the nearest ten ☐ → G

Round 887 to the nearest hundred ☐ → R

Round 158 to the nearest hundred ☐ → O

Round 522 to the nearest hundred ☐ → L

Round 5,573 to the nearest thousand ☐ → V

Round 6,991 to the nearest thousand ☐ → E

Round 64 to the nearest ten ☐ → H

Round 738 to the nearest hundred ☐ → W

Round 849 to the nearest hundred ☐ → C

Round 50 to the nearest ten ☐ → I

Round 604 to the nearest hundred ☐ → A

Round 78 to the nearest ten ☐ → J

Round 42 to the nearest ten ☐ → D

Round 90 to the nearest ten ☐ → K

Round 2,144 to the nearest thousand ☐ → U

Scratch space:

CLUE 5 Missing addends - the last clue

Find the missing number of glow sticks needed to light up the path to spot the suspect.

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:

5 + ___ = 14 ☐	5 + ___ = 9 ☐	3 + ___ = 14 ☐	9 + ___ = 11 ☐
6 + ___ = 9 ☐	6 + ___ = 16 ☐	8 + ___ = 14 ☐	8 + ___ = 13 ☐
3 + ___ = 15 ☐	6 + ___ = 13 ☐	1 + ___ = 9 ☐	

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain howled with a ghostly wail, then pulled on a skeleton mask.
2. The villain vanished into a fog cloak, then adjusted a witch hat.
3. The villain vanished into a fog cloak, then pulled on a skeleton mask.
4. The villain vanished into a fog cloak, then swished a vampire cape.
5. The villain summoned a bat swarm, then wrapped up in mummy wraps.
6. The villain vanished into a fog cloak, then wrapped up in mummy wraps.
7. The villain tossed a pumpkin bomb, then pulled on a skeleton mask.
8. The villain vanished into a fog cloak, then crawled into a spider suit.
9. The villain tossed a pumpkin bomb, then swished a vampire cape.
10. The villain summoned a bat swarm, then pulled on a skeleton mask.
11. The villain howled with a ghostly wail, then wrapped up in mummy wraps.
12. The villain howled with a ghostly wail, then crawled into a spider suit.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Spooky Pumpkin Heist

Culprit: Sabrina Spell

Ghostly Wail · Skeleton Mask · Uses Lantern · Jet Black Wig · Flashlights

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 17 → Clue 2 9 → Clue 3 5 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Place value): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT WEAR A WITCH HAT"

What is the value of the 2 in 255? = 200 (T) · What is the value of the 8 in 857? = 800 (A) · What is the value of the 3 in 390? = 300 (V) · What is the value of the 3 in 3,204? = 3000 (E) · What is the value of the 9 in 894? = 90 (I) · What is the value of the 9 in 7,981? = 900 (W) · What is the value of the 6 in 4,654? = 600 (L) · What is the value of the 5 in 6,568? = 500 (N) · What is the value of the 6 in 86,820? = 6000 (C) · What is the value of the 4 in 8,845? = 40 (S) · What is the value of the 4 in 84,677? = 4000 (R) · What is the value of the 7 in 47,580? = 7000 (H) · What is the value of the 4 in 483? = 400 (O) · What is the value of the 6 in 5,164? = 60 (D)

Clue 2 (Skip counting): "THE SUSPECT CARRIED A GLOWING LANTERN"

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

Clue 3 (Addition): "BRIGHT FLASHLIGHTS SCARED THE SUSPECT OFF"

125 + 194 = 319 (B) · 172 + 136 = 308 (P) · 312 + 275 = 587 (A) · 287 + 282 = 569 (S) · 318 + 316 = 634 (C) · 303 + 235 = 538 (U) · 322 + 368 = 690 (G) · 586 + 287 = 873 (O) · 78 + 134 = 212 (E) · 204 + 426 = 630 (D) · 317 + 392 = 709 (L) · 592 + 382 = 974 (I) · 618 + 367 = 985 (T) · 139 + 158 = 297 (F) · 453 + 305 = 758 (R) · 131 + 236 = 367 (H)

Clue 4 (Rounding): "THE DETECTIVE FOUND A JET BLACK WIG FIBER"

Round 8,634 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (T) · Round 287 to the nearest hundred = 300 (B) · Round 5,492 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (N) · Round 4,483 to the nearest thousand = 4000 (F) · Round 27 to the nearest ten = 30 (G) · Round 887 to the nearest hundred = 900 (R) · Round 158 to the nearest hundred = 200 (O) · Round 522 to the nearest hundred = 500 (L) · Round 5,573 to the nearest thousand = 6000 (V) · Round 6,991 to the nearest thousand = 7000 (E) · Round 64 to the nearest ten = 60 (H) · Round 738 to the nearest hundred = 700 (W) · Round 849 to the nearest hundred = 800 (C) · Round 50 to the nearest ten = 50 (I) · Round 604 to the nearest hundred = 600 (A) · Round 78 to the nearest ten = 80 (J) · Round 42 to the nearest ten = 40 (D) · Round 90 to the nearest ten = 90 (K) · Round 2,144 to the nearest thousand = 2000 (U)

Clue 5 (Missing addends): surviving statement is box 1 → Sabrina Spell

5 + ___ = 14 = 9 · 5 + ___ = 9 = 4 · 3 + ___ = 14 = 11 · 9 + ___ = 11 = 2 · 6 + ___ = 9 = 3 · 6 + ___ = 16 = 10 · 8 + ___ = 14 = 6 · 8 + ___ = 13 = 5 · 3 + ___ = 15 = 12 · 6 + ___ = 13 = 7 · 1 + ___ = 9 = 8