The Case of the Missing Socks



Read the story. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

Socks kept disappearing at the Novak house. First Dad lost a blue one, and then Grandpa lost a striped one. By Thursday, Wes had only one sock left from each of his pairs, so he decided to solve the case himself. He borrowed his mom's reading glasses, because he thought they made him look like a real detective, and he wrote "Suspects" at the top of a page in his notebook.

His first suspect was the washing machine, since Grandpa said that washing machines ate socks all the time. Wes sat in front of the machine for a whole load and watched every sock tumble around, but not one of them disappeared. His second suspect was his big sister, Petra. "Why would I want your smelly socks?" she asked, holding her nose, and Wes had to admit that she had a point.

That night, Wes heard a soft jingle in the hallway and peeked out of his room. Biscuit, the family's new puppy, was trotting by with a red sock in her mouth! Wes tiptoed after her into the laundry room, and there, behind the dryer, was Biscuit's secret nest, made of twenty-three socks, one slipper and Dad's missing tie.

The next morning, Wes read his report aloud at breakfast, and everyone laughed, even Dad. Then Mom bought Biscuit a squeaky toy shaped like a sock. Wes closed his notebook after writing one last line: "Case closed."

1. **What problem did the Novak family have?**

2. **Wes wrote "Suspects" at the top of a page. What is a suspect, and which words help you tell?**

3. **In what order did Wes check his suspects, and who turned out to be taking the socks?**

4. **Why do you think Mom bought Biscuit a squeaky toy shaped like a sock?**

Answer key

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1. What problem did the Novak family have?
   Their socks kept disappearing.

2. Wes wrote “Suspects” at the top of a page. What is a suspect, and which words help you tell?
   Someone or something that might have done it, here the sock thief. The clues are “solve the case” and that the washing machine and Petra are each called a suspect before Wes checks them.

3. In what order did Wes check his suspects, and who turned out to be taking the socks?
   First the washing machine, then his sister, Petra. Then he followed Biscuit, the new puppy, who had a nest of socks behind the dryer.

4. Why do you think Mom bought Biscuit a squeaky toy shaped like a sock?
   Sample answer: so Biscuit would have her own sock-like toy to carry around and would stop taking the family’s real socks.