

Jim Kleefeld's

The Mystery of the Missing Books

Educational School Assembly Program

Teacher's Guide

Program Overview:

What a dilemma! As shown on a large poster, some books have gone missing from the library display table. Jim and the students try to solve the mystery by finding clues throughout several routines about detective books.

Program Objective: *Students will recall authors and book titles of several mystery books.*

The Missing Books Poster: Students count along as the number of books on the printed poster changes from 12 to 10 right before their eyes. Students may want to research mathematical and optical illusion puzzles like this from authors like Jerry Slocum or Al Seckel

The Dossier: This quick and humorous routine introduces students to detective vocabulary such as dossier, evidence, clues, and mystery.

The Library Clock: How does Jim determine the hidden time set by a student? Will they notice that all of the books in the library bookcase are Caldecott winners?

The Stolen Necklace: Jim introduces students to Encyclopedia Brown, a classic detective character from a series of chapter books, as well as defining investigative procedures.

Chet Gecko in the Library: This newer detective character is introduced, along with the author who wrote a series of humorous books. Even teachers will appreciate the classic film noir aspects of titles like *The Malted Falcon* and *The Possum Always Rings Twice*.

Magnific: Several students get to assist in finding another clue towards the mystery as the audience gets to help piece together the spelling of the solution.

Framing a Detective: Students will see numerous book covers and hear about the authors and titles while searching for one that may provide additional clues.

Initial Conclusion: Factual fingerprinting techniques, as taught in non-fiction books, are discussed and explored in order to find another letter clue.

Wesley Wellington III: A wacky weasel character provides some comic relief here while searching for the final letter.

Spelled Out: The seven letter clues are finally all collected and displayed. But the letters don't seem to solve the mystery. It appears that they spell out the wrong word. Can the students rearrange the letters to correctly form a word that provides the solution? If so, they will have solved...

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