

The Agatha Christie After School Detectives Club began one rainy afternoon when Agnes, exploring the attic of her aunt's house, discovered a box of books, all by the famous mystery writer, Agatha Christie.

Agnes was hooked from the very first page. She shared the books with her friends Quentin, Luka and Sophie and they all loved the mind-boggling mysteries and clever detectives. They thought it would be fun to investigate crimes like Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot, so they decided to start a club where they could solve their own mysteries.

They called their group the Agatha Christie After School Detectives Club (because they only had time for crime-busting after school) and made a vow that, just like their detective heroes, they would solve any mystery that came their way – no matter how big or small.





1. All the Essentials

As the After School Detectives know, a good detective is a well-prepared one! So they had each packed something that would be useful if they stumbled across a case to solve.

Unfortunately, their belongings got mixed up in the excitement of hearing about the missing diamond.

Can you help them sort out their things? Use the clues to work out which detective brought which item with them. Fill in the table with your answers.

After School Detective Club Members:

Agnes

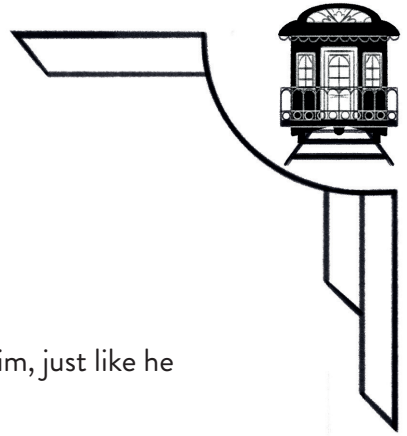
Quentin

Luka

Sophie

Useful items:

- Magnifying glass
- Map
- Notebook
- Snacks



Clues:

- Quentin brought a notebook with him, just like he always did
- Agnes was not the person who brought the map
- Luka didn't bring a magnifying glass, but he did bring snacks to share!

Detective	Useful Item
Agnes	
Luka	
Quentin	
Sophie	





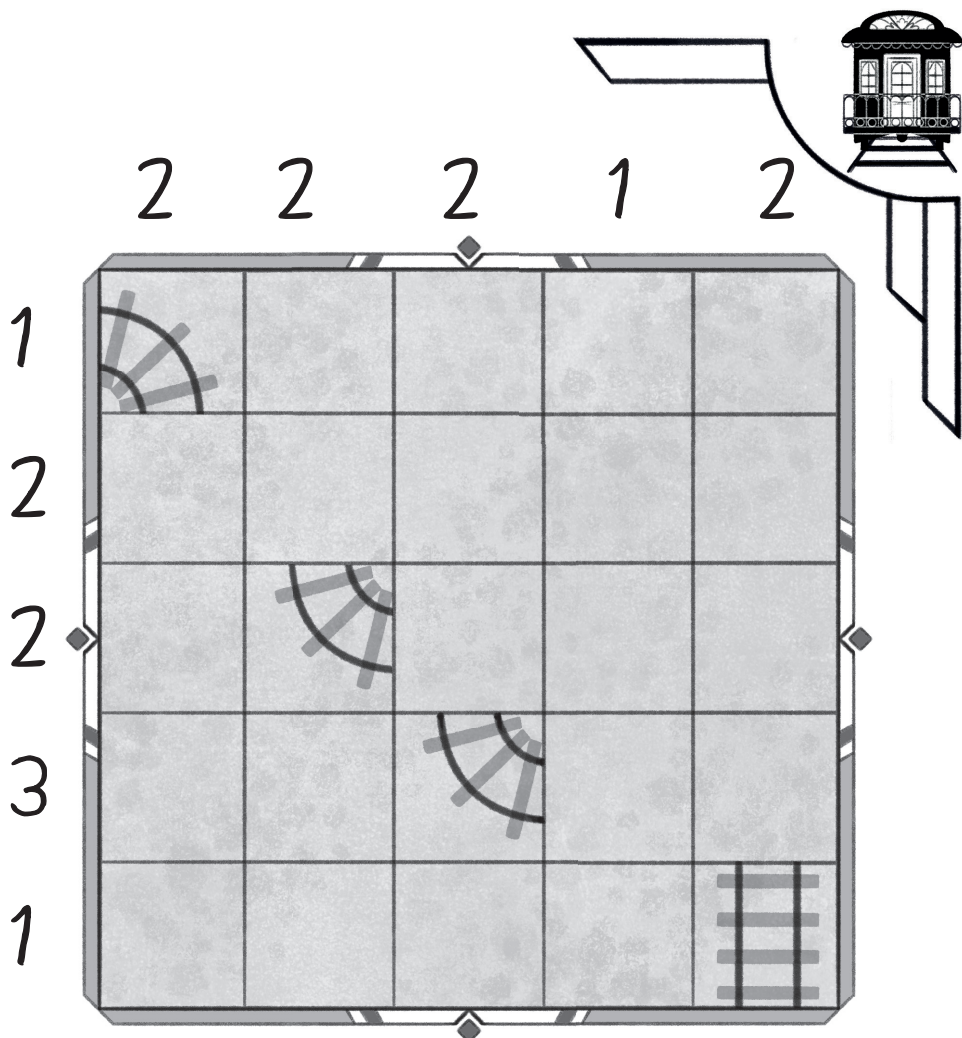
2. Taking Turns

The train is old and rattly, and makes a lot of noise every time it travels around a bend. Sophie suspects that the theft probably happened on one of these bends, as all the noise and commotion would have provided the perfect cover.

Sophie starts to map out the route they've taken so far, marking all the twists and turns since the train left London's Paddington Station at 4.50 p.m.

But while doing this, her pen runs out of ink, and she doesn't have a spare. **Can you help finish her map?**

- Draw track pieces in some squares to show the route
- The numbers on the outer edges of the grid tell you how many squares in each row and column contain part of the track
- Each track piece must either go straight or turn a right-angled corner



Count how many squares with bends there are on the map to find out how many opportunities the thief had to steal the diamond.



3. A Very Precious Gem

While sitting unnoticed outside Lola's compartment with his knitting, Luka overhears a very upset Lola Montague tell the train guard that the diamond is absolutely priceless and has been in her family for years.

Lola names four relatives who owned the diamond before her, but she is obviously flustered because the list of names comes out in a very jumbled way. Luckily, Luka is able to quickly jot down what he hears. But he needs some help to decipher the information.

Use the following clues to work out the order in which Lola's relatives had the diamond. Write your answers in the spaces next to the numbers.

Can you also work out which of these is Lola's great aunt? If you're not sure, check the introduction to this chapter for a clue.

Owners, in alphabetical order:

- Aurora
- Cordelia
- Helena
- Lola
- Wilberforce



Clues:

- Aurora had the diamond before Helena, but Helena did not inherit it directly from Aurora
- Lola owned it later in time than Helena
- Cordelia inherited it directly from Wilberforce

Write your solutions here:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Lola

Luka has already marked 'Lola' next to number 5, as he knows that Lola had the diamond most recently.



4. Bag Search

The detectives learn that Lola had been carrying the diamond in a travel bag and the entire bag had suddenly disappeared from her compartment.

Agnes, who is nearby observing a murmuration of starlings through her binoculars, overhears Lola describing the bag to the train guard and, pretending to make notes about the birds, jots down what she hears.

Using the clues and your own powers of deduction, help Agnes work out which of the bags on the opposite page is Lola's so she and the other detectives can search the train for it.

Cross out each bag as you eliminate it from your investigation.

Clues:

- The bag containing the diamond does not have any flowers on it
- Lola's bag does not have wheels
- The main part of the bag (not including the handles) is wider than it is tall
- The main part of the bag is wider at the top than the bottom
- The bag is not a circle in shape
- The bag has a long handle that is about the same height as the main part of the bag
- The bag has a pocket on the front, but the pocket does not have any circles on it

