

JUNIOR DETECTIVE FILE

Everything a Cobble Lane detective needs. Print it. Solve it. Keep it secret.

So you want to join the Finch Detective Agency. Good. We are short-staffed (it is currently a nine-year-old, an eight-year-old, and a cat who claims he was famous in Paris). Inside this file: a coded message only real agents can crack, a genuine case to solve, and your official membership card. Sharpen a pencil. Trust your radar. And remember Rule One — every clue matters, even the boring ones.

THE AGENCY RULES

RULE ONE · Every clue matters, especially the boring ones.

RULE TWO · Cookies are evidence.

RULE THREE · Evidence may be eaten after the case.

RULE FOUR · No mysteries involving spiders.

RULE FIVE · Being right is nicer when you are also kind about it.

> cut out your official card

FINCH DETECTIVE AGENCY

JUNIOR ASSOCIATE · COBBLE LANE

NAME: _____

SPECIALITY: _____

Payment accepted in cookies, trading cards, or favours.

M&O

THE CODED MESSAGE

Oskey's letters are always in code. So are ours.

Real agents talk in code so the wrong ears can't listen in. This one uses the oldest trick there is: every letter is just its place in the alphabet.

A = 1, B = 2, C = 3 ... all the way to Z = 26.

Work out each word, then read the whole thing. The last word is a SECRET WORD — type it into the free Case Files game to unlock the hidden files.

THE MESSAGE:

20-8-5 19-15-14-7 9-19 1 11-5-25

(five words — fill the blanks underneath each group)

THE SECRET WORD:

16-1-18-9-19

DECODER STRIP

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5	F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10	K=11	L=12	M=13
N=14	O=15	P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20	U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25	Z=26

AGENT BONUS

Cracked the secret word? Open the free Case Files game, tap ENTER SECRET CODE, and type it in to unlock the classified files. Oskey will pretend he isn't impressed.

CASE FILE No. 1

A fair-play mystery. Everything you need is on the page.

THE CASE OF THE LAST COOKIE

Somebody has eaten the last cookie from the tin marked EVIDENCE. There are three suspects in the shed: BAZ, the TANAKA TWIN, and OSKY the cat. Marlow found four clues. Read them, cross out who it can't be, and name the culprit.

THE CLUES

1. There are crumbs on the windowsill — up high, where only someone who can climb or jump could reach.
2. Baz spent the whole afternoon with both hands full of a melting snowball.
3. The tin lid was nudged off, not lifted — no thumbs were used.
4. The Tanaka twin is allergic to raisins, and these were raisin cookies.

THE SUSPECTS (cross out who it cannot be)

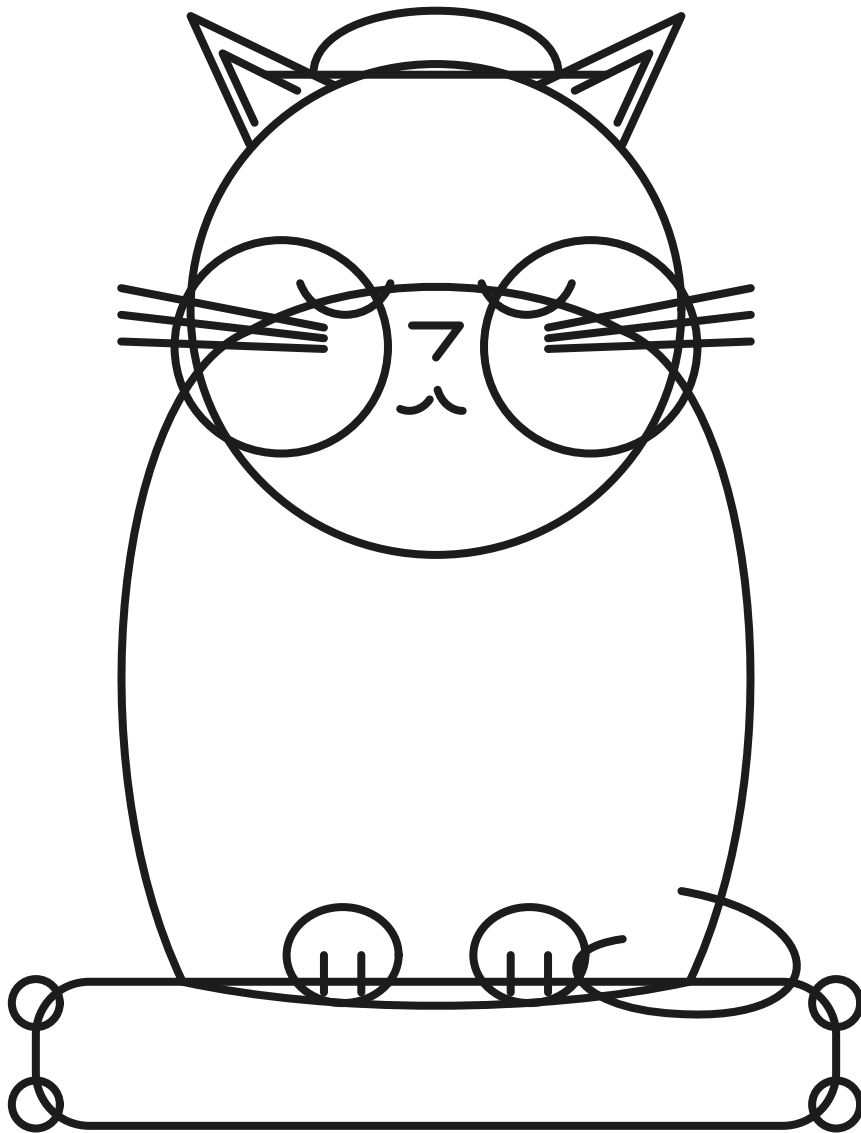
BAZ*guilty? / cleared?***TANAKA TWIN***guilty? / cleared?***OSKY***guilty? / cleared?***THE CULPRIT IS:** _____

How did you know? Write your reasoning like a real detective:

ANSWER: Osky. Clue 2 clears Baz (hands full); clue 4 clears the twin (raisins); clues 1 & 3 point to someone who climbs and has no thumbs — the cat.

COLOUR IN OSKY

The most celebrated cat detective in Paris. Allegedly.



"In Paris," he said, "we were colourful."