

The Sticky Case of Chuckles the Clown

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with contributions by Jack Pachuta



An interactive mystery game for preteens (approx 10-13 years old).

Here's how to organize the investigation:

1.) Assign the roles on pages 8-15 to 8 kids (4 girls and 4 boys.) The others become private investigators hired by the Arcade Company to solve the case.

No memorization is required because the individual suspects have notes with the answers to the questions that they will be asked. Everyone is involved in solving the crime since no one knows the correct solution.

2.) Read "Chuckles Comes to Town," on page 2 out loud to everyone.

3.) Read "The Rules of the Game" on page 3 out loud to everyone.

4.) Make enough copies of pages 4-7 to give to each child. Page 4 provides information about what happened last night when Chuckles was "killed." The suspects and the investigators can use pages 5 and 6 to make notes. Page 7 must be filled in with the correct answers. If you want to, you can staple these pages to pieces of cardboard to make "clipboards" for everyone.

5.) Tell the kids to talk with each other to find out what everyone else knows about the crime. If you want to, you can organize this, or you can simply let everyone do whatever they want to do to gather information.

6.) When time is up (you can decide how much time to give), gather everyone together and ask them, one at a time, to answer the first three questions.

7.) Read the solution to the case on pages 16 and 17. The investigator who gave the best answers is the "Super Sleuth." You may want to award a prize for this honor.

Playing Time: *About 45 minutes - 1 hour*

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CHUCKLES COMES TO TOWN

Everyone remembers the day that life turned upside down in the little town of Eyestrain Falls. Until that day everything was in perfect order. The young people read their books, did their homework, helped with chores and had the state's best football team. All of this ended when Chuckles the Clown came to town.

Chuckles was an arcade video game. Oh, but this was not just any video game. It was absolutely, positively, the most challenging and fun game ever invented. Kids stood in long lines just waiting for a chance to drop in their quarters and grip Chuckles' controls. Bevy Ridge, the owner of the soda fountain where Chuckles was located, saw a great increase in the number of kids coming to her shop. Unfortunately, they were spending all their money on the game and none on ice cream. Bevy began to think she had made a terrible mistake in getting the game. As she was under contract with the Arcade Company, however, there was nothing she could do but keep Chuckles in the shop.

It didn't take long for the town to grow unhappy with Chuckles. Kids were no longer reading, homework papers were late, chores were not being done and the football team didn't show up for practice. All this was only the beginning of the complaints. More than one person was heard to say, "We have to do something about that game."

Well now, apparently, someone has taken a most criminal action. Chuckles has been completely destroyed. Last night, someone dumped gooey syrup all over Chuckles' insides. He is totally ruined. Wishing to see justice done, the Arcade Company, has hired private investigators to find the culprit.

Everyone who had anything to do with Chuckles is under suspicion until the true criminal has been uncovered. So, to clear their good names, the eight suspects have chosen to help with the investigation. One thing is clear. One of the suspects is guilty of destroying Chuckles the Clown. It only remains for someone to discover who did it.

Good luck to the private investigators as well as the suspects of Eyestrain Falls.



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 <p>Notes about Rob Banks</p>	 <p>Notes about Bevy Ridge</p>
 <p>Notes about Miss N. Brooks</p>	 <p>Notes about Al Thumbs</p>

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Rob Banks *Policeman*

You are a suspect. Always tell the truth when people ask you questions.

Who are you? I am the policeman in Eyestrain Falls. The job doesn't pay very well but I enjoy the town and really like this part of town because I like to read and I like to eat ice cream sundaes at the soda fountain. I think both the librarian and the soda fountain lady are kind of sweet on me because I get my ice cream free and never get charged for over due books.

Is there anything we should know about your past? Well, I don't like to talk about it but I did do some bad things when I was younger. I used to breaking into banks. I would rather no one knew because my goal is to join the FBI and they would hold my past against me. I spent time in jail and paid for my crimes but I don't know if people are willing to forgive my past. That's why I came to Eyestrain Falls to hide out. I was sure surprised when my old partner showed up. He is hiding, too and has begged me not to tell anyone who he is. I won't tell as long as he keeps paying me money to keep quiet. Some people call that blackmail.

Do you have any special skills or hobbies? breaking into banks, reading books and eating ice cream sundaes, no.

Did you dislike Chuckles the Clown? I sure did. He caused a lot of problems for me.

Why did you dislike Chuckles the Clown? I didn't like Chuckles because the kids were always coming into the soda fountain and playing the game. Very often they would get rowdy and then I would have to go to work and make them behave. While I was doing that, my ice cream would melt. If it wasn't for Chuckles, I could eat my ice cream in peace.

Where were you last night? First, I went to the library to check out a book about stain removal, then I stopped at the soda fountain for a sundae at 9p.m. Bevy Ridge always treats me really well when I come into the soda fountain. I'm thinking of asking her to the big dance that's coming up, but I'm a little shy. Later, I was making my rounds and met my old partner to collect my money. I don't care to tell you where we met. If you talk to my partner, he might tell you. After I finished my rounds at 11p.m. I came back to see if the soda fountain was open so I could get another sundae but it was locked up.

This morning I have been looking at the scene of the crime. I found that the window was closed and the front door was wide open.

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