

# Pratyush the Reading Detective: The Case of the Missing Acorn

## Materials Needed

- Printed copy of "The Case of the Missing Acorn" passage and questions (provided below)
- A pencil or pen
- A notebook or a few sheets of paper (to be the "Detective's Notebook")
- Highlighters or colored pencils (optional, for finding clues)
- A timer (optional, for a fun challenge)

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## Lesson Plan

### I. Introduction: Your Mission, Detective! (5 minutes)

#### Hook:

"Good morning, Detective Pratyush! We have a new case that needs your expert reading skills to solve. A terrible crime has happened in Sunny Meadow Park. Squeaky the Squirrel's favorite, super-special, extra-large acorn has gone missing! The only clues we have are in this short report. Your mission is to read the report carefully and use the information to solve the mystery."

#### Learning Objectives (What you'll be able to do):

- Read a short story all by yourself and understand what it's about.
- Find specific answers (clues!) inside the text to answer questions.
- Use your imagination to draw or write about what you read.

### II. Body: Gathering the Clues (15-20 minutes)

#### 1. I Do: Modeling the Detective Work (Educator demonstrates)

"Okay, Detective Pratyush. Every good detective starts by looking at the evidence. I'm going to read the first part of the report out loud and show you how I find my first clue."

*(Educator reads the first two sentences of the passage aloud.)*

"The report says: 'Squeaky the squirrel was very proud. He had found the biggest, shiniest acorn in the whole park.' Hmm, my first question is, 'What did Squeaky find?' I'm going to look right back at the text. Oh, it says right here he found 'the biggest, shiniest acorn.' That's my first clue! I'll underline it. See how the answer was right there in the story?"

#### 2. We Do: Investigating Together (Guided Practice)

"Now, let's be detective partners. Let's read the next part of the report together."

*(Educator and Pratyush read the next few sentences together: 'He buried it under the big oak tree with the crooked branch. He planned to save it for a special winter treat. When he came back an hour later, it*

was gone!')

"Okay, partner. Here's our next question: 'Where did Squeaky bury the acorn?' Let's look for clues in the sentences we just read. Can you point to the words that tell us where he buried it?"

*(Guide Pratyush to find the phrase "under the big oak tree with the crooked branch." Praise him for finding the clue.)*

"Excellent work! We make a great team. You're a natural at this."

### 3. You Do: Solving the Case! (Independent Practice)

"Detective Pratyush, I think you're ready to handle the rest of this case on your own. Your job is to read the rest of the report. Then, use your Detective's Notebook to write down the answers to the questions. Remember to look back at the report to find your evidence for each answer. The fate of the missing acorn is in your hands!"

*(Provide Pratyush with the printed passage and questions. Allow him quiet time to read and write his answers.)*

## III. Conclusion: Case Closed! (5-10 minutes)

### 1. Recap and Review

"Detective, your report is in! Let's go over the clues you found."

*(Review the answers to the questions together. For each answer, ask, "How did you know that? Show me the clue in the story.")*

"So, let's summarize the case. Who was the mystery character who took the acorn, and why did they take it?" *(Listen to his summary.)* "It wasn't a thief after all! It was just a misunderstanding."

### 2. Reinforce Takeaways

"You did an amazing job today, Detective Pratyush! What was the most important skill you used to solve this case?" *(Guide him to say "reading carefully" or "looking back at the story.")* "That's right! Reading carefully and finding evidence in the text is how all great detectives—and great readers—solve problems. You successfully closed the case!"

## Assessment & Success Criteria

- **Formative (During the lesson):**

- Did Pratyush successfully locate the clue during the "We Do" activity?
- Is he looking back at the text during the "You Do" activity, or just guessing?

- **Summative (End of lesson):**

- Pratyush correctly answers at least 3 out of the 4 written questions based on information from the text.
- His drawing or bonus sentence for question #5 accurately reflects the story's events.

- **Success Criteria:** A "case is successfully closed" when Pratyush can explain his answers by pointing to the specific sentences in the text that gave him the clue.

## Differentiation (Ways to Adapt)

- **For Support/Scaffolding:**

- Read the entire passage aloud together before he answers the questions independently.
- Give him a highlighter and ask him to highlight the answers in the text *\*before\** writing them down.
- Answer the questions verbally together instead of having him write them.

- **For Extension/Challenge:**

- Ask an inference question: "How do you think Squeaky felt when he first saw his acorn was gone? Why do you think that?"
- Ask him to write a short new scene where Squeaky and Chippy decide to share the acorn.
- Challenge him to write his own short "mystery report" about a missing toy or snack.

## Reading Passage & Questions

### The Case of the Missing Acorn

Squeaky the squirrel was very proud. He had found the biggest, shiniest acorn in the whole park. He buried it under the big oak tree with the crooked branch. He planned to save it for a special winter treat. When he came back an hour later, it was gone!

Squeaky was sad. He looked all around the tree. Suddenly, he heard a small crunching sound. He peeked around a bush and saw Chippy, a little chipmunk who was new to the park. Chippy was nibbling on a very big, very shiny acorn.

"That's my acorn!" squeaked Squeaky.

Chippy looked up, surprised. "Oh, I'm so sorry!" he said. "I saw it sitting on top of the ground and didn't know it belonged to anyone. I was so hungry. I'm new here and haven't found much food yet."

Squeaky looked at the little chipmunk. He remembered what it was like to be new and hungry. He decided that sharing with a new friend would be an even better treat than saving the acorn for winter.

### Detective Questions:

*(Write your answers in your Detective's Notebook.)*

1. What special item did Squeaky the squirrel find?
2. Where did Squeaky hide his special item?
3. Who did Squeaky find with the missing item?
4. Why did Chippy say he took the acorn?
5. **Detective's Sketch:** Draw a picture of Squeaky and Chippy at the end of the story. **OR** Write one more sentence to tell what you think they did next.