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ABOUT THIS BOOK

If you believe you need to think clearly to write so readers can understand what you have written, you'll find that *Writing Detective*® is a very helpful set of supplemental writing activities.

In *Writing Detective*®, students in Grades 3-5 act as investigative reporters writing articles for a local newspaper. To write the article, students must use higher-order thinking skills to synthesize clues they identify in the story to solve the mystery. Every activity requires students to put clues together and then evaluate the evidence to infer or deduce what happened in the story. The stories are high interest to make it easy to motivate students to do the analytical work needed to piece together the evidence and write the article.

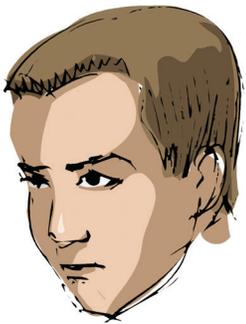
Before writing, students complete an outline detailing When, Who, What, Where, and How or Why. These fun, easy-to-use activities develop reading comprehension, higher-order thinking, and writing and organization skills. Answers for the Reading Comprehension questions and outline and article sample answers are provided. There is a simple scoring rubric to make grading easier.

Read the story below and then answer the outline questions. All the statements in the story are true.

The Skateboard Thief

¹Today, the city of Billings arrested one of the four boys shown below for stealing Greg Sabin's skateboard. ²The theft took place yesterday. ³Sabin had his skateboard stolen just before noon outside a bicycle store in Billings where he had gone to buy a part for his bicycle. ⁴Sabin said that after he bought the bicycle part, he went outside for his skateboard, but it was gone. ⁵He looked around and saw a boy skating away down the street on his skateboard. ⁶Sabin said the boy looked to be about five feet tall with darkish brown or black hair, a bright colored short sleeve shirt, and a watch. ⁷Police found Sabin's skateboard in the home where the arrest was made. ⁸A spokesperson for the police said they were happy to catch the thief since they don't get a lot of skateboard thefts in Montana.

The Four Suspects



Ian Bream
"I was in Billings yesterday for basketball practice. The coach loves my 6'2 height!"



Taylor Helm
"I was in Billings today sometime around noon, but I don't know exactly when because my shirt sleeve covers my watch."



Bryce Edwards
"I was in Billings today until 10:30 a.m. I'm about 60 inches tall."



Raul Cabrera
"I was in town today around lunchtime."

Outline

Fill out the writing outline to help you write a short article for the newspaper explaining what happened in the story. Your article must identify who was the thief, but it doesn't have to explain how you figured it out.

1. **When** did this story happen? _____

2. **Where** did this story happen? _____

3. **Who** are the important characters in this story? _____

4. **What** happened to these important characters in this story? _____

5. Explain **why** or **how** this happened to the characters. _____
