

The Lunchbox Mystery



A Story for A1 Readers

Fleydo English School

This little story is for beginner readers. Read it slowly, look at the **bold words** and find them in the Word List at the end. After the story, try the activities: a Word List, a Matching game, Fill in the Blanks, and a Quiz. Have fun!

Chapter 1**The Missing Lunch**

Anna's lunch is gone again

Anna is eleven years old. Every morning, her mum makes a nice **lunch** for her. Anna puts it in her red lunchbox.

Today, Anna has a cheese sandwich, an apple, and a chocolate biscuit. “Yummy!” she says.

At school, Anna puts her lunchbox in her bag. Then she goes to her lessons.

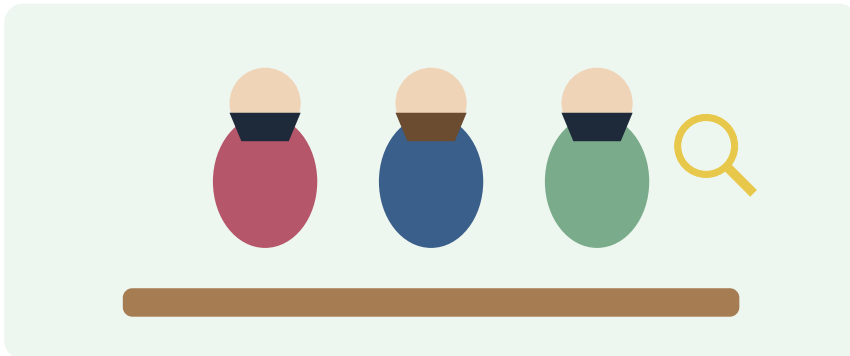
At lunch time, Anna opens her bag. She looks for her red lunchbox. But the lunchbox is... **empty!**

“What?” Anna says. “Where is my lunch? My sandwich, my apple, my biscuit — they are all gone!”

Anna is very hungry. And she is very **confused**. “This is the third time this week,” she thinks. “Who takes my lunch? This is a real **mystery!**”

Chapter 2**Three Detectives**

Anna asks her friends for help



Anna, Ben, and Sofia: the three detectives!

Anna tells her two best friends, Ben and Sofia. “Someone takes my lunch every day,” Anna says. “But I do not know who. It is a mystery.”

“We can help you!” Ben says. “We can be **detectives!**”

“Yes!” Sofia says. “We find the answer. We catch the lunch thief!”

“A **thief,**” Anna says. “But who is it?”

Sofia takes out a small notebook. “First, we look for **clues,**” she says. “A good detective always looks for clues.”

“Tomorrow, I bring a new lunch. We watch my bag all day,” Anna says. The three friends are ready. The mystery begins!

Chapter 3

The First Clue

The detectives look for clues

The next day, Anna brings a new lunch. The three friends watch Anna's bag all day. They do not see anything.

But at lunch time, the lunchbox is empty again! “How?” Sofia says. “We watch all day! This is impossible!”

Then Ben sees something. On the floor, near Anna's bag, there are tiny bits of bread. And there is one small grape.

“Clue number one: bits of bread and a grape,” Sofia writes. “And look here,” Anna says. There is a small **hole** in the bottom of the bag.

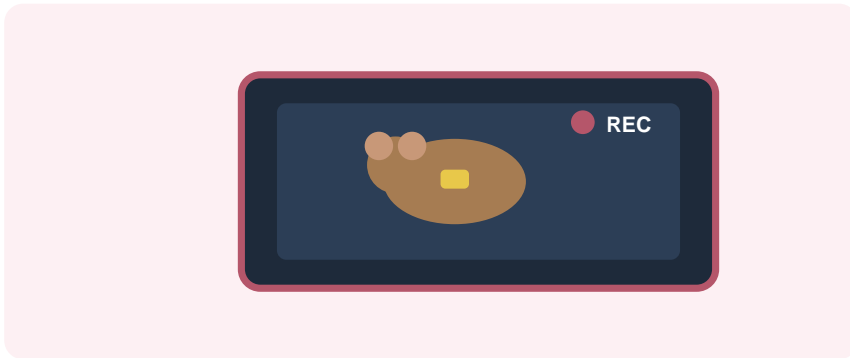
“Too small for a hand,” Sofia says. “A person cannot put a hand in this hole.”

“Maybe the thief is not a big person,” Anna says slowly. “Maybe the thief is... small.” The detectives are **careful**. Tomorrow, they have a new plan.

Chapter 4

The Secret Camera

A clever plan to catch the thief



The thief is a little mouse!

“I have a great idea,” Ben says. “My dad has a small camera. The camera watches the bag for us!”

The next morning, Ben puts the small camera near Anna's bag. Nobody can see it. “Now we wait,” Ben says.

At lunch time, they run to the camera. Anna's lunchbox is empty again. But now they have the camera!

Ben turns on the small screen. They all look. “There!” Anna says. “The thief is... a little **mouse!**”

On the screen, they see a small brown mouse. It comes out of a hole in the wall. It runs to Anna's bag. Then it takes the food, bit by bit!

“A mouse!” Sofia laughs. “The thief is a mouse! Not a person!” “Mystery solved!” Ben says happily.

Chapter 5

The Little Thief

The detectives meet the mouse

“What do we do with the mouse?” Anna asks. “We cannot be angry,” Sofia says. “The mouse is just hungry. It needs food too.”

After school, they find the mouse's home — a hole in the wall. The little mouse looks out. It has big eyes and a long tail. It is very **cute**!

“Hello, little mouse,” Anna says softly. “You take my lunch every day. But I am not angry. You are just hungry.”

The mouse looks at Anna. It is not afraid. It is a **friendly** little mouse.

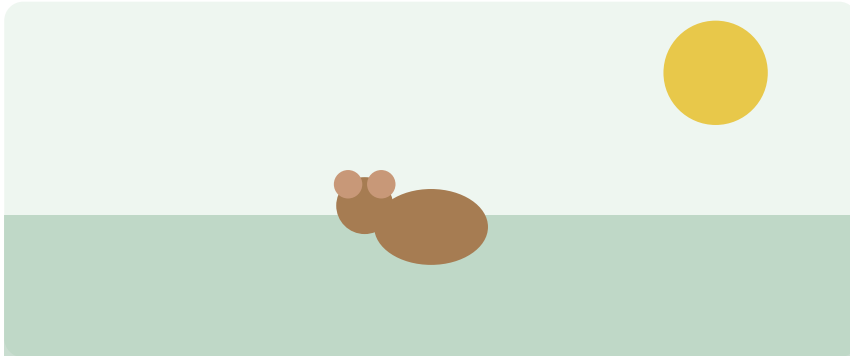
“We give the mouse some food. Then it does not take Anna's lunch,” Sofia says. “But we tell the teacher too,” Ben says.

The next day, they tell Mr Roberts, their teacher. He listens to the whole story.

Chapter 6

A Happy Mouse

The teacher has a kind idea too



The mouse has a happy new home.

Mr Roberts is **surprised**. “A mouse takes the lunch? And you find it with a camera? You are very clever detectives!”

“The mouse cannot live in the school,” Mr Roberts says. “But we are kind. We do not hurt it.”

The teacher calls a special helper. The helper has a soft box. He catches the little mouse — gently and carefully.

“Where does the mouse go?” Anna asks. “To a nice big field,” Mr Roberts says. “It can live there. It has lots of food and a safe home.”

Anna smiles. “I am happy. The mouse is safe. And my lunch is safe too!”

Now the little mouse lives in a big green field. And Anna's lunchbox? It is never empty again. Every day, Anna eats her lunch — all of it!

Chapter 7

The Best Detectives

A mystery solved, and new friends

After the lunchbox mystery, Anna, Ben, and Sofia are famous in their school. Everybody knows the story of the three detectives and the little mouse.

“You are great detectives,” the other children say. “Can you help us too?”

Soon, the three friends help with many small mysteries. A lost pen. A missing ball. A strange noise in the music room.

“We are a good team,” Anna says. “We look for clues, we are careful, and we are kind.”

“And we are honest,” Ben says. “A good detective always tells the truth.” “And we are friends,” Sofia says. “That is the best part.”

The three friends laugh together. They love their detective **club**. And it all starts with one empty lunchbox and one little, hungry mouse.

“Look for clues, be kind, and tell the truth.”

Word List

Learn these words from the story

Lunch	the food you eat in the middle of the day
Empty	with nothing inside
Confused	when you do not understand something
Mystery	a strange thing you cannot explain
Detectives	people who find answers to mysteries
Thief	a person who takes things that are not theirs
Clues	small things that help you find an answer
Hole	an open space or gap in something
Careful	doing something slowly so you do not make a mistake
Mouse	a very small animal with a long tail
Cute	small, pretty, and nice to look at
Friendly	kind and nice to people or animals
Surprised	when something happens you do not expect
Club	a group of people who do something together
Camera	a machine that takes photos or video
Hungry	when you want to eat food

Matching

Draw a line from each word to its meaning

1. Lunch	a. An open gap in something
2. Empty	b. A group that does things together
3. Confused	c. A strange thing you cannot explain
4. Mystery	d. Kind and nice
5. Detectives	e. A small animal with a long tail
6. Thief	f. People who solve mysteries
7. Clues	g. Pretty and nice to look at
8. Hole	h. With nothing inside
9. Mouse	i. Food you eat in the middle of the day
10. Cute	j. Things that help you find an answer
11. Friendly	k. You do not understand
12. Club	l. A person who takes things

Fill in the Blanks

Write the correct word from the box in each gap

**club · clues · confused · cute · detectives · empty · hole · lunch · mouse ·
mystery**

1. Anna eats her _____ in the middle of the day.
2. At lunch time, Anna's lunchbox is _____!
3. Anna does not understand. She is _____.
4. Who takes the lunch? It is a real _____.
5. Anna and her friends become _____.
6. A good detective always looks for _____.
7. There is a small _____ in the bottom of the bag.
8. The camera shows the thief: a little brown _____.
9. The little mouse is not scary. It is very _____.
10. The three friends love their detective _____.

Comprehension Quiz

Circle the correct answer for each question

1. What does Anna find in her lunchbox at lunch time?

- A) A sandwich
- B) Nothing — it is empty
- C) A mouse
- D) A camera

2. How does Anna feel about the missing lunch?

- A) Happy
- B) Confused and hungry
- C) Tired
- D) Angry

3. Who helps Anna with the mystery?

- A) Her mum
- B) Her teacher
- C) Ben and Sofia
- D) Nobody

4. What do the three friends decide to be?

- A) Teachers
- B) Detectives
- C) Cooks
- D) Singers

5. What clues do they find on the floor?

- A) A pen and a book
- B) Bits of bread and a grape
- C) Money
- D) A photo

6. How do they catch the thief?

- A) They wait near the bag
- B) They ask the teacher
- C) They use a secret camera
- D) They set a trap

7. Who is the lunch thief?

- A) Another student
- B) A little mouse
- C) The teacher
- D) Ben

8. How do the friends feel about the mouse?

- A) They are angry
- B) They are scared
- C) They are kind because it is hungry
- D) They do not care

9. Where does the mouse go in the end?

- A) It stays in the school
- B) To a nice big field with food
- C) To Anna's house
- D) Nobody knows

10. What is the main idea of the story?

- A) Mice are bad
- B) Lunchboxes are not safe
- C) Look for clues, work together, and be kind
- D) Cameras are fun

Answer Key

For teachers and parents

Matching: 1-i 2-h 3-k 4-c 5-f 6-l 7-j 8-a 9-e 10-g 11-d 12-b

Fill in the Blanks: 1. lunch 2. empty 3. confused 4. mystery 5. detectives 6. clues 7. hole 8. mouse 9. cute
10. club

Quiz: 1. B 2. B 3. C 4. B 5. B 6. C 7. B 8. C 9. B 10. C



Thank you for reading with Fleydo English School!

*Key Ideas: Look for clues to solve a mystery · Work together as a team · Be kind, even to small animals ·
Always tell the truth*