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Nonfiction

Caught by the Teeth

A man robbed a grocery store in Texas. The thief and the money he took were long gone by the time the police arrived and searched the store. But the police did find something he had left behind: a piece of the store's cheese that the thief had had taken a bite of.

The police used the cheese as evidence. They took the cheese to a forensic dentist. A forensic dentist is a special type of dentist who identifies criminals and victims by their teeth or bite marks. The dentist matched the bite marks on the cheese to one of the police's suspect. The thief was caught because of what the cheese told!

Another time, a piece of gum was found at a crime scene. The gum was chewed. The police did not know if the gum was evidence, but just in case, they took it to a forensic dentist. The dentist used the gum to make a mold. The mold showed what the gum chewer's teeth looked like.

The police had picked up a suspect. The police compared the forensic dentist's mold to the suspect's teeth. It was a match! It proved that the suspect was at the crime scene. What did the suspect do when he was shown the evidence? He confessed to the crime.

Fiction

Mr. Gem's Story

"We just got a phone call," said the police captain. "Mr. Gem's jewelry store is being robbed! Get down there!"

Police Officers Diamond and Pearl raced to the store. Broken glass was everywhere. They heard a sound in the back. They followed the sound and found Mr. Gem. They had not seen him because he was lying on the floor behind the counter. He was all tied up.

After the police officers freed him, Mr. Gem cried out, "They have taken all my jewels!" Officers Diamond and Pearl asked Mr. Gem to tell them exactly what happened.

Mr. Gem said, "Two men in gray suits came in. The biggest one ordered me to lie down behind the counter so I couldn't see what was going on. As he was tying me up, I heard his partner smashing the glass on the display cases. I could tell his partner was enjoying himself because he was grinning widely, showing his giant white teeth. Oh, I hope you catch those horrible thieves!"

Officer Diamond said, "Mr. Gem, we will arrest you to start with."

"Why would you arrest me?" cried Mr. Gem.

"If you were behind the counter and couldn't see," said Officer Pearl, "you would not have known the man was smiling and showing his teeth when he smashed the display cases."

Practice 4 – Questions

Directions: Fill in the bubble next to each correct answer.

1. A forensic dentist would not be able to identify criminals if

- ☐ (A) people's teeth were all the same.
 - ☐ (B) people did not confess to crimes.
 - ☐ (C) people left more evidence behind.
 - ☐ (D) people stopped chewing gum or eating cheese.
-

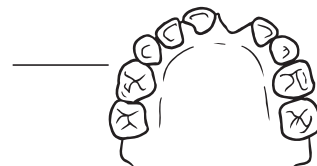
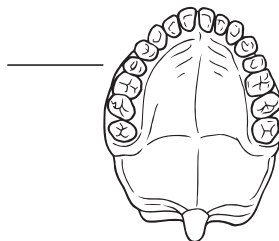
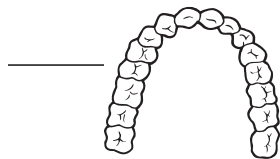
2. How did police officers Diamond and Pearl know where to find Mr. Gem?

- ☐ (A) They followed the broken glass.
 - ☐ (B) They heard a sound in the back.
 - ☐ (C) They saw Mr. Gem behind the counter.
 - ☐ (D) They got a phone call from the captain.
-

3. Mr. Gem became a _____ because of what he said he saw.

- ☐ (A) victim
 - ☐ (B) dentist
 - ☐ (C) suspect
 - ☐ (D) evidence
-

4. Do the work of a forensic dentist. Match the bite marks to the teeth. Write the letter on the line.



5. List in order what happens in the story. Use the numbers 1 to 5. Put “1” by what happened first. Put “5” by what happened last.

- _____ Mr. Gem is found.
- _____ Police officers go to jewelry store.
- _____ Police say they will arrest Mr. Gem.
- _____ Police are called.
- _____ Mr. Gem talks about thieves.



Nonfiction

The Sphinx's Riddle

Sophocles was a Greek playwright who wrote about 123 plays during his lifetime. Sophocles lived a very long time ago. He was born in the year 496 BCE, and he died in the year 406 BCE.

Sophocles put a famous riddle in one of his plays. Some people think it is the most famous riddle in history. The riddle is asked by a sphinx. The sphinx is a creature from a myth. It is part woman and part lion.

In the play, the sphinx is guarding the gate to the ancient city of Thebes. The sphinx would ask the riddle of every traveler who passed by. If the traveler did not know the answer, the sphinx would eat him. If, on the other hand, a traveler knew the answer, the sphinx would be destroyed. The riddle goes like this: What goes on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, and on three legs in the evening?

Do you know the answer to the most famous riddle in history? The answer is a man. A man crawls on all fours as a baby. He walks on two legs as an adult. He walks with a cane in his old age.

Fiction

Riddle Day

Ms. McGregor smiled at her class. She asked, "Class, what goes up the chimney down but can't go down the chimney up?" The students grinned at Ms. McGregor's question. They knew that even though it sounded as if Ms. McGregor was not making sense, she was. This was because it was Riddle Day. Riddle Day was on the third Tuesday of every month. Ms. McGregor always asked puzzling, but fun, questions on Riddle Day.

Chung knew the answer: it was an umbrella. An umbrella could go up a chimney while it was down. An umbrella could not go down a chimney when it was up.

"What is it that the more you take away, the larger it becomes?" asked Ms. McGregor. Hailey knew the answer: it was a hole.

"What is it that you will break even as you name it?" asked Ms. McGregor. The class was silent while all the students thought about the puzzling riddle.

Then Janelle figured out the answer. She broke the silence to answer: "Silence," she cried!

"What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?" Ms. McGregor asked after telling the class that this was her final riddle.

It was Braxton who knew the answer. "It's the letter 'm,'" he said.

Practice 17 – Questions

Directions: Fill in the bubble next to each correct answer.

1. In the sphinx’s riddle, “evening” meant

- ☐ (A) the time when one is a baby. ☐ (C) the time when one is an adult.
☐ (B) the time when one is a teenager. ☐ (D) the time when one is old.

2. From the stories, you can tell that

- ☐ (A) all playwrights tell riddles.
☐ (B) the best plays have riddles in them.
☐ (C) riddles have been told for many years.
☐ (D) the sphinx would have eaten the students.

3. If the sphinx asked the students in Ms. McGregor’s class, “What is yours, but others use it more than you do?” what would the children most likely answer?

- ☐ (A) your eyes ☐ (C) your name
☐ (B) your ears ☐ (D) your nose

4. Fill in the chart about the legs the sphinx was referring to in its riddle.

Time	How Many	What They Are
morning		
noon		
evening		

**5. Look at the picture to the right.
Which story does it show?**

- ☐ (A) “The Sphinx’s Riddle”
☐ (B) “Riddle Day”

