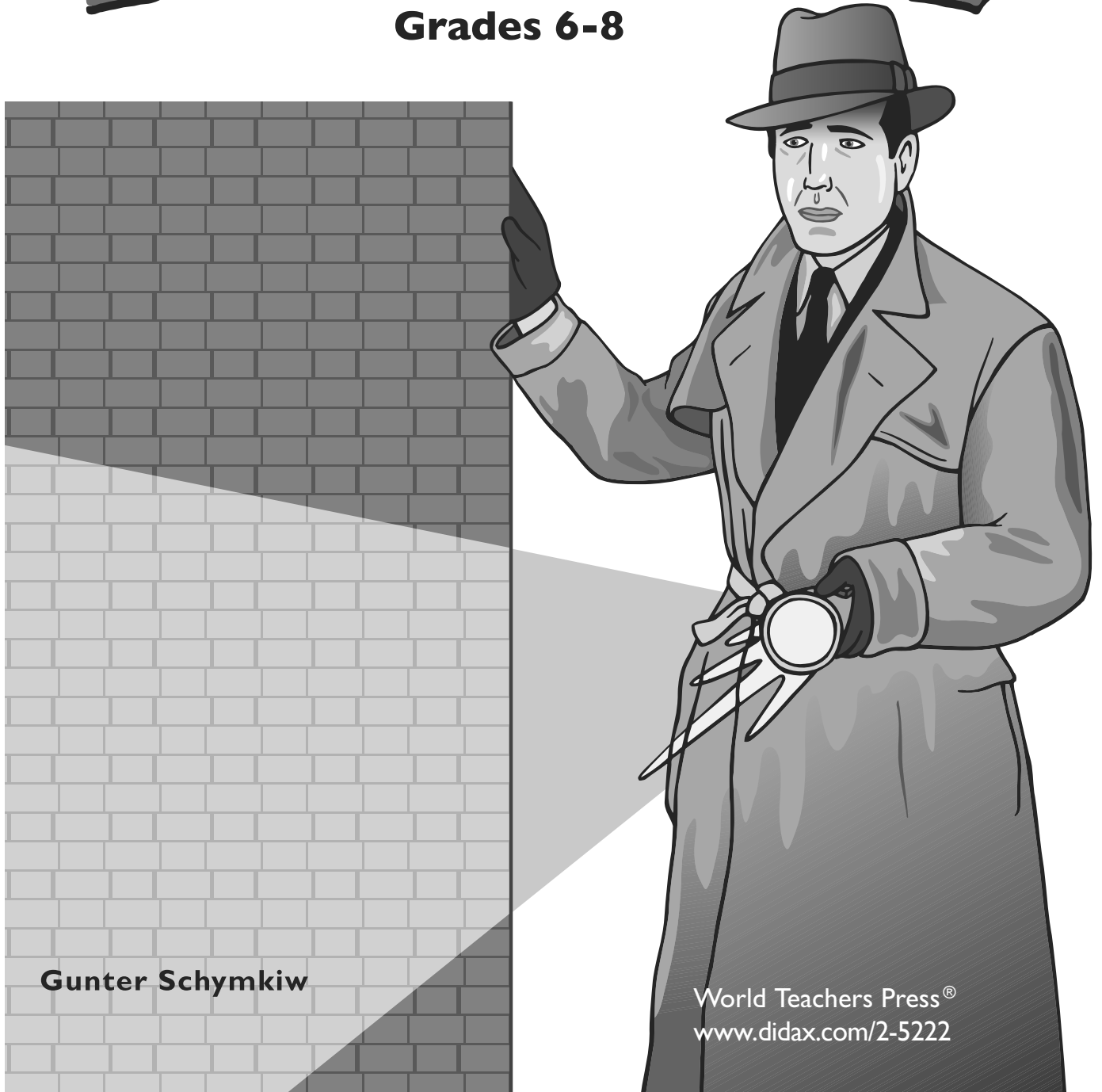


COMPREHENSION DETECTIVE

Grades 6-8



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Foreword

The *Comprehension Detective* series offers students opportunities to think critically, logically, and creatively to solve problems.

Each problem-solving activity is in the context of a short mystery story which students should find both challenging and stimulating as they are put in the situation of being a detective whose task is to solve a crime.

To do this they must gather information by responding accurately to a series of text-related questions. From the information collected, they are required to make connections and draw logical conclusions to solve each short mystery.

While the main focus of the activities is thinking logically or creatively within the literary framework, various other learning areas are covered.

Students will respond with enthusiasm to the challenges presented to them in this book.



Also available in this series:

Comprehension Detective , Grades 3 to 5

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The Rich Man's Lawns

Policewoman Corrine Lavis looked in wonder at the closely cut lawns of “Plush Acres,” the country retreat of wealthy businessman, Rinaldo Voysey.

The front lawn was about the size of five football fields and the grass was like a beautiful green carpet after two days of steady, soaking rain.

“Boy, would I like to live in a place like this!” thought the policewoman. She had come to investigate complaints from Voysey about the racehorse trainer, Natasha Payne.

There was bad blood between Ms. Payne and Voysey. She had trained for him but refused to cooperate when he asked her to throw races with a few of his horses. Voysey was as ruthless in his play as he was in business. When she didn’t go along with him he’d fired her. This made life hard for her. She’d borrowed plenty of money to move her training establishment closer to Plush Acres and to upgrade it so it could accommodate over a hundred horses. Then he’d pulled the rug from under her by transferring his team of seventy horses to another trainer.

At last, Policewoman Lavis reached the huge oak doors. She was ushered inside and introduced to Voysey.

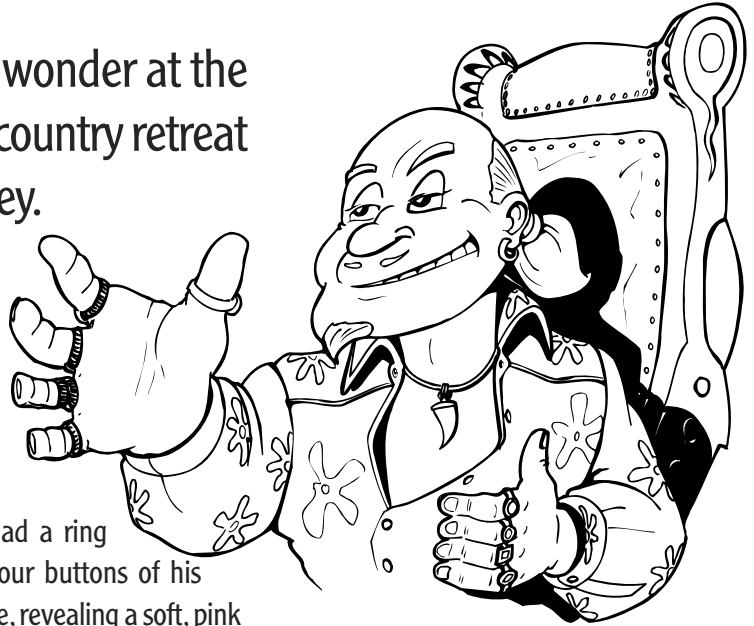
He sat in a big leather chair but looked gaudy rather than wealthy. He was a man of about fifty who liked to advertise his wealth. Each of his short,

stubby fingers had a ring on it. The top four buttons of his shirt were undone, revealing a soft, pink chest and a shark’s tooth necklace. He smelled of cheap perfume and his long, grey hair was tied back in a ponytail.

“Well, sir, you certainly have a lovely place here. Those beautiful, smooth lawns must cost a fortune to maintain. They look like a giant billiard table.”

“It’s about dem dat I wanna talk to you about,” he croaked from the corner of his mouth. He was not a learned man. But when you run the markets in a big city like Harleyville, people get to understand what you mean, even if it isn’t out of some grammar textbook.

“Hey, how come dey sent a girl? Okay, I unnerstand. Equal rights and all that stuff. It’s about dat creep, Payne. She’s never forgiven me for giving her the boot. Ha! She couldn’t train a monkey to eat bananas! Anyway, she keeps galloping dem slow nags she trains across my lawns. I ain’t done nuttin’ yet but she’s askin’ fer trouble, she is.”



“When did she do this?” asked the young policewoman.

“Since I made one of me best decisions and gave her marching orders as my trainer. Why the last time she done it was just an hour ago.”

Policewoman Lavis looked at Voysey's lawns.

“I think you must be stretching the truth a bit, Mr. Voysey,” she said. “In fact, I wouldn’t be surprised if this whole story isn’t just a petty way of getting revenge on Ms. Payne.” 🗨️

You, the Comprehension Detective, must find out why Policewoman Lavis did not believe Voysey's story.

— Pastures Available —
Ample grazing on Plush Acres
508 555 5555

1. Write short answers to the questions below.

(a) What was the name of Rinaldo Voysey's country retreat? _____

(b) How big was the front lawn? _____

(c) What did the grass look like? _____

(d) What had the weather been like? _____

(e) What was Natasha Payne's job? _____

(f) Voysey asked Natasha "throw races" with some of his racehorses. What do you think this means?

(g) Why had Natasha Payne borrowed a lot of money? _____

(h) How did Voysey get back at Natasha Payne when she didn't go along with his plans?

(i) What hung around Voysey's neck? _____

(j) Describe Voysey's hair. _____

(k) What business was Voysey in? _____

(l) What did Voysey say about Natasha Payne's ability as a racehorse trainer?

(m) What did Voysey claim Payne had been doing to get back at him?

(n) When was the most recent time that she had supposedly done this?



2. (a) Voysey is described as appearing "gaudy."
Write the dictionary definition of this word.

(b) Voysey is described as not being "learned."
Write the dictionary definition of this word.

3. In a few sentences tell why Policewoman Lavis did not believe Voysey's story. Answer in one or more sentences.

