



MYSTERIES UNDER THE BIG TOP - HINTS

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1ST CLUE - CRIME SCENE (PAGES 5-6)

1. You need to trace out the different colors of paint between the midway tents.
2. Each color will form a letter.
3. Use the photo of painted numbers on a tent wall to put the letters in the correct order. Some letters will be used twice.
4. The message you get will tell which clown was doing this prank.

2nd Clue - The Juggler's Room (page 7)

1. The three lines of markings form words.
2. They are the bottom, top, and middle portions of the letters that make the message you need.
3. The message you get will relate to one of the clown's jokes.
4. Once you know which joke the message relates to you can remove that clown as a suspect.

3RD CLUE - CRIME SCENE (PAGE 8)

- 1. Use the example on the Start Here sheet if you need help figuring out how to use a Logic Grid.**
2. Use the photo of the corkboard with this puzzle.
3. The photo shows that Bobo does magic tricks, Charlie plays the violin, and Toby juggles. You can also infer that the table is Carl's since it has photos of his friends. So that means the maracas are his.
4. Now, use the statements you have and a bit of logic to figure out who all does what.
5. Once you know which clown plays the tuba, you can eliminate them as a suspect.

WHERE IS THE HAT? (PAGE 9)

- 1. You need to have solved the three clue puzzles and removed three of your suspects before you can do this puzzle.**
2. Once you have done that, you should have one suspect left. Use the number and direction arrow beside that person's name with the decoder wheel as instructed. If you need help using the decoder wheel look at the example on the Start Here letter.
3. If you think you are doing everything correctly, but still can't decode the message, there is a chance you have the wrong suspect. Look back over your work and make sure you haven't removed a suspect by mistake.
4. You can also check the solutions for clues you have solved to see if you removed the correct suspects.

1ST CLUE CRIME SCENE (PAGE 13)

1. There is an item in the evidence that is from the criminal you are looking for. If you use a bit of logic and deductive reasoning, you can remove one suspect because they wouldn't have this item.
2. There is one suspect who would not have bought a ticket, who is that?

2ND CLUE - STRANGE NOTE (PAGE 13)

1. The photo of the facepaint has a clue to translate the number message.
2. Use A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, etc. to change the numbers to letters.
3. The message you get will start with, "I am glad..."

3RD CLUE - WITNESS (PAGE 14)

1. Use what is printed on the balloon with the grid of letters Xander gave you.
2. You will start at the star for each line. Now move to the square the first arrow points at. Do this for the other arrows and write down what letters you get.
3. Each arrow will get you a letter. The first row of arrows will get you the word, "Leave."

WHAT WAS MIXED INTO THE FACE PAINT? (PAGE 15)

- 1. You need to have solved the three clue puzzles and removed three of your suspects before you can do this puzzle.**
2. Once you have done that you should have one suspect left. Use the number and direction arrow beside that person's name with the decoder wheel as instructed. If you need help using the decoder wheel look at the example on the Start Here letter.
3. If you think you are doing everything correctly, but still can't decode the message, there is a chance you have the wrong suspect. Look back over your work and make sure you haven't removed a suspect by mistake.
4. You can also check the solutions for clues you have solved to see if you removed the correct suspects.

1ST CLUE - WITNESS (PAGE 19)

1. The letters are scrambled in the message.
2. But they are all still grouped correctly. So ETHRE unscrambles to be THERE.
3. Unscramble the rest of the words to get a message that will let you remove one of the suspects.

2ND CLUE - KENNEL (PAGE 20)

1. Use the dog tag with this puzzle.
2. The numbers on the dog tag are the order you need to write the column of letters.
3. Rewrite the column of letters so that the column with the crown is first, the paw print is second, the heart is third, and the bone is fourth. Now you can read the message.
4. The message you get will start with, "There was..."

3RD CLUE - TENTS (PAGE 21-22)

1. If you have trouble understanding what to do, be sure to look at the **Example of Tent Placements**.
2. The far left side has the tent made up of five segments.

WHAT HAPPENED TO PRINCESS? (PAGE 23)

1. **You need to have solved the three clue puzzles and removed three of your suspects before you can do this puzzle.**
2. Once you have done that you should have one suspect left. Use the number and direction arrow beside that person's name with the decoder wheel as instructed. If you need help using the decoder wheel look at the example on the Start Here letter.
3. If you think you are doing everything correctly, but still can't decode the message, there is a chance you have the wrong suspect. Look back over your work and make sure you haven't removed a suspect by mistake.
4. You can also check the solutions for clues you have solved to see if you removed the correct suspects.

1ST CLUE - CRIME SCENE (PAGE 27)

1. Use photos F and G with this puzzle.
2. The photo of the dirt holds a clue as to which item in the other photo was used to reach higher up the rope.
3. The line in the dirt shows where the trapeze bar lay. If you look closely, you can see three small circular indents in the dirt. What object from the other photo would have created that?
4. The stool was used. So add 4 feet to everyone's height and see if anyone is now shorter than 8 feet or taller than 10 feet.

2ND CLUE - STRANGE NOTE (PAGE 27)

1. Use the message from the strange note with the message on the popcorn bag.
2. It might be helpful to use a piece of paper and make blanks for each of the symbols used in the message on the popcorn bag so you can fill them in with letters as you figure out which symbols are which letters.
3. First focus on filling in the letters for the symbols you know.
4. Some letters on the popcorn bag you will have to fill in using logic. So fill in the letters you can figure out based on what letters they would have to be to make words.

3RD CLUE - WITNESS (PAGE 28)

1. Read the clues carefully. They have all the information needed to place the trapeze artists in the correct order.
2. It would be helpful to work this out with a pencil and paper or to get five objects to represent the five trapeze artists and move them around as you read the clues about what order they go in.
3. Hint: Sal is first.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ATTACKER? (PAGE 29)

- 1. You need to have solved the three clue puzzles and removed three of your suspects before you can do this puzzle.**
2. Once you have done that you should have one suspect left. Use the number and direction arrow beside that person's name with the decoder wheel as instructed. If you need help using the decoder wheel look at the example on the Start Here letter.
3. If you think you are doing everything correctly, but still can't decode the message, there is a chance you have the wrong suspect. Look back over your work and make sure you haven't removed a suspect by mistake.
4. You can also check the solutions for clues you have solved to see if you removed the correct suspects.