Case of the Super Bad Superhero

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

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

A villain hides among the heroes of Mathhattan and has kidnapped the Mayor. The police can't tell friend from phony - only a sharp math detective can. Solve each clue's math to decode it, cross suspects off the list, and name the one hero left standing.

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 Super Bad Superhero is _____

Possible suspects

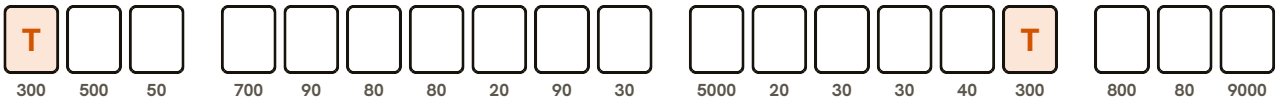
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	MAIN POWER	EXTRA POWER	SEX	HAIR	WEAKNESS
Razor	Invisibility	Super Strength	Female	Green	Cookies
Blitzfire	Invisibility	Poisonous Burps	Male	Orange	Silver
Mega Mage	Mind Control	Super Strength	Female	Orange	Sunlight
Splash	Energy Blasts	Sonic Scream	Female	Orange	Sunlight
Zapman	Mind Control	Sonic Scream	Female	Purple	Silver
Lady Bug	Mind Control	Shape Shifting	Female	Orange	Silver
Thunder Hawk	Invisibility	Super Strength	Male	Green	Sunlight
Lion Man	Invisibility	Super Strength	Male	Purple	Sunlight
Typhoon	Teleportation	Flight	Male	Orange	Silver
Doctor Bolt	Invisibility	Shape Shifting	Male	Orange	Silver
The Giggler	Energy Blasts	Poisonous Burps	Female	Green	Cookies
Titanicus	Super Speed	Super Strength	Female	Green	Cookies
Blinker	Invisibility	Shape Shifting	Male	Green	Sunlight
Pizza Peter	Teleportation	Poisonous Burps	Male	Orange	Silver
Dare Girl	Super Speed	Shape Shifting	Male	Orange	Cookies
Iron Vox	Energy Blasts	Flight	Male	Green	Sunlight
Starlight	Energy Blasts	Sonic Scream	Male	Orange	Silver
Nightgale	Mind Control	Poisonous Burps	Male	Green	Silver
Quasar	Super Speed	Flight	Male	Orange	Silver
Major Fury	Super Speed	Sonic Scream	Female	Orange	Cookies
Colossal Crush	Teleportation	Sonic Scream	Male	Green	Cookies

CLUE 1 Rounding

> A torn note flutters out of the Mayor's office - but the words are hidden behind a math code. Solve it to read the first clue.

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



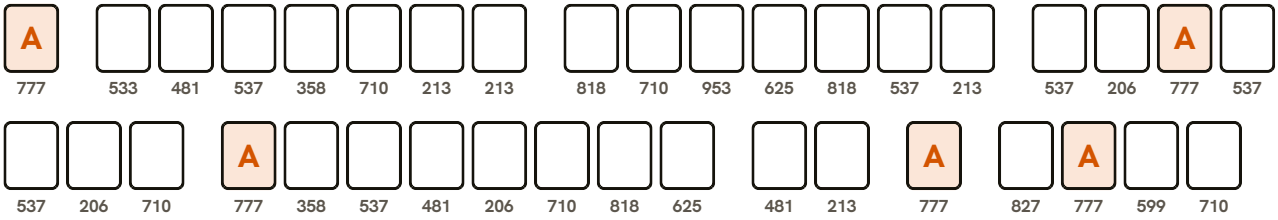
Round 318 to the nearest hundred		T	Round 44 to the nearest ten		O	Round 89 to the nearest ten		I
Round 23 to the nearest ten		A	Round 80 to the nearest ten		L	Round 30 to the nearest ten		N
Round 783 to the nearest hundred		F	Round 5,091 to the nearest thousand		C	Round 486 to the nearest hundred		H
Round 9,297 to the nearest thousand		Y	Round 51 to the nearest ten		E	Round 695 to the nearest hundred		V

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

A witness left a message at the scene, locked behind more math. Work it out to hear what they saw.

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



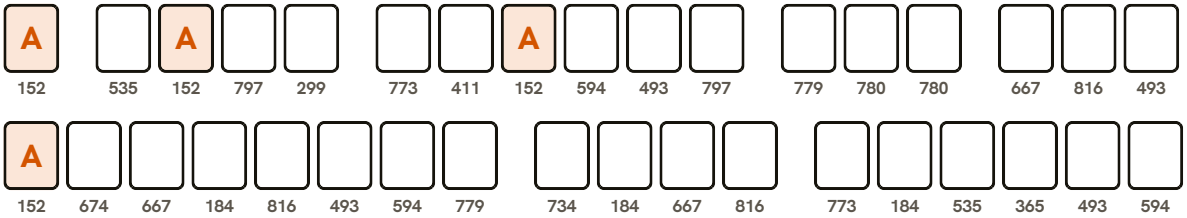
310 + 467 =		A	197 + 284 =		I	145 + 213 =		N
359 + 178 =		T	239 + 294 =		W	227 + 372 =		L
258 + 560 =		R	262 + 363 =		O	333 + 620 =		P
119 + 87 =		H	358 + 352 =		E	136 + 77 =		S
578 + 249 =		M						

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Subtraction

> Down at the docks, someone scared the villain off and scribbled how. Crack the numbers to find out.

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



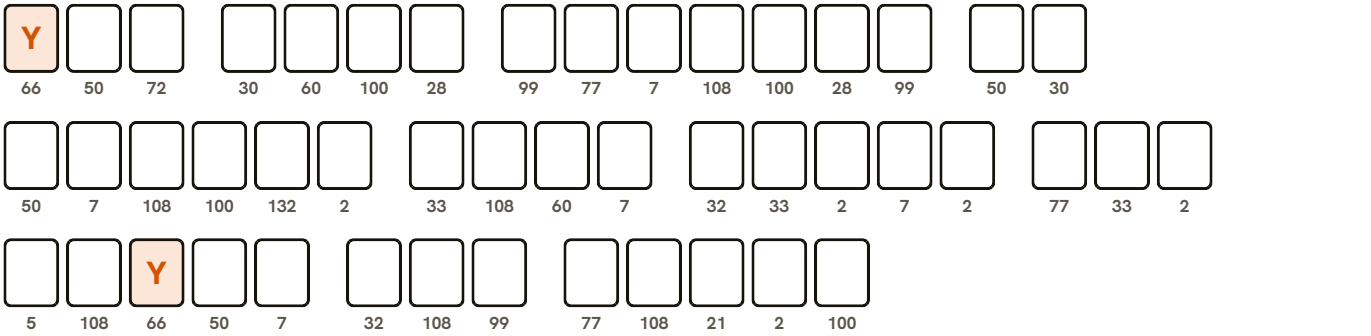
365 - 213 =		A	1047 - 380 =		T	947 - 273 =		N
467 - 56 =		C	728 - 193 =		L	950 - 171 =		O
877 - 143 =		W	1043 - 227 =		H	1158 - 378 =		F
822 - 25 =		D	416 - 117 =		Y	1058 - 285 =		S
868 - 274 =		R	758 - 393 =		V	304 - 120 =		I
807 - 314 =		E						

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Multiplication facts (1-12)

> The clean-up crew found something the villain dropped. Do the math to see what it was.

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



6 × 11 =		Y	7 × 1 =		R	1 × 5 =		M
12 × 11 =		G	5 × 6 =		F	6 × 10 =		I
9 × 12 =		A	3 × 11 =		H	7 × 11 =		T
7 × 3 =		K	10 × 10 =		N	4 × 8 =		W
5 × 10 =		O	2 × 1 =		E	11 × 9 =		S
9 × 8 =		U	4 × 7 =		D			

Scratch space:

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

> You've almost got it. One last set of numbers will reveal exactly how the villain pulled it off.

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:

3 ÷ 3 = ☐	2 ÷ 1 = ☐	108 ÷ 9 = ☐
88 ÷ 8 = ☐	15 ÷ 5 = ☐	6 ÷ 1 = ☐
60 ÷ 6 = ☐	99 ÷ 11 = ☐	8 ÷ 1 = ☐
77 ÷ 11 = ☐	15 ÷ 3 = ☐	

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain turns invisible to slip past everyone, then lets out a poisonous burp to weaken them.
2. The villain fires crackling energy blasts, then unleashes a sonic scream.
3. The villain bends minds to make victims obey, then lets out a poisonous burp to weaken them.
4. The villain teleports behind victims without warning, then lets out a poisonous burp to weaken them.
5. The villain turns invisible to slip past everyone, then tears open locked doors with raw strength.
6. The villain fires crackling energy blasts, then shape-shifts into a familiar face.
7. The villain bends minds to make victims obey, then shape-shifts into a familiar face.
8. The villain fires crackling energy blasts, then tears open locked doors with raw strength.
9. The villain bends minds to make victims obey, then takes to the sky.
10. The villain bends minds to make victims obey, then tears open locked doors with raw strength.
11. The villain bends minds to make victims obey, then unleashes a sonic scream.
12. The villain turns invisible to slip past everyone, then shape-shifts into a familiar face.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

Case of the Super Bad Superhero

Culprit: Pizza Peter

Teleportation · Poisonous Burps · Male · Orange · Silver

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 18 → Clue 2 10 → Clue 3 5 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Rounding): "THE VILLAIN CANNOT FLY"

Round 318 to the nearest hundred = 300 (T) · Round 44 to the nearest ten = 40 (O) · Round 89 to the nearest ten = 90 (I) · Round 23 to the nearest ten = 20 (A) · Round 80 to the nearest ten = 80 (L) · Round 30 to the nearest ten = 30 (N) · Round 783 to the nearest hundred = 800 (F) · Round 5,091 to the nearest thousand = 5000 (C) · Round 486 to the nearest hundred = 500 (H) · Round 9,297 to the nearest thousand = 9000 (Y) · Round 51 to the nearest ten = 50 (E) · Round 695 to the nearest hundred = 700 (V)

Clue 2 (Addition): "A WITNESS REPORTS THAT THE ANTIHERO IS A MALE"

310 + 467 = 777 (A) · 197 + 284 = 481 (I) · 145 + 213 = 358 (N) · 359 + 178 = 537 (T) · 239 + 294 = 533 (W) · 227 + 372 = 599 (L) · 258 + 560 = 818 (R) · 262 + 363 = 625 (O) · 333 + 620 = 953 (P) · 119 + 87 = 206 (H) · 358 + 352 = 710 (E) · 136 + 77 = 213 (S) · 578 + 249 = 827 (M)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "A LADY SCARED OFF THE ANTIHERO WITH SILVER"

365 - 213 = 152 (A) · 1047 - 380 = 667 (T) · 947 - 273 = 674 (N) · 467 - 56 = 411 (C) · 728 - 193 = 535 (L) · 950 - 171 = 779 (O) · 877 - 143 = 734 (W) · 1043 - 227 = 816 (H) · 1158 - 378 = 780 (F) · 822 - 25 = 797 (D) · 416 - 117 = 299 (Y) · 1058 - 285 = 773 (S) · 868 - 274 = 594 (R) · 758 - 393 = 365 (V) · 304 - 120 = 184 (I) · 807 - 314 = 493 (E)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "YOU FIND STRANDS OF ORANGE HAIR WHERE THE MAYOR WAS TAKEN"

6 × 11 = 66 (Y) · 7 × 1 = 7 (R) · 1 × 5 = 5 (M) · 12 × 11 = 132 (G) · 5 × 6 = 30 (F) · 6 × 10 = 60 (I) · 9 × 12 = 108 (A) · 3 × 11 = 33 (H) · 7 × 11 = 77 (T) · 7 × 3 = 21 (K) · 10 × 10 = 100 (N) · 4 × 8 = 32 (W) · 5 × 10 = 50 (O) · 2 × 1 = 2 (E) · 11 × 9 = 99 (S) · 9 × 8 = 72 (U) · 4 × 7 = 28 (D)

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

3 ÷ 3 = 1 · 2 ÷ 1 = 2 · 108 ÷ 9 = 12 · 88 ÷ 8 = 11 · 15 ÷ 5 = 3 · 6 ÷ 1 = 6 · 60 ÷ 6 = 10 · 99 ÷ 11 = 9 · 8 ÷ 1 = 8 · 77 ÷ 11 = 7 · 15 ÷ 3 = 5