The Case of the Missing Golden Softball

Grade 4 math · Multiplication, Rounding, Addition, Subtraction, Division · Reading level grades 5-6

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

The Grand Slam Arena is packed for the championship game, but disaster has struck! The legendary Golden Softball has been stolen from its glass display case. As a top junior detective, you have been hired by the League Commissioner to inspect the scene, decode the clues, and catch the thief before the umpire shouts Play Ball!

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 the Base Burglar is _____

Possible suspects

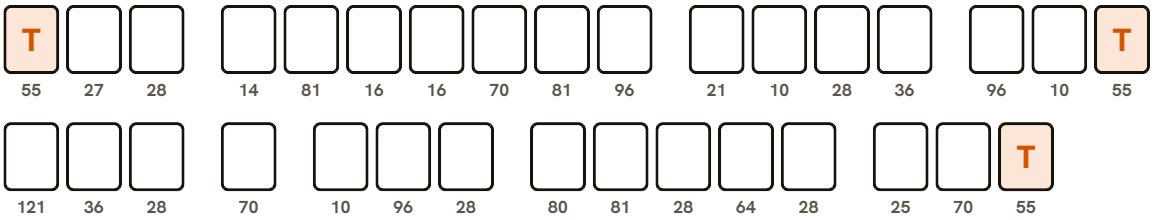
Cross off a row as each clue rules it out. The one left at the end is the culprit.

NAME	SIGNATURE PITCH	BAT TYPE	STANCE SIDE	VISOR COLOR	BATTER WEAKNESS
Montana Fouts	Screwball	Hybrid Bat	Left Handed	Red Cap	High Outside
Rachel Garcia	Curveball	Alloy Bat	Left Handed	Blue Cap	Down The Middle
Sierra Romero	Curveball	Wood Bat	Right Handed	Red Cap	Down The Middle
Amanda Scarborough	Dropball	Wood Bat	Left Handed	Green Cap	High Outside
Cat Osterman	Riseball	Composite Bat	Right Handed	Green Cap	High Outside
Jayda Coleman	Changeup	One Piece Bat	Right Handed	Blue Cap	Down The Middle
Keilani Ricketts	Changeup	One Piece Bat	Left Handed	Blue Cap	High Outside
Valerie Cagle	Dropball	Composite Bat	Right Handed	Green Cap	Low Inside
Kelly Barnhill	Curveball	Wood Bat	Left Handed	Green Cap	Down The Middle
Monica Abbott	Screwball	One Piece Bat	Right Handed	Blue Cap	Down The Middle
Aliyah Andrews	Riseball	Wood Bat	Left Handed	Blue Cap	High Outside
Maya Brady	Dropball	One Piece Bat	Left Handed	Green Cap	High Outside
Kinzie Hansen	Screwball	Hybrid Bat	Left Handed	Red Cap	Down The Middle
NiJaree Canady	Dropball	Alloy Bat	Right Handed	Green Cap	High Outside
Lauren Chamberlain	Curveball	Alloy Bat	Right Handed	Green Cap	High Outside
Odicci Alexander	Riseball	Wood Bat	Left Handed	Blue Cap	Down The Middle
Tiare Jennings	Riseball	One Piece Bat	Right Handed	Green Cap	High Outside
Jordy Bahl	Riseball	Wood Bat	Left Handed	Blue Cap	Low Inside
Haylie McCleney	Dropball	Alloy Bat	Right Handed	Blue Cap	High Outside
Megan Faraimo	Curveball	Alloy Bat	Left Handed	Blue Cap	Low Inside
Danielle Lawrie	Dropball	Wood Bat	Right Handed	Green Cap	High Outside

CLUE 1 Multiplication facts (1-12)

> The team managers lined up the gear bags in equal rows on the field to see if anything was missing. By multiplying the rows of equipment, you uncover a clue left near the batting cages.

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



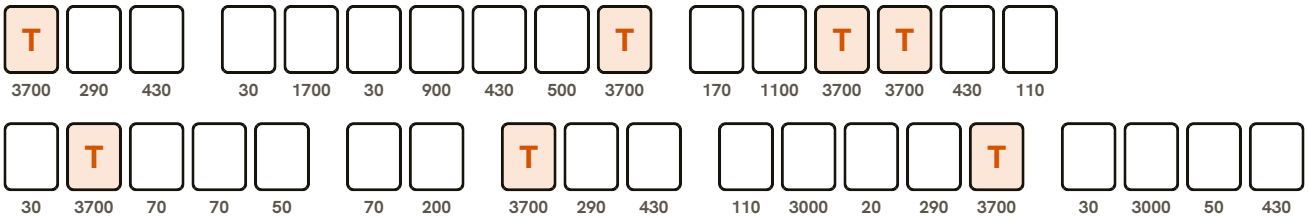
11 × 5 = ☐ → T	9 × 9 = ☐ → I	1 × 10 = ☐ → O	
8 × 12 = ☐ → N	8 × 8 = ☐ → C	3 × 7 = ☐ → D	2 × 7 = ☐ → V
4 × 4 = ☐ → L	3 × 12 = ☐ → S	8 × 10 = ☐ → P	
3 × 9 = ☐ → H	7 × 4 = ☐ → E	11 × 11 = ☐ → U	
5 × 5 = ☐ → B	10 × 7 = ☐ → A		

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Rounding

> The stadium's digital radar gun got damaged during the heist and is only displaying speeds rounded to the nearest ten. Calculate the actual pitch speeds to decode a message on the scoreboard.

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



Round 3,716 to the nearest hundred ☐ → T

Round 72 to the nearest ten ☐ → O

Round 21 to the nearest ten ☐ → G

Round 168 to the nearest ten ☐ → B

Round 459 to the nearest hundred ☐ → C

Round 1,068 to the nearest hundred ☐ → A

Round 48 to the nearest ten ☐ → D

Round 247 to the nearest hundred ☐ → N

Round 2,865 to the nearest thousand ☐ → I

Round 294 to the nearest ten ☐ → H

Round 1,661 to the nearest hundred ☐ → U

Round 431 to the nearest ten ☐ → E

Round 108 to the nearest ten ☐ → R

Round 911 to the nearest hundred ☐ → P

Round 27 to the nearest ten ☐ → S

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Addition

> The equipment manager needs to add up all the extra softballs recovered from the outfield dirt. Tallying the total number of recovered balls leads you directly to a hidden note.

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

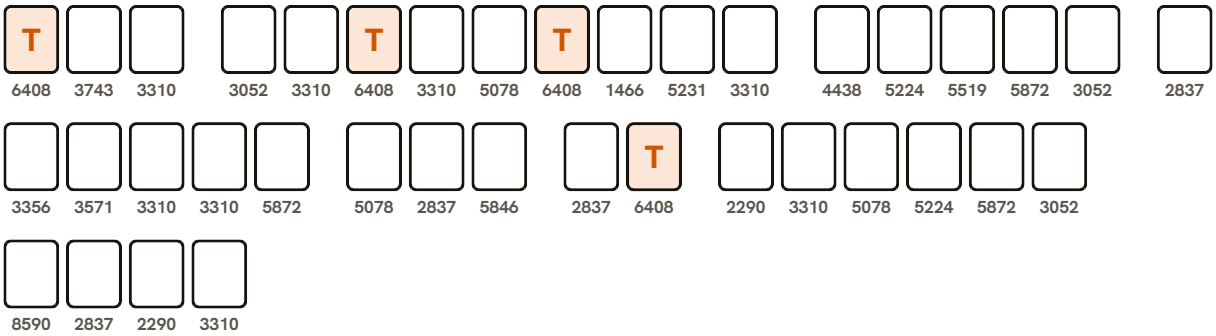
5191 + 3471 = ☐ → **T**	5548 + 3765 = ☐ → **I**	1482 + 1219 = ☐ → **O**
1518 + 2124 = ☐ → **A**	1738 + 1502 = ☐ → **P**	693 + 1361 = ☐ → **U**
2154 + 2942 = ☐ → **E**	2589 + 3408 = ☐ → **C**	5632 + 4165 = ☐ → **D**
1112 + 1660 = ☐ → **F**	3005 + 4646 = ☐ → **L**	1276 + 2476 = ☐ → **G**
4059 + 4504 = ☐ → **H**	2919 + 2895 = ☐ → **S**	3163 + 4876 = ☐ → **Y**

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Subtraction

> The umpire wants to find the exact difference between the starting weight of the team's bats and their current weight. Subtract the damaged bats to reveal a witness report.

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



11321 - 4913 = ☐ → T	8907 - 4469 = ☐ → F	5757 - 238 = ☐ → U
8427 - 3196 = ☐ → V	8592 - 2746 = ☐ → P	9906 - 1316 = ☐ → B
5526 - 2474 = ☐ → D	4154 - 1864 = ☐ → S	2311 - 845 = ☐ → I
6878 - 3135 = ☐ → H	6046 - 822 = ☐ → O	4609 - 1253 = ☐ → G
8123 - 2251 = ☐ → N	4766 - 1456 = ☐ → E	9327 - 4249 = ☐ → C
5674 - 2837 = ☐ → A	6845 - 3274 = ☐ → R	

Scratch space:

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

> The coaching staff is dividing the championship team snacks equally among all the players on the bench. Splitting these snacks evenly gives you the final piece of the puzzle.

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:

30 ÷ 6 = ☐	9 ÷ 9 = ☐	70 ÷ 10 = ☐	120 ÷ 10 = ☐	108 ÷ 12 = ☐
24 ÷ 4 = ☐	88 ÷ 8 = ☐	70 ÷ 7 = ☐	24 ÷ 12 = ☐	3 ÷ 1 = ☐
32 ÷ 8 = ☐				

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain pitched a sharp curveball around the trophy case, then used an alloy bat to pry open the locker.
2. The villain lobbed a slow changeup to sneak past the camera, then propped open the exit door with a hybrid bat.
3. The villain dropped a heavy dropball right onto the alarm button, then propped open the exit door with a hybrid bat.
4. The villain lobbed a slow changeup to sneak past the camera, then swung a wood bat to knock down the barrier.
5. The villain threw a blinding riseball to distract the guard, then carried a composite bat to smash the glass case.
6. The villain threw a blinding riseball to distract the guard, then swung a wood bat to knock down the barrier.
7. The villain dropped a heavy dropball right onto the alarm button, then swung a wood bat to knock down the barrier.
8. The villain dropped a heavy dropball right onto the alarm button, then used an alloy bat to pry open the locker.
9. The villain threw a blinding riseball to distract the guard, then propped open the exit door with a hybrid bat.
10. The villain lobbed a slow changeup to sneak past the camera, then slipped away carrying a shiny one piece bat.
11. The villain pitched a sharp curveball around the trophy case, then propped open the exit door with a hybrid bat.
12. The villain pitched a sharp curveball around the trophy case, then swung a wood bat to knock down the barrier.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Case of the Missing Golden Softball

Culprit: NiJaree Canady

Dropball · Alloy Bat · Right Handed · Green Cap · High Outside

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

Clue 1 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "THE VILLAIN DOES NOT USE A ONE PIECE BAT"

11 × 5 = 55 (T) · 9 × 9 = 81 (I) · 1 × 10 = 10 (O) · 8 × 12 = 96 (N) · 8 × 8 = 64 (C) · 3 × 7 = 21 (D) · 2 × 7 = 14 (V) · 4 × 4 = 16 (L) · 3 × 12 = 36 (S) · 8 × 10 = 80 (P) · 3 × 9 = 27 (H) · 7 × 4 = 28 (E) · 11 × 11 = 121 (U) · 5 × 5 = 25 (B) · 10 × 7 = 70 (A)

Clue 2 (Rounding): "THE SUSPECT BATTER STOOD ON THE RIGHT SIDE"

Round 3,716 to the nearest hundred = 3700 (T) · Round 72 to the nearest ten = 70 (O) · Round 21 to the nearest ten = 20 (G) · Round 168 to the nearest ten = 170 (B) · Round 459 to the nearest hundred = 500 (C) · Round 1,068 to the nearest hundred = 1100 (A) · Round 48 to the nearest ten = 50 (D) · Round 247 to the nearest hundred = 200 (N) · Round 2,865 to the nearest thousand = 3000 (I) · Round 294 to the nearest ten = 290 (H) · Round 1,661 to the nearest hundred = 1700 (U) · Round 431 to the nearest ten = 430 (E) · Round 108 to the nearest ten = 110 (R) · Round 911 to the nearest hundred = 900 (P) · Round 27 to the nearest ten = 30 (S)

Clue 3 (Addition): "THEY FAILED TO HIT A HIGH OUTSIDE PITCH"

5191 + 3471 = 8662 (T) · 5548 + 3765 = 9313 (I) · 1482 + 1219 = 2701 (O) · 1518 + 2124 = 3642 (A) · 1738 + 1502 = 3240 (P) · 693 + 1361 = 2054 (U) · 2154 + 2942 = 5096 (E) · 2589 + 3408 = 5997 (C) · 5632 + 4165 = 9797 (D) · 1112 + 1660 = 2772 (F) · 3005 + 4646 = 7651 (L) · 1276 + 2476 = 3752 (G) · 4059 + 4504 = 8563 (H) · 2919 + 2895 = 5814 (S) · 3163 + 4876 = 8039 (Y)

Clue 4 (Subtraction): "THE DETECTIVE FOUND A GREEN CAP AT SECOND BASE"

11321 - 4913 = 6408 (T) · 8907 - 4469 = 4438 (F) · 5757 - 238 = 5519 (U) · 8427 - 3196 = 5231 (V) · 8592 - 2746 = 5846 (P) · 9906 - 1316 = 8590 (B) · 5526 - 2474 = 3052 (D) · 4154 - 1864 = 2290 (S) · 2311 - 845 = 1466 (I) · 6878 - 3135 = 3743 (H) · 6046 - 822 = 5224 (O) · 4609 - 1253 = 3356 (G) · 8123 - 2251 = 5872 (N) · 4766 - 1456 = 3310 (E) · 9327 - 4249 = 5078 (C) · 5674 - 2837 = 2837 (A) · 6845 - 3274 = 3571 (R)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 8 → NiJaree Canady

30 ÷ 6 = 5 · 9 ÷ 9 = 1 · 70 ÷ 10 = 7 · 120 ÷ 10 = 12 · 108 ÷ 12 = 9 · 24 ÷ 4 = 6 · 88 ÷ 8 = 11 · 70 ÷ 7 = 10 · 24 ÷ 12 = 2 · 3 ÷ 1 = 3 · 32 ÷ 8 = 4