



GRADE 3 • ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

STORY ELEMENTS

CCSS RL.3.1, RL.3.3 • VA SOL 3.5

Characters: Wyatt, Sadie, Kayden, Mrs. Shaw, and Wyatt's mom

Setting: Wyatt's school (Mrs. Shaw's classroom and the office) and Wyatt's bedroom at night

Problem: Wyatt finds a pencil that makes his drawings come true. Then it starts drawing a tall thing with no face at the foot of his bed, and it will finish on the third night.

Solution: Wyatt won't pass the pencil on to a first grader. At midnight, he grinds it down in his dinosaur sharpener until only the metal band is left, and the tall thing falls into gray dust.

WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

CCSS RL.3.2, RL.3.3 • VA SOL 3.5

- 1:** Wyatt finds a dark, warm pencil with no eraser in the Lost & Found box.
- 2:** Wyatt draws a black cat, and a real one appears on the windowsill.
- 3:** Wyatt draws a spider on Kayden's shoulder, and Kayden screams.
- 4:** Wyatt finds a drawing of his room in his notebook that he didn't make.
- 5:** Sadie tells Wyatt the pencil finishes on the third night.
- 6:** The pencil draws arms on the tall thing while Wyatt sleeps.
- 7:** Wyatt grinds the pencil down to its metal band, and the tall thing falls into gray dust.

WORD DETECTIVE

CCSS RL.3.4, L.3.4a • VA SOL 3.4

- synonyms:** words that mean the same thing, or almost the same thing
- shimmers:** shines with a soft, flickering light
- scuttles:** runs with quick, short steps
- strains:** pulls or pushes very hard

DRAW IT TRUE

CCSS RL.3.7, W.3.3 • VA SOL 3.5, 3.7

Answers will vary. Look for: The drawing shows one clear thing. The sentences tell what could go wrong. The writing uses at least one detail from the drawing.





GRADE 4 · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

CCSS RL.4.1, RL.4.3 · VA SOL 4.5

Wyatt draws the last splash line on his drawing of the water bottle.: The bottle tips off the desk, and water pours across the floor.

Kayden holds up Wyatt's notebook and calls him Monster Boy.: Wyatt gets mad and draws a spider on Kayden's shoulder.

Wyatt rubs the tall thing with his pink eraser.: The lines get darker and bigger instead of coming off.

The batteries in the office sharpener die.: The pencil rips free and starts drawing a mouth, so Wyatt grabs the dinosaur sharpener.

THEME DETECTIVE

CCSS RL.4.2 · VA SOL 4.5

1. Wyatt draws the spider because he is mad at Kayden. How does Wyatt feel after the spider attack? Use a detail.: He feels terrible. "It isn't funny at all." He hides the pencil, and the next day he tells Kayden, "Sorry about the spider."

2. Sadie says Wyatt can get rid of the pencil by putting it back for someone else to find. Why does Wyatt say no?: A little first grader is digging in the Lost & Found box. Wyatt won't pass the danger on to a little kid, even though it means he has two more nights.

3. What lesson does the author want readers to learn? Use one detail from the story to explain.: Possible answers: Acting when you're angry can hurt people (the spider makes Kayden cry). Or: doing the right thing can be hard, but it matters (Wyatt keeps the pencil instead of leaving it for the first grader).

WHO IS WYATT?

CCSS RL.4.1, RL.4.3 · VA SOL 4.5

creative: He draws on everything: margins, desks, the back of his hand. Mostly monsters.

caring: He won't put the pencil back where a little first grader could find it.

brave: At midnight, he keeps twisting the pencil in the sharpener even while the tall thing grabs him.

Other traits are fine if the evidence supports them.

YOUR TURN WITH THE PENCIL

CCSS W.4.3 · VA SOL 4.7

Answers will vary. Look for: Has a clear beginning, middle, and end. Describes what the narrator sees, hears, or feels. The drawing comes true, and the narrator deals with the result.





GRADE 5 • ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

CCSS RL.5.1 • VA SOL 5.5

1. When Wyatt says “Finders keepers,” Sadie whispers, “That’s what I said.” What does she mean? What clue helps you?: **She found the pencil first and kept it too. Clues: her fingertips are gray, and later she says, “It was mine. I found it in that box too.”**
2. Everything the pencil makes is gray: the quarter, the cookie, the smudge, the squashed spider. What does that tell you about the things it makes?: **They are made of pencil. They look real, but they are really drawings that came to life. When the spider is squashed, it turns into a pencil smear.**
3. At the end, Wyatt’s regular yellow pencil draws a bed, a boy, and a tall thing that “doesn’t have a face yet.” What does this suggest?: **The tall thing isn’t really gone. Now it can be drawn by Wyatt’s own hand with any pencil, so it may be coming for him again.**

PLOT MOUNTAIN

CCSS RL.5.2, RL.5.5 • VA SOL 5.5

Exposition: Wyatt, a fifth grader who draws all the time, finds a warm, dark pencil with no eraser in the Lost & Found.

Rising action: His drawings come true: a cat, a spilled bottle, a gray quarter and cookie, and a spider on Kayden. Then the pencil draws his room with a tall thing at the foot of his bed, and Sadie tells him it finishes on the third night.

Climax: At midnight, the tall thing stands up and grabs Wyatt. The battery sharpener dies, and the pencil starts drawing its mouth.

Falling action: Wyatt twists the pencil in the dinosaur sharpener until only the metal band is left, and the tall thing falls into a pile of gray dust.



Resolution: Wyatt throws the dust away, and Kayden stops calling him Monster Boy. But in math, his regular pencil draws the tall thing

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

CCSS RL.5.4, L.5.5a • VA SOL 5.4

- “When I tip it, the grain shimmers silver, like it got dipped in glitter and wiped off.”: **simile: The pencil sparkles a little, in a strange, pretty way.**
- “My hand doesn’t listen.”: **personification: Wyatt can’t stop drawing. His hand acts like it has a mind of its own.**
- “My face is on fire.”: **metaphor: Wyatt is so embarrassed and mad that his face feels hot and red.**
- “The whole tall thing comes down, from the top, like a sandcastle when the wave hits it.”: **simile: The tall thing falls apart all at once into a soft pile.**

WRITE A NEW ENDING

CCSS W.5.3 • VA SOL 5.7

Answers will vary. Look for: Starts in the office with Sadie. Wyatt makes a different choice than in the story. The new ending shows the result of that choice. Keeps the story’s spooky mood.

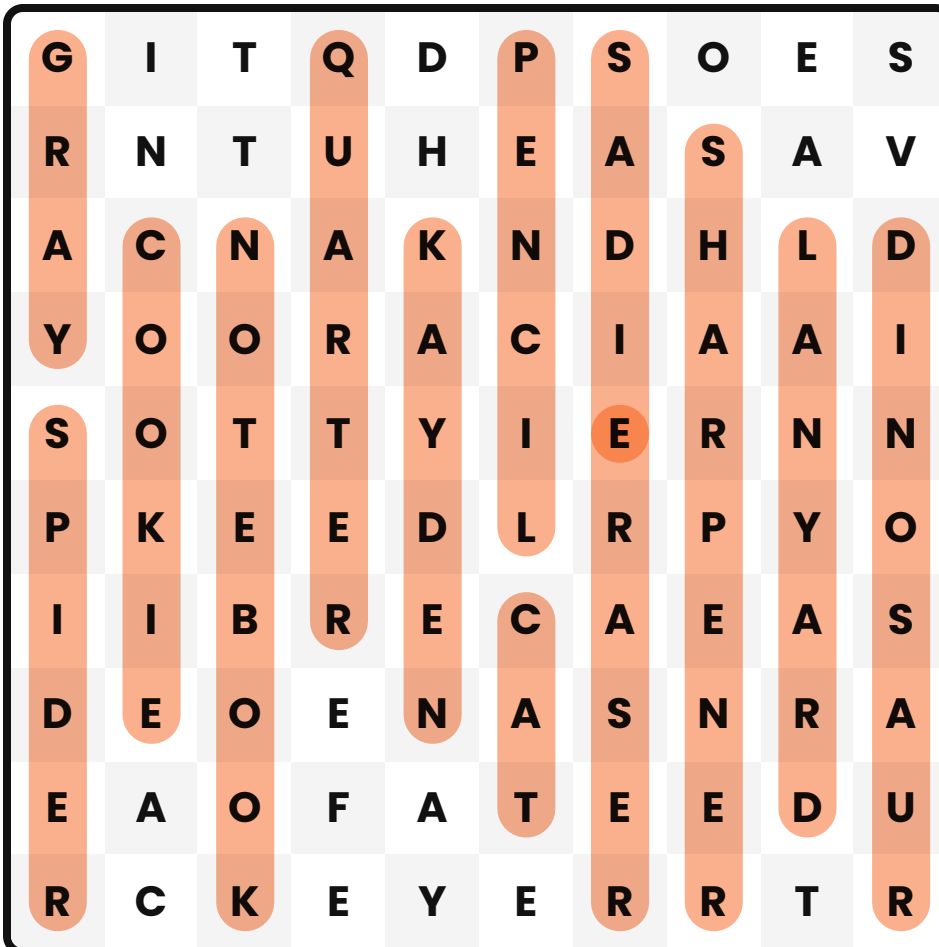


WORD SEARCH · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

1. Find the 13 words from the story. They go across, down, and diagonally. 2. Circle each word and cross out its letters. 3. The letters left over, read in order, spell a line from the story.



FIND THESE

- ☐ Cat
- ☐ Cookie
- ☐ Dinosaur
- ☐ Eraser
- ☐ Gray
- ☐ Kayden
- ☐ Lanyard
- ☐ Notebook
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Quarter
- ☐ Sadie
- ☐ Sharpener
- ☐ Spider

SECRET MESSAGE

I T D O E S N T H A V E A F A C E Y E T



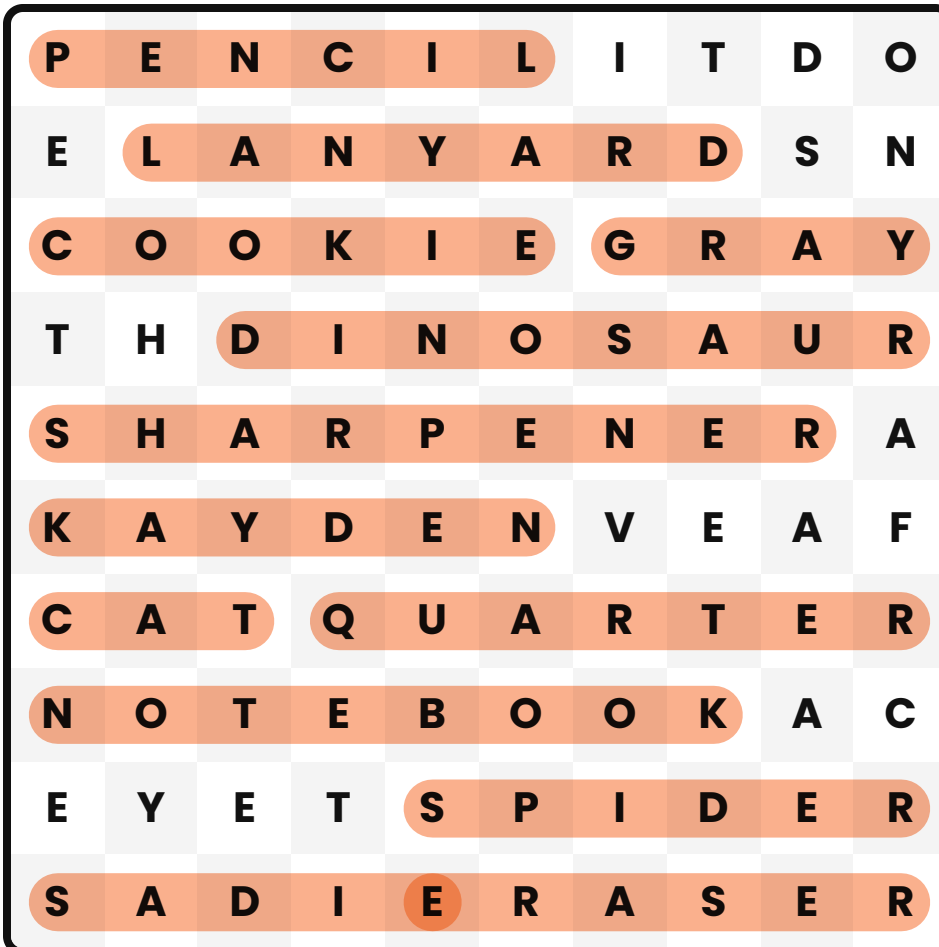


WORD SEARCH · VERSION B · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

1. Find the 13 words from the story. They go across, down, and diagonally. 2. Circle each word and cross out its letters. 3. The letters left over, read in order, spell a line from the story.



FIND THESE

- ☐ Cat
- ☐ Cookie
- ☐ Dinosaur
- ☐ Eraser
- ☐ Gray
- ☐ Kayden
- ☐ Lanyard
- ☐ Notebook
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Quarter
- ☐ Sadie
- ☐ Sharpener
- ☐ Spider

SECRET MESSAGE

I T D O E S N T H A V E A F A C E Y E T



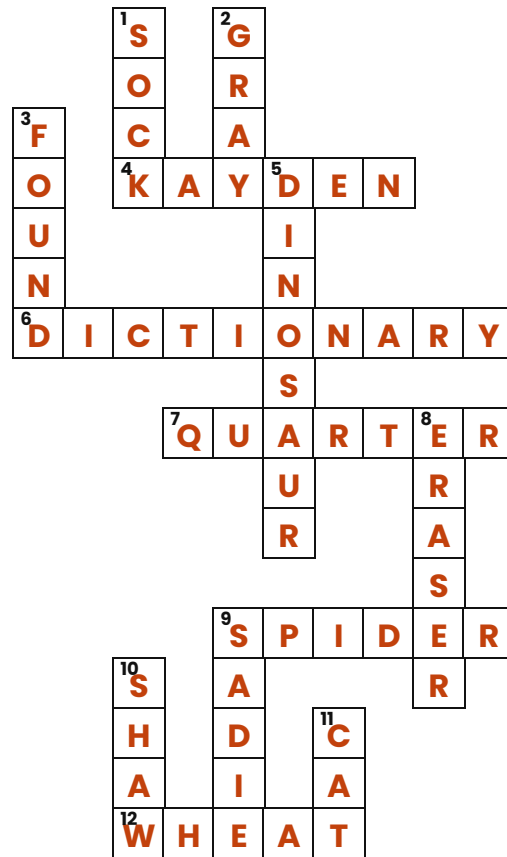


CROSSWORD · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

1. Read each clue. 2. Write one letter in each square. Every answer comes from the story.



ACROSS

4. The boy who calls Wyatt "Monster Boy" **KAYDEN**
6. Mrs. Shaw squashes the spider with this book **DICTIONARY**
7. The gray coin Wyatt draws at lunch **QUARTER**
9. Wyatt draws one on Kayden's shoulder **SPIDER**
12. Wyatt says his gray cookie is whole ____ **WHEAT**

DOWN

1. "Why is there a ____?" It's in Wyatt's backpack **SOCK**
2. Everything the pencil makes is this color **GRAY**
3. Wyatt finds the pencil in the Lost & ____ **FOUND**
5. Wyatt's little plastic sharpener is shaped like this **DINOSAUR**
8. The strange pencil doesn't have one **ERASER**
9. The office helper with the lanyard **SADIE**
10. Wyatt's teacher, Mrs. ____ **SHAW**
11. The black animal Wyatt draws on the windowsill **CAT**



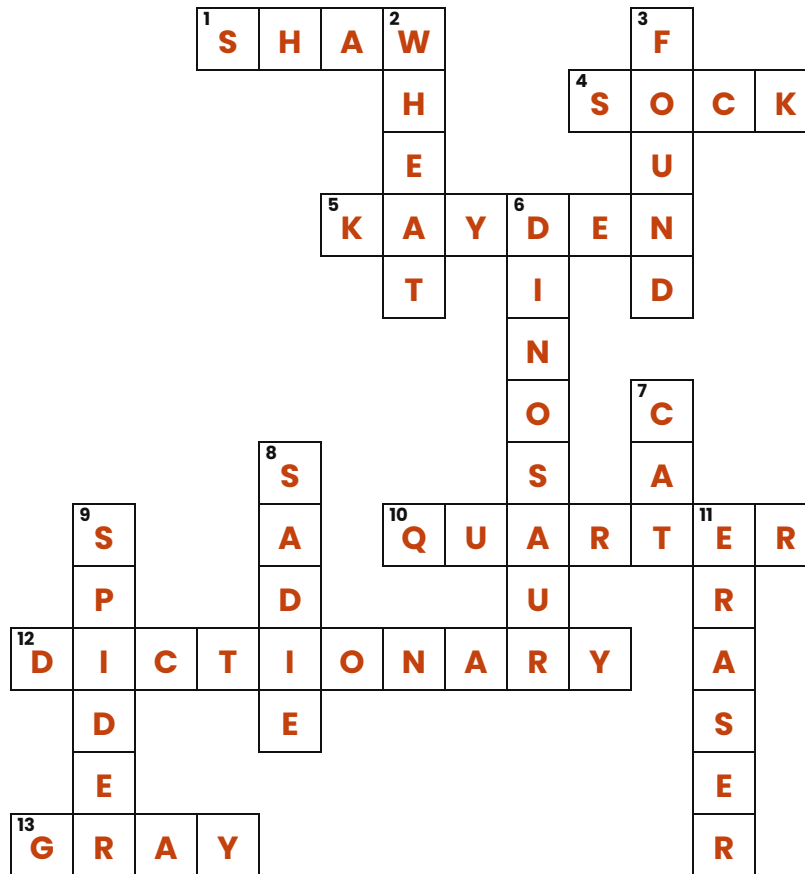


CROSSWORD · VERSION B · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

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ACROSS

- Wyatt's teacher, Mrs. ____ **SHAW**
- "Why is there a ____?" It's in Wyatt's backpack **SOCK**
- The boy who calls Wyatt "Monster Boy" **KAYDEN**
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- The office helper with the lanyard **SADIE**
- Wyatt draws one on Kayden's shoulder **SPIDER**
- The strange pencil doesn't have one **ERASER**





SECRET CODES · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

Three messages from the story are written in code. Use each code's key to crack it, one letter at a time.

CODE 1: SHIFT CODE

Every letter moved 3 places forward in the alphabet. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W

H B H V X S Z B D W W

E Y E S U P W Y A T T

CODE 2: MIRROR CODE

The alphabet is flipped: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

R G L M O B T V G H F H V W F K D S V M R G

I T O N L Y G E T S U S E D U P W H E N I T

W I Z D H

D R A W S

CODE 3: BACKWARDS CODE

Each word is written backwards. Read every word from right to left.

E E R H T S T H G I N

T H R E E N I G H T S





WORD SCRAMBLE · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

Each word from the story got scrambled. Use the clue to put the letters back in order.

1. C I N P L E
Clue: Wyatt finds it in the Lost & Found

PENCIL

2. E S R E R A
Clue: The strange pencil doesn't have one

ERASER

3. N E O M S R T
Clue: Kayden calls Wyatt ____ Boy

MONSTER

4. P E H A S E R R N
Clue: Sadie brings a battery one from the office

SHARPENER

5. S S Y Y N N O M
Clue: Morning work: big, large; small, tiny

SYNONYMS

6. N B O E K O O T
Clue: Where Wyatt draws

NOTEBOOK

7. A D L A N Y R
Clue: Sadie wears an office helper ____

LANYARD

8. N I S D R U A O
Clue: The shape of Wyatt's little sharpener

DINOSAUR





WORD SCRAMBLE · VERSION B · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

Each word from the story got scrambled. Use the clue to put the letters back in order.

1. **E N I L P C**
Clue: Wyatt finds it in the Lost & Found

PENCIL

2. **E E R A S R**
Clue: The strange pencil doesn't have one

ERASER

3. **M E S R T N O**
Clue: Kayden calls Wyatt ____ Boy

MONSTER

4. **R N E A S R E P H**
Clue: Sadie brings a battery one from the office

SHARPENER

5. **M S O N Y S N Y**
Clue: Morning work: big, large; small, tiny

SYNONYMS

6. **O O N B K T O E**
Clue: Where Wyatt draws

NOTEBOOK

7. **N D L R A A Y**
Clue: Sadie wears an office helper ____

LANYARD

8. **I R N S A D U O**
Clue: The shape of Wyatt's little sharpener

DINOSAUR





HIDDEN MESSAGE • ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

1. Answer each question from the story. 2. Write the **first letter** of each answer in the matching numbered blank below. 3. Read the hidden message!

1. The strange pencil has no ____ on top.
2. What color is Wyatt's regular school pencil?
Kayden screams when Wyatt draws the spider's
3. ____ leg.
4. What is the office helper's name?
At the bus stop, Wyatt pushes the pencil down in
5. the trash, ____ a banana peel.
What sound does the lamp bulb make when it
6. blows?
7. Wyatt says his gray cookie is whole ____.
8. In the morning, the pencil is shorter than it was ____.
9. On the second night, the tall thing gets long, thin ____.
10. What is for dinner the night Wyatt can't eat?
11. Wyatt's best monster has three rows of ____.

ERASER

YELLOW

EIGHTH

SADIE

UNDER

POP

WHEAT

YESTERDAY

ARMS

TACOS

TEETH

HIDDEN MESSAGE

E Y E S U P W Y A T T
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11





ESCAPE ROOM · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

ESCAPE THE MIDNIGHT DRAWING

It's 11:58. The pencil is hot in your fist, and the tall thing at the foot of the bed is missing only its face. Work as a team. Open all four locks to escape.

LOCK 1: THE NUMBER LOCK

Answer each question with a number from the story. Put the three numbers together, in order, to make the code.

1. How many legs does Wyatt draw on the spider? **8**
2. How many nights does Sadie say it takes the pencil to finish? **3**
3. The clock says 12:0__ when Wyatt wakes up and the pencil is drawing by itself. **1**

CODE

8

3

1

LOCK 2: THE WORD LOCK

This word from the story is in Mirror Code: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it. Hint: What the cat leaves on the window glass.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

IN CODE: **H N F W T V**

CODE

S

M

U

D

G

E





ESCAPE ROOM · PART 2 · ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

LOCK 3: THE ORDER LOCK

These events are mixed up. Put them in story order, then read the letters in that order to get the code word.

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| R | Sadie tells Wyatt about the three nights. | <u>4</u> |
| Y | Wyatt grinds the pencil down to its metal band. | <u>5</u> |
| C | A black cat appears on the windowsill. | <u>2</u> |
| S | Wyatt finds a warm pencil in the Lost & Found. | <u>1</u> |
| A | A spider lands on Kayden's shoulder. | <u>3</u> |

CODE **S C A R Y**

LOCK 4: THE FAKE FACT LOCK

Five of these happened in the story. One is made up. The number of the fake one opens the lock.

- Wyatt finds a light-up sneaker in the Lost & Found.
- Wyatt tells a kid his gray cookie is whole wheat.
- Mrs. Shaw squashes the spider with a dictionary.
- 4. Wyatt can't eat his mom's spaghetti for dinner. (fake)**
- Sadie wears an office helper lanyard.
- Wyatt's little sharpener is shaped like a dinosaur.

CODE **4**

When a team opens all four locks, they escape. Read them the last line: "It's over."





WHO SAID IT? • ANSWER KEY

THE PENCIL

Some things draw themselves.

1. Read each line from the story. 2. Write the name of the character who said it. Some characters say more than one line.

CHARACTERS

Kayden Mom Mrs. Shaw Sadie Wyatt

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | <i>"Put that back."</i> | <i>Sadie</i> |
| 2. | <i>"Then don't lose it."</i> | <i>Mrs. Shaw</i> |
| 3. | <i>"What are you drawing, Monster Boy?"</i> | <i>Kayden</i> |
| 4. | <i>"Whole wheat."</i> | <i>Wyatt</i> |
| 5. | <i>"You love tacos."</i> | <i>Mom</i> |
| 6. | <i>"Sorry about the spider."</i> | <i>Wyatt</i> |
| 7. | <i>"Why are YOU sorry? You didn't put it there."</i> | <i>Kayden</i> |
| 8. | <i>"You can't throw it out. You can't break it. You can't erase it."</i> | <i>Sadie</i> |

