



The Rocking Case of The Missing Music

by Andrew West
with contributions from Jack Pachuta

4 boys and 4 girls are suspects: ages 12 thru 15

Here's how to organize the investigation:

Before the party:

1. Print off one copy of the suspect roles (pages 8 - 15).
2. Print off enough copies of the notes and answer sheet (pages 4 - 6) so that everyone who is investigating the mystery has a set. You can, at your discretion, make "clipboards" by stapling these pages to sheets of cardboard.
3. Post the Diagram (page 7) where everyone can see it.
4. Print off the solution (page 16) and keep it hidden.

At the party:

1. Assign the roles to four boys and four girls. Everybody else becomes private investigators hired to solve the case. No information needs to be memorized because each suspect has notes containing the answers to questions.
2. Read "Guitar Stolen!" and "Rules of the Game" (pages 2 & 3) out loud to everyone.
3. Distribute the notes and answer sheets to the investigators. The investigators will need to make notes to collect information. If the suspects are investigating the crime, they'll also need clipboards.
4. Tell everyone to talk with each other to find out what is known about the crime. You can organize this if you want to, or you can just let it happen.
5. When time's up (or after an hour or so) gather everybody together and, one at a time, ask them the questions on the answer sheet.
6. Read the solution to the crime. You may want to award a prize to the person who comes closest to the correct answers.



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Guitar Stolen!

At the end of every school year, Rolling Hills High School holds a music concert. Students and teachers can perform, and there's always a special guest. There was huge controversy when it was revealed that The Screaming Pixies had been booked to appear. The students love them, but their loud rock music isn't very popular with the parents.

To make matters worse, the previous week the Screaming Pixies sacked their lead guitarist, Screech Holler, and replaced him with Striker Chord, who previously played rhythm guitar. Screech immediately declared himself a solo artist.

Mrs. Trends, the school principal, had made all the arrangements with Screech personally, so had no choice but to book both performers for the concert - she couldn't let the students down, after all. This only added to the concerns, and the local newspaper, the Herald, sent one of its reporters to cover the event.

The school was buzzing on the day of the concert, and everybody was waiting for the concert to begin at 2:30.

Then, at 1:30, an announcement was made over the school loudspeakers:

"This afternoon's concert has been postponed. Please remain in your classrooms."

Word quickly spread that Striker's fabled guitar, the Gray Ghost, had been stolen!

The last confirmed sighting of the guitar was at 12:00 and the discovery was made just after 1:00 - something happened to it in that hour. Mrs. Trends has called in a team of investigators to get to the bottom of the mystery. There are eight obvious suspects, and one or more of them must be guilty. Time is of the essence!



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Notes about Riff Strummer



Notes about Bambi Eyes



Notes about Screech Holler



Notes about Pearl Cushion



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Pearl Cushion

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

Who are you?

I'm Pearl Cushion, I play the drums in the Screaming Pixies. I can't believe this has happened! Those poor kids. I know they were really looking forward to seeing us play. I'm hoping we can talk Striker into using a different guitar. I know that Screech has a nice one with him, but I doubt he'd let us use it.

What have you done since noon today?

We arrived at about 11:30 and were practicing in classroom 12G for half an hour. We made sure everything was in tune. Then the principal walked in. She was really angry about something and told us to go to her office, so we did. She made us sit down and then gave us a lecture on good behavior. To cut a long story short, Principal Trends told us to not to cause any trouble, especially with that reporter sniffing around.

The school doesn't need any bad press, she said. We were really glad to get out of there! I grabbed my coat from the van, and then went to the lunch room. Unfortunately, Screech walked in and Heat just couldn't help himself! They started shouting at each other and I left - I'm not getting in trouble just because they can't control their tempers! I found a quiet hallway and phoned my parents, just to talk. That took about twenty minutes and I felt better afterwards - it was nice to get away from people for a while.

Who would want to steal the guitar?

I hate to say it, but I'd look at Bambi if I were you. She has a real bad temper. I was there once when her Mom said she couldn't come to our next concert. She got very angry! Striker was rude to her in the lunch room today and she stormed off. I thought you should know.

Did you and Screech meet up in town?

Yes, we did. Please don't tell Heat! I just felt sorry for Screech.

How could the hallway have been quiet when the bell went off?

Oh yes, that did happen. I forgot all about that!

Screech said to ask you about the glitter?

He did? Oh, I guess I'd best tell you everything. Screech talked me into doing something to Heat. We met in the parking lot and he gave me a hug. Some of the glitter from his stupid jacket must have rubbed off. He caused a distraction in the lunch room and I went into Mrs. Trends's office and got the keys. We didn't steal the guitar, though! Screech wanted to cut the strings, but I changed my mind and wouldn't let him do it. I told Screech he should get even by writing better songs, and I forced him out of the room. I guess we forgot to lock the door again, but nobody would have known that, would they? How could they?



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