

A Disastrous Birthday Party Mystery

By Caleb Devitt

An interactive mystery game
(Approx. 10-13 years old)

Here's how to organize the investigation:

Before the party:

1. Print off one copy of the suspect roles (pages 8-16).
2. Print off enough copies of the notes, diagram and answer sheet (pages 4-7) 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. Print off the solution (pages 17-18) and keep it hidden.

At the party:

1. Assign the roles to eight suspects. 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 "Birthday Disaster!" 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 events, they'll also need clipboards.
4. Tell the kids to talk with each other to find out what everyone knows about the events. You can organize this if you want to, or you can just let it happen.
5. When time's up (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 came closest to the correct answers.

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The Birthday Disaster!

Today was the very special birthday of one Beatrice Day (everyone calls her Bea). Birthdays may come around every year, but every single one is special, and this was going to be a great one! With all her closest friends, a bunch of party games, and a whole heap of presents to unwrap, Bea was sure this was going to be the best birthday ever!

But what should have been a perfect day soon turned to disaster. For as the birthday clown, Cassie, finished up her performance, the party moved to the backyard, where the presents were kept. But instead of a neatly stacked collection of gifts in beautiful wrapping paper, the presents were smashed, torn up, and scattered everywhere! Not a single gift was left untouched!

Nobody has left the party yet, so whoever did this is still here. Everybody was meant to stay in the front yard throughout the party, the backyard with the presents and the house (except the bathroom of course) were off limits, so the perpetrator could have snuck off to commit the crime at any point.

Now it's time for a team of professional investigators (you) to gather the clues and piece together what happened. Could this be the work of a jealous friend or rival? Maybe someone who wanted to teach Bea a lesson? Could there be some evil force at work, or is there a more harmless explanation for this tragedy? Only you can find out.

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Be sure to ask:

1. What did you think of the party?
2. Did you see anyone acting suspicious?
3. Where were you before the disaster was discovered?
4. What do you think of the other guests?



Notes about
Beatrice Day



Notes about
Emily Foster



Notes about
Patty Craschin



Notes about
Natalie Vasquez

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Beatrice Day

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

What did you think of the party? How do you think? Someone ruined my birthday and destroyed all my presents! This is the worst birthday ever!

Did you see anyone acting suspiciously? Well, I did see that Patty was here, which is definitely suspicious since she definitely wasn't invited. I watched her duck around the side of the house during the piñata game. I tried to go find her during the scavenger hunt so I could tell her to leave since she wasn't invited, but I didn't see where she went.

Where were you just before the disaster was discovered? Well, I was watching the clown show just beforehand, which was alright I guess. Then before that was the scavenger hunt, when I was trying to find Patty but couldn't. And before that I was just playing games with everyone else.

What do you think of the other guests? Well, I like the ones that were actually invited. I don't know why Patty is here, but I would bet my next ten birthday wishes she's up to no good. *Gasp* Do you think she did this?

***Do you and Patty not get along?** Of course not! She's a vandal and a villain! We've been at war for years, ever since she ruined my Lil' Diva doll when we were younger. It was a special edition beach model too, and I'll never forgive her for it.

***Do you have any pets?** Does my sister Summer count? She's like a big smelly pet baboon. No? Then no.

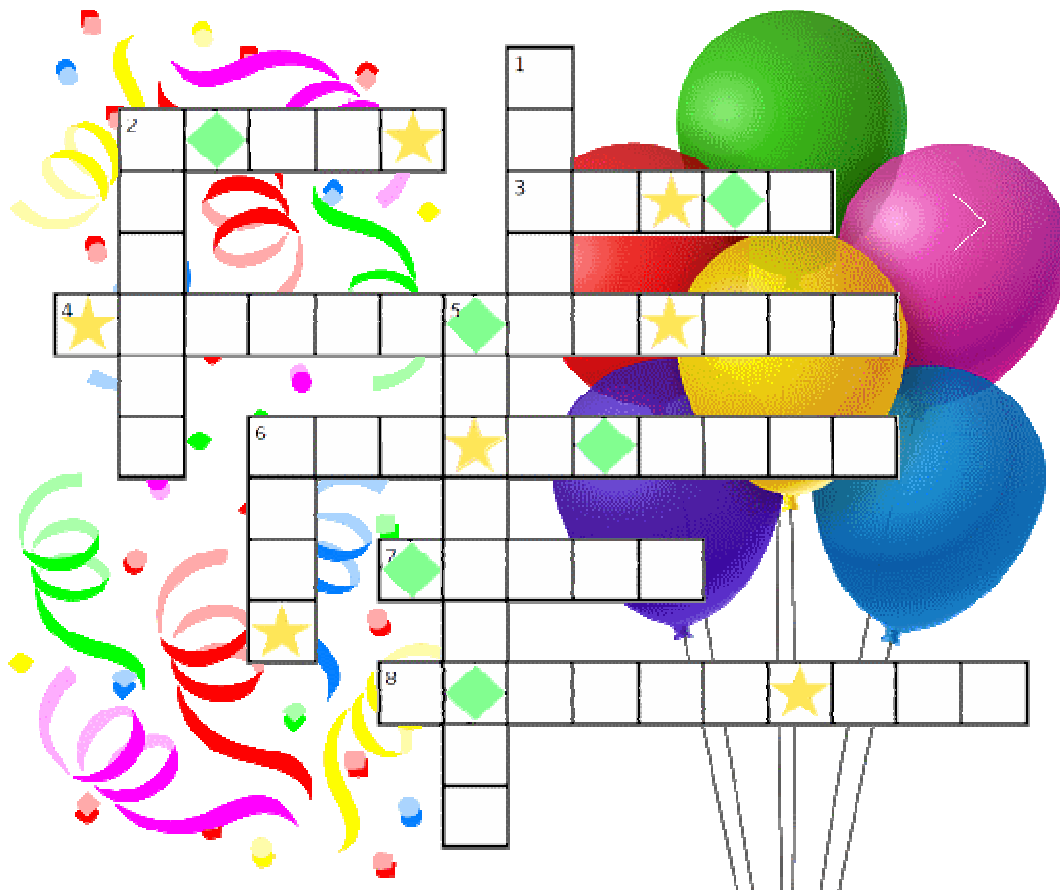
***Why have you been throwing a tantrum all week/What present were you not going to get this year?** Well, it's not fair! Mom said when I was old enough I could have a puppy, but she still won't let me have one! Summer got a phone when she was my age, why can't I have a puppy?

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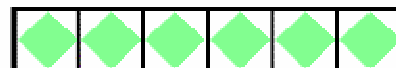
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Crossword of Clues

(a detective's best friend)



BONUS: Unscramble the corresponding letters to reveal an extra hint that relates to the identity of the culprit!



Down:

1. The present Beatrice wants the most
2. What Mrs. Vasquez thought she heard in the house
5. What Patty came to the party to do
6. Type of present Patty got for Bea

Across:

2. Cassie's profession
3. What Summer got for her special birthday
4. Something Natalie has never been to before
6. Emily's favorite part of the party
7. What Cassie and Mrs. Day were arguing about
8. What Mrs. Vasquez thinks Bea needs more of

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For the rest of the story
Please close this document to return to the website:
www.KidsMysteryParty.com
Complete the checkout process where your customized story
will cost \$39.97

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Bonus Pages

Suspect List
Crossword Puzzle Solution
Customized Party Invitation
Extravaganza Itinerary
Scavenger Hunt Checklist
Certificate of Sleuthing