The Case of the Stolen Golden Boot

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

Detective: _____ **Date:** _____

Right before the big final, Sparky the mascot vanished from the locker room. The famous Golden Boot trophy was gone too, and muddy cleat prints led across the field. Coach needs you to study the players and find the sneaky Boot Bandit.

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 Boot Bandit is _____

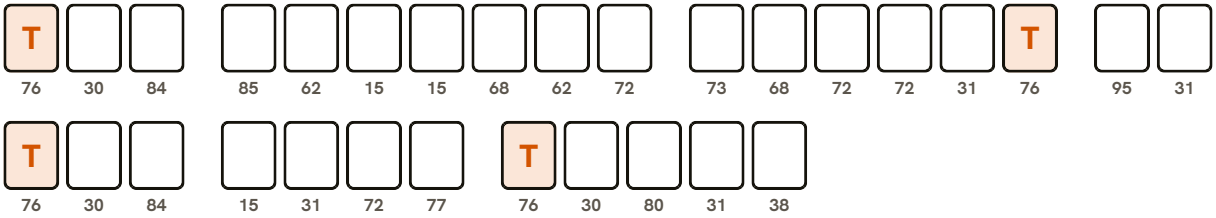
Possible suspects

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

NAME	SIGNATURE MOVE	SECRET TRICK	PLAYER TYPE	HAIR COLOR	WEAKNESS
Mia Goal	Mega Header	Backheel Pass	girl	brown	ticklish
Bruno Wing	Lightning Dribble	Backheel Pass	boy	brown	hates whistles
Grace Punt	Bicycle Kick	Backheel Pass	girl	brown	ticklish
Felix Flick	Bicycle Kick	Backheel Pass	girl	black	hates whistles
Zoe Sprint	Mega Header	Backheel Pass	girl	black	ticklish
Ella Boot	Diving Save	Slide Tackle	girl	blonde	afraid of mud
Lila Striker	Bicycle Kick	Long Throw	girl	black	ticklish
Leo Striker	Bicycle Kick	Slide Tackle	girl	blonde	ticklish
Sam Cleats	Lightning Dribble	Wall Jump	boy	brown	hates whistles
Noah Sweeper	Lightning Dribble	Slide Tackle	boy	black	ticklish
Hugo Keeper	Curve Shot	Fake Out	boy	black	hates whistles
Priya Pass	Diving Save	Fake Out	girl	black	ticklish
Marco Net	Mega Header	Wall Jump	girl	blonde	afraid of mud
Maya Score	Bicycle Kick	Fake Out	boy	blonde	ticklish
Omar Tackle	Bicycle Kick	Fake Out	girl	brown	ticklish
Ava Kickwell	Bicycle Kick	Wall Jump	girl	blonde	ticklish
Lucy Header	Curve Shot	Backheel Pass	boy	brown	hates whistles
Kai Dribble	Curve Shot	Fake Out	boy	brown	hates whistles
Ruby Save	Curve Shot	Fake Out	girl	black	ticklish
Theo Dash	Diving Save	Backheel Pass	girl	black	ticklish
Mateo Curve	Diving Save	Long Throw	girl	brown	hates whistles

CLUE 1 Place value (tens & ones)

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

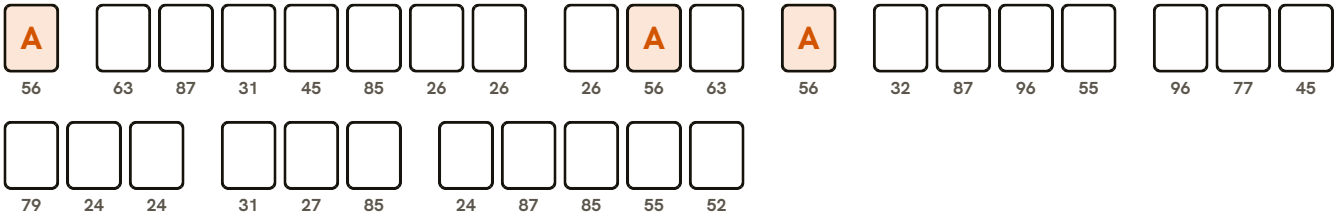


What number has 7 tens and 6 ones?		T	What number has 3 tens and 0 ones?		H	What number has 8 tens and 4 ones?		E
What number has 8 tens and 5 ones?		V	What number has 6 tens and 2 ones?		I	What number has 1 ten and 5 ones?		L
What number has 6 tens and 8 ones?		A	What number has 7 tens and 2 ones?		N	What number has 7 tens and 3 ones?		C
What number has 3 tens and 1 one?		O	What number has 9 tens and 5 ones?		D	What number has 7 tens and 7 ones?		G
What number has 8 tens and 0 ones?		R	What number has 3 tens and 8 ones?		W			

Scratch space:

CLUE 2 Addition

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

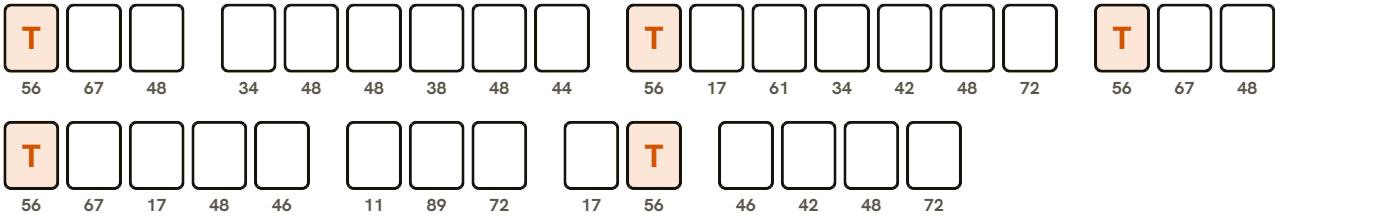


38 + 18 =		A	27 + 36 =		W	55 + 32 =		I
17 + 14 =		T	29 + 16 =		N	37 + 48 =		E
10 + 16 =		S	22 + 10 =		G	34 + 62 =		R
37 + 18 =		L	46 + 31 =		U	33 + 46 =		O
8 + 16 =		F	15 + 12 =		H	26 + 26 =		D

Scratch space:

CLUE 3 Subtraction

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

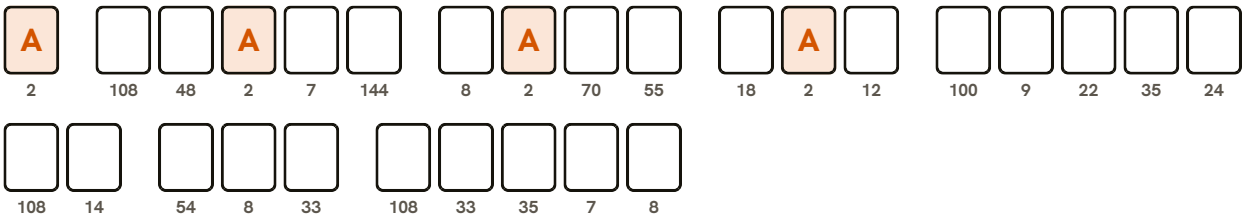


92 - 36 =		T	98 - 31 =		H	83 - 35 =		E
68 - 34 =		K	64 - 26 =		P	79 - 35 =		R
24 - 7 =		I	87 - 26 =		C	46 - 4 =		L
92 - 20 =		D	86 - 40 =		F	28 - 17 =		A
96 - 7 =		N						

Scratch space:

CLUE 4 Multiplication facts (1-12)

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



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

Scratch space:

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

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:

11 ÷ 1 = ☐	3 ÷ 1 = ☐	6 ÷ 6 = ☐
8 ÷ 4 = ☐	5 ÷ 1 = ☐	81 ÷ 9 = ☐
40 ÷ 5 = ☐	120 ÷ 10 = ☐	100 ÷ 10 = ☐
60 ÷ 10 = ☐	8 ÷ 2 = ☐	

Step 2 - cross out the sentence with each answer:

1. The villain dives across the goal, then flicks a sneaky backheel pass.
2. The villain dribbles past the whole defense, then hurls a long throw in.
3. The villain dives across the goal, then fakes out the guards.
4. The villain bends a curve shot past the keeper, then hurls a long throw in.
5. The villain leaps into a bicycle kick, then hurls a long throw in.
6. The villain bends a curve shot past the keeper, then flicks a sneaky backheel pass.
7. The villain bends a curve shot past the keeper, then fakes out the guards.
8. The villain leaps into a bicycle kick, then slides in with a tackle.
9. The villain dives across the goal, then springs off the stadium wall.
10. The villain dives across the goal, then slides in with a tackle.
11. The villain soars up for a mega header, then flicks a sneaky backheel pass.
12. The villain leaps into a bicycle kick, then fakes out the guards.

TEACHER / PARENT

Answer Key

The Case of the Stolen Golden Boot

Culprit: Ruby Save

Curve Shot · Fake Out · girl · black · ticklish

Trail: Start 21 → Clue 1 19 → Clue 2 12 → Clue 3 9 → Clue 4 4 → Clue 5 1

Clue 1 (Place value (tens & ones)): "THE VILLAIN CANNOT DO THE LONG THROW"

What number has 7 tens and 6 ones? = 76 (T) · What number has 3 tens and 0 ones? = 30 (H) · What number has 8 tens and 4 ones? = 84 (E) · What number has 8 tens and 5 ones? = 85 (V) · What number has 6 tens and 2 ones? = 62 (I) · What number has 1 ten and 5 ones? = 15 (L) · What number has 6 tens and 8 ones? = 68 (A) · What number has 7 tens and 2 ones? = 72 (N) · What number has 7 tens and 3 ones? = 73 (C) · What number has 3 tens and 1 one? = 31 (O) · What number has 9 tens and 5 ones? = 95 (D) · What number has 7 tens and 7 ones? = 77 (G) · What number has 8 tens and 0 ones? = 80 (R) · What number has 3 tens and 8 ones? = 38 (W)

Clue 2 (Addition): "A WITNESS SAW A GIRL RUN OFF THE FIELD"

38 + 18 = 56 (A) · 27 + 36 = 63 (W) · 55 + 32 = 87 (I) · 17 + 14 = 31 (T) · 29 + 16 = 45 (N) · 37 + 48 = 85 (E) · 10 + 16 = 26 (S) · 22 + 10 = 32 (G) · 34 + 62 = 96 (R) · 37 + 18 = 55 (L) · 46 + 31 = 77 (U) · 33 + 46 = 79 (O) · 8 + 16 = 24 (F) · 15 + 12 = 27 (H) · 26 + 26 = 52 (D)

Clue 3 (Subtraction): "THE KEEPER TICKLED THE THIEF AND IT FLED"

92 - 36 = 56 (T) · 98 - 31 = 67 (H) · 83 - 35 = 48 (E) · 68 - 34 = 34 (K) · 64 - 26 = 38 (P) · 79 - 35 = 44 (R) · 24 - 7 = 17 (I) · 87 - 26 = 61 (C) · 46 - 4 = 42 (L) · 92 - 20 = 72 (D) · 86 - 40 = 46 (F) · 28 - 17 = 11 (A) · 96 - 7 = 89 (N)

Clue 4 (Multiplication facts (1-12)): "A BLACK HAIR WAS FOUND BY THE BENCH"

2 × 1 = 2 (A) · 12 × 9 = 108 (B) · 8 × 6 = 48 (L) · 7 × 1 = 7 (C) · 12 × 12 = 144 (K) · 8 × 1 = 8 (H) · 7 × 10 = 70 (I) · 5 × 11 = 55 (R) · 9 × 2 = 18 (W) · 4 × 3 = 12 (S) · 10 × 10 = 100 (F) · 3 × 3 = 9 (O) · 11 × 2 = 22 (U) · 7 × 5 = 35 (N) · 8 × 3 = 24 (D) · 7 × 2 = 14 (Y) · 6 × 9 = 54 (T) · 3 × 11 = 33 (E)

Clue 5 (Division facts (1-12)): surviving statement is box 7 → Ruby Save

11 ÷ 1 = 11 · 3 ÷ 1 = 3 · 6 ÷ 6 = 1 · 8 ÷ 4 = 2 · 5 ÷ 1 = 5 · 81 ÷ 9 = 9 · 40 ÷ 5 = 8 · 120 ÷ 10 = 12 · 100 ÷ 10 = 10 · 60 ÷ 10 = 6 · 8 ÷ 2 = 4