

The Case of the Battered Bike

Finally it was Friday afternoon. Detective Bree Cody leaned back in her chair and stretched. Then she reached for her cup of tea and returned to work.

Suddenly a high-pitched wail cut through the silence. Cody looked up to see a small, blond girl. Her face was screwed up in a grimace and she was yelling at the top of her lungs. Detective Cody noticed the girl's muddy sneakers and freshly bandaged knee. The child clung tightly to her mother's hand.

Mrs. Armstrong marched up to Cody's desk and shouted, "Our neighbor Tony Rizzo stole Juanita's brand-new bike while she was playing in the park! What are you going to do about it?"

Bree grabbed her old, frayed Cubs cap and set it on her head. "Let's go to the park," she said calmly. "Juanita can show me exactly what happened."

When they arrived at the park, Juanita led her mother and the detective to the swings. "I was playing on the swings," she explained. "My bike was parked at the end of this row." Bree carefully inspected the gravel around the swings to see if she could find any evidence of tire tracks. She found none.

"The last time you saw your bike, it was parked here?" Bree inquired.

"Well, no," Juanita sniffed. "I saw Tony Rizzo take my bike and ride it out of the park a few minutes before Mom came to pick me up." The girl began weeping again.

As the three of them continued searching the park, they found Juanita's bike stuck in the mud by the duck pond. The front wheel was twisted and bent. Bree saw a set of small sneaker prints in the mud leading away from the bike.

The detective said, "Juanita, no one stole your bike."

Bree knew who wrecked Juanita's bike. Do you?



Name _____

Were You Listening?

Questions: The Case of the Battered Bike

1. Who wrecked Juanita's bike? _____

2. What did Cody notice about the girl? _____

3. Name the boy Juanita accused of stealing her bike.

4. Who was Mrs. Armstrong? _____
5. How do you know Mrs. Armstrong was angry? _____

6. Why did Bree inspect the gravel? _____

7. Where did Detective Cody find the bike? _____

8. How do you think Juanita got the mud on her sneakers?

9. What did the mud on Juanita's sneakers prove?

10. Why do you think Juanita lied? _____

