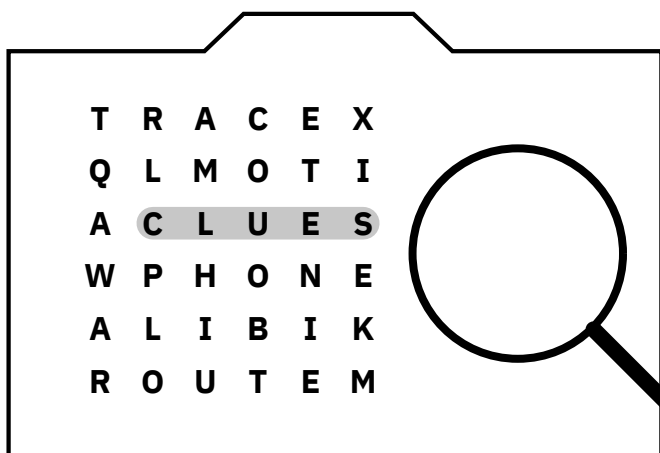


MindGrid Books

A FREE COMPANION TO
DETECTIVE MYSTERY WORD SEARCH

THE BONUS CASE FILES

Five new mysteries to search, deduce and solve



IN THIS FILE

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Case 1 | Frost on the Jade Tree | Forensic Evidence · Beginner · page 6 |
| Case 2 | The Fog at Story Night | Contradictory Testimony · Beginner · page 8 |
| Case 3 | The Flat Tires at Fernleigh Park | Alibi Timeline · Intermediate · page 10 |
| Case 4 | The Final Scene on the Backlot | Route Reconstruction · Intermediate · page 12 |
| Case 5 | The Glued Points at Tollington | Access and Opportunity · Advanced · page 14 |

A FREE READER BONUS FROM MINDGRID BOOKS

© 2026 MindGrid Books. All rights reserved.

You are welcome to print this file for your own personal use.

The Bonus Case FilesAbout these files**About these files**

Five brand-new cases, written for this bonus and found nowhere in the book: a bonsai show, a library story night, a vintage car rally, a film studio backlot and a model railway exhibition. Each one uses a different method, in order from gentle to hard.

Every case is a story page followed by a grid page. Solve the word search first: the grid holds the evidence, and the story alone never settles a case. All five solutions are at the back, with the marked grid and every step of the reasoning.

How these cases were made: every grid and answer was checked by our puzzle engine. Each listed word appears exactly once in its grid, absent words never appear, and each case has exactly one answer that only the finished grid reveals.

Contents

	Page
How these cases work	4
The five methods	5
1 Frost on the Jade Tree (Forensic Evidence)	6 / sol. 17
2 The Fog at Story Night (Contradictory Testimony)	8 / sol. 18
3 The Flat Tires at Fernleigh Park (Alibi Timeline)	10 / sol. 19
4 The Final Scene on the Backlot (Route Reconstruction)	12 / sol. 20
5 The Glued Points at Tollington (Access and Opportunity)	14 / sol. 21
Solutions	16

[The Bonus Case Files](#)[How to play](#)

How these cases work

Search first, then deduce

Find every word in the list, in any of the eight directions, forward or backward. Words are printed without spaces: SEA SALT would appear as SEASALT.

The grid is evidence

Finding a word tells you nothing by itself: you already know the word. What matters is what only the finished grid can show, such as which words are there at all, which words cross, where a word lies, which letters are left over, or which way a word runs. Each case tells you which of these to read.

One answer

Every case has exactly one answer, and you never need a fact that is not printed. When you are done, check the solution at the back.

The five methods

Forensic Evidence

A lab list names possible traces, and the case tells you how many are hidden. The ones you find were at the scene. Match them against what each suspect works with.

Contradictory Testimony

Circle every word. The letters left over, read row by row, spell one fact. Test each statement against it.

Alibi Timeline

Surnames and photo captions are both hidden. Where a surname crosses a caption, that person is in the photo, so you learn where they were and when.

Route Reconstruction

Each place name runs in the direction someone traveled when they left that place. Follow the directions on the map to rebuild the route.

Access and Opportunity

The grid is a floor plan with walls, and every word lies inside one room. Where a word lies tells you where a person or an object was.

Case 1 · Forensic Evidence · Story

Frost on the Jade Tree

Four people had worked in the tunnel that evening. The garden center's plant scientist tested the crank's handle for ten materials, and six of them were on it.

Staff member	Works with
Lucan Ruddock bonsai grower who runs the show	BARK, CHARCOAL, MOSS, PERLITE, POLISH, SEAWEED
Marisol Etxeberria baker at the garden center cafe	CHARCOAL, CINNAMON, GLITTER, SEAWEED, STARCH, TWINE
Philippa Ormsby weekend assistant who wires and ties the bonsai	BARK, CHARCOAL, MOSS, PERLITE, SEAWEED, TWINE
Desmond Quickfall gift-shop clerk who makes the wreaths	BARK, GLITTER, MOSS, POLISH, STARCH, TWINE

The person responsible is one of the people named on this page.

Suspects ruled out:

The Bonus Case Files

How to search. Search for all ten materials in any of the eight directions, forward or backward. Stop when you have found six.

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

☐ BARK ☐ GLITTER ☐ POLISH ☐ TWINE

☐ CHARCOAL ☐ MOSS ☐ SEAWEED

☐ CINNAMON ☐ PERLITE ☐ STARCH

Words found:

Case 2 · Contradictory Testimony · Story

The Fog at Story Night

The fog started in the map room, the reading room, the stairwell or the story corner; in the haze no one could tell which. Three people gave statements, each checked by a document. Only the culprit lied.

Check: Story-night running order: Clementine was posted at the stairwell the whole evening.

The person responsible is one of the people named on this page.

Suspects ruled out:

The Bonus Case Files

How to search. Circle every word in any of the eight directions; some letters belong to two words. Then copy the letters you did not circle, row by row, left to right.

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

Word list: BAT · BOOKMARK · BROOMSTICK · CATALOG · CAULDRON · CHAPTER · GOBLIN · HARDBACK · LIBRARIAN · MANUSCRIPT · PAPERBACK · SKELETON · SPELLBOOK · SPIDER · VAMPIRE · WEREWOLF

UNCIRCLED LETTERS, ROW BY ROW:

DETECTIVE NOTES

Words found:

Case 3 · Alibi Timeline · Story

The Flat Tires at Fernleigh Park

The roadster stood alone in the judging paddock from 2:10 to 2:20 PM. Five people had a grudge against the roadster or a key to the paddock, and the rally's official photographer noted the minute and the spot of every shot she took.

Rally photographer's captions, with the walk to the judging paddock

Caption	Time (PM)	Place	Walk to paddock
CHROME	2:05	tea lawn	3 min
ROSETTE	2:12	parking field	11 min
STARTER	2:13	stable yard	8 min
BONNET	2:14	lake bridge	9 min
PENNANT	2:15	maze	12 min
PARASOLS	2:16	bandstand	4 min

How to test a photo. A photo at 2:05 in a spot three minutes from the paddock clears no one: after the photo the person could have walked to the paddock by 2:08 and still been there at 2:10, when the window began. A photo clears someone only when even the moment of the window farthest from the photo is closer than the walk.

Who could have been in the judging paddock between 2:10 and 2:20 PM?

The person responsible is one of the people named on this page.

Suspects ruled out:

The Bonus Case Files

How to search. Find all eleven words, in any of the eight directions, and mark each shared square.

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

Photo captions: BONNET · CHROME · PARASOLS · PENNANT · ROSETTE · STARTER

Words found:

The Bonus Case Files

Case 4 · Route Reconstruction · Story

CASE 4 · ROUTE RECONSTRUCTION · INTERMEDIATE

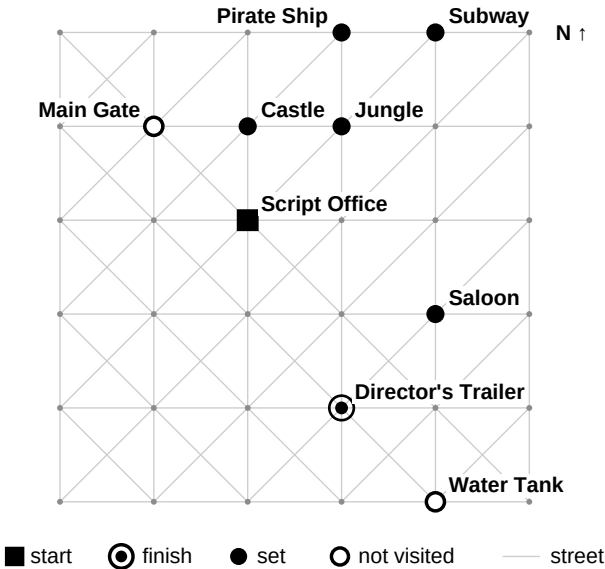
The Final Scene on the Backlot

Every morning the studio runner, Henrietta Bowles, drives a golf cart from the Script Office around the backlot's five sets and ends at the Director's Trailer. On the cart rides a sealed envelope holding the secret final scene. On Friday a photo of its last page appeared online.

Henrietta stopped once at each set on the list. At her second stop a camera crane jammed and she ran to help, leaving the cart alone for ten minutes. The order has slipped her mind. Luckily, every stage manager initials her clipboard and draws an arrow for the direction she drove off in.

The sets and their stage managers. **Castle:** Kenji Takahara; **Jungle:** Ottoline Sparrowhawk; **Pirate Ship:** Rufus Gilchrist; **Saloon:** Mirela Dragomir; **Subway:** Leopold Wintringham.

Brightmere Studios backlot (north is up)



THE QUESTION

At which set was the cart left alone, and which stage manager is in charge of it?

Name the set and the stage manager in charge of it.

DETECTIVE NOTES

Suspects ruled out:

Case 4 · Route Reconstruction · Grid

The Bonus Case Files

The Final Scene on the Backlot: the grid

1. Each place name in the grid reads in the direction Henrietta drove when leaving that place. The top of the grid is north.
2. From a place, follow the map in that direction. You stop at the first landmark you reach.
3. Henrietta started at the Script Office, visited each of the five sets once, and finished at the Director's Trailer. Henrietta never stopped at the Main Gate or the Water Tank.

How to search. Find all six place names in any of the eight directions. Draw an arrow on each word from its first letter to its last.

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

Places

- ☐ CASTLE ☐ PIRATE ☐ SCRIPTS
☐ JUNGLE ☐ SALOON ☐ SUBWAY

DETECTIVE NOTES

DETECTIVE NOTES

Words found:

The Bonus Case Files

Case 5 · Access and Opportunity · Story

CASE 5 · ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY · ADVANCED

The Glued Points at Tollington

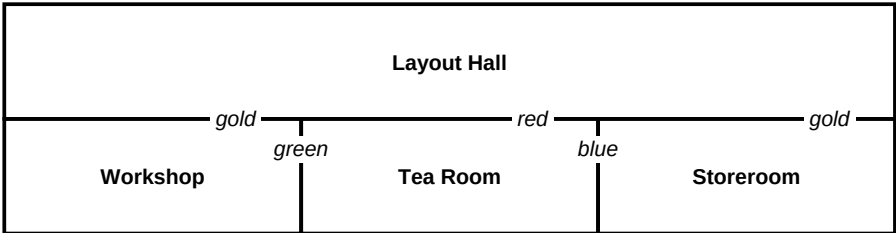
The Tollington Model Railway Club worked through Friday night in its drill hall. At 6:00 PM the hall locked itself and the last test run went perfectly. At 8:00 AM the first train derailed: someone had glued the points. The points were glued between 6:00 PM and 8:00 AM.

The five club members inside were the only people in the building. From 6:00 PM to 8:00 AM nobody came in or out. Each wore a key band for the doors of its colors; no band can come off uncut, and all five were whole at 8:00 AM. Each door lets one person through per scan; its beam alarm never sounded. Each left a belonging where they were when the building locked at 6:00 PM.

Key band colors each person wore

Person	Keys	Belonging
Anneliese Brack club secretary	green, red	CLOGS
Ludovic Ferrand track layer	gold	CAP
Matilde Sjoberg signal wiring expert	green	PROBE
Cosima Larkworthy scenery builder	gold	SMOCK
Valentin Roux club treasurer	blue, red	WATCH

Doors after 6:00 PM (every inner door stayed locked)



A label on a wall names the key for that door; “open”: unlocked; no label: no door.

THE QUESTION

Who glued the points?

The person responsible is one of the people named on this page.

DETECTIVE NOTES

Suspects ruled out:

The Bonus Case FilesSolutions

SOLUTIONS

One page per case. Finish a case before you turn to its solution.

Frost on the Jade Tree

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

Found in the grid (six materials):
BARK, CHARCOAL, MOSS, PERLITE, SEAWEED, TWINE. Not hidden:
CINNAMON, GLITTER, POLISH, STARCH.

- How the evidence decides it**
- The materials found are BARK, CHARCOAL, MOSS, PERLITE, SEAWEED and TWINE.
 - Lucan Ruddock does not work with TWINE, so Lucan is ruled out.
 - Marisol Etxeberria does not work with BARK, so Marisol is ruled out.
 - Desmond Quickfall does not work with CHARCOAL, so Desmond is ruled out.
 - Philippa Ormsby works with all six traces.
- Why not the others?* Without the grid, any of the four could be the only match: each works with exactly six of the ten materials, and no two with the same six. Only the materials really on the crank pick out one person.

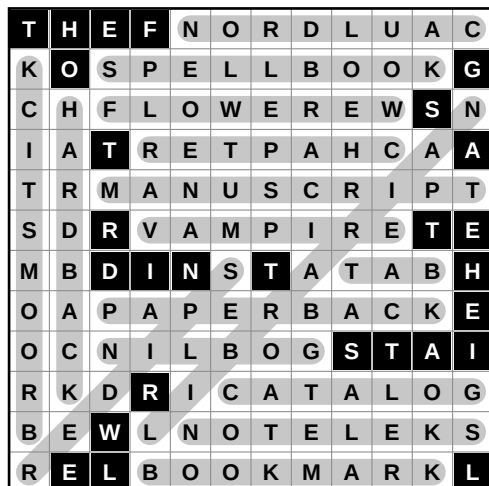
Philippa Ormsby opened the roof vents. She had spilled a can of seaweed feed under the benches, and opened the vents to clear the smell before the judges arrived. She meant to close them in an hour and fell asleep in the potting shed.

The Bonus Case Files

Solutions · Case 2

SOLUTION · CASE 2

The Fog at Story Night



The uncircled letters spell:

THE FOG STARTED IN THE STAIRWELL (the stairwell).

How the evidence decides it

1. Read row by row, the uncircled letters spell THE FOG STARTED IN THE STAIRWELL.
2. Corisande's statement is true: the library floor plan lists the stairwell among the places you can see from the front desk.
3. Ezekiel's statement is true: the caretaker's note about the boiler room lists the stairwell among the places you can hear from the boiler room.
4. Clementine says the fog machine was switched on somewhere other than her post. The running order puts her on the stairwell all evening, and that is where the fog started. Her statement is false, and only the culprit lied.

Why not the others? In the map room Corisande would be the liar, and in the reading room Ezekiel. In the story corner every statement would be true, which the rules rule out. Only the grid tells you the place.

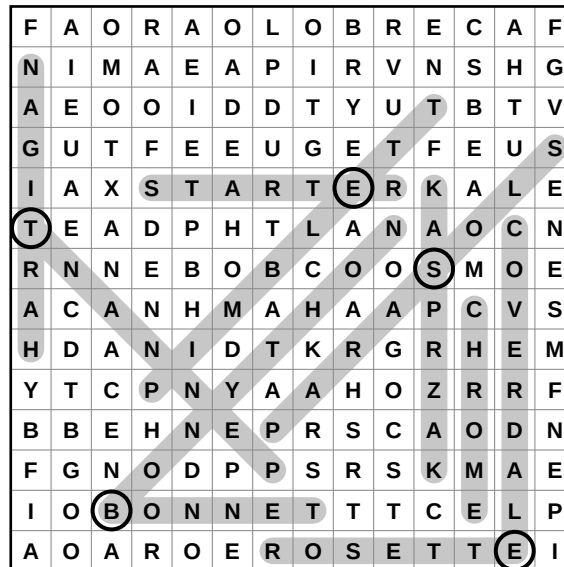
Clementine Haverford switched on the fog machine. She had left her reading glasses on the train and could not read a word of her own story. The fog machine stood right beside her signing table.

Solutions · Case 3

The Bonus Case Files

SOLUTION · CASE 3

The Flat Tires at Fernleigh Park



Crossings found in the grid:

BONYTHON × BONNET; COVERDALE × ROSETTE; HARTIGAN × PENNANT;
KASPRZAK × PARASOLS; PIMBLETT × STARTER.

How the evidence decides it

1. PIMBLETT crosses STARTER: Gareth was in the stable yard at 2:13. The farthest moment of the window is 7 minutes away and the walk is 8. Cleared.
2. BONYTHON crosses BONNET: Odette was at the lake bridge at 2:14. The farthest moment of the window is 6 minutes away and the walk is 9. Cleared.
3. HARTIGAN crosses PENNANT: Ines was in the maze at 2:15. The farthest moment of the window is 5 minutes away and the walk is 12. Cleared.
4. COVERDALE crosses ROSETTE: Florence was at the parking field at 2:12. The farthest moment of the window is 8 minutes away and the walk is 11. Cleared.
5. KASPRZAK crosses PARASOLS: Bruno was at the bandstand at 2:16. The farthest moment of the window is 6 minutes away and the walk is only 4. Not cleared, although the photo is mid-window.
6. CHROME crosses no surname.

Why not the others? Bruno's photo looks like an alibi, but the bandstand is so close that he could still reach the car.

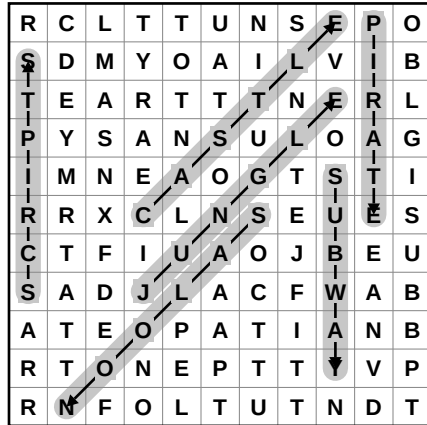
Bruno Kasprzak let down the roadster's tires. Rather than own up to fitting the wrong brake pads, he grounded the roadster until he could swap them.

The Bonus Case Files

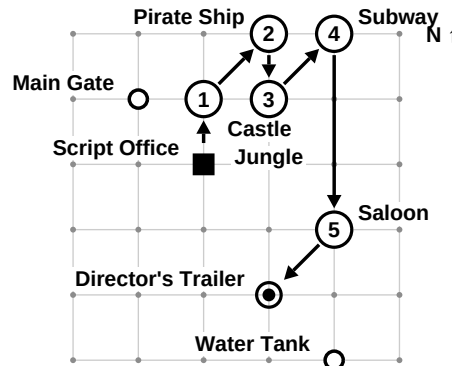
Solutions · Case 4

SOLUTION · CASE 4

The Final Scene on the Backlot



The route



Headings read from the grid:

CASTLE reads NE; JUNGLE reads NE; PIRATE reads S; SALOON reads SW;
SCRIPTS reads N; SUBWAY reads S.

How the evidence decides it

1. SCRIPTS reads north: the first landmark that way is the Castle. Stop 1.
2. CASTLE reads northeast: the first landmark that way is the Pirate Ship. Stop 2, the second stop.
3. PIRATE reads south: the first landmark that way is the Jungle. Stop 3.
4. JUNGLE reads northeast: the first landmark that way is the Subway. Stop 4.
5. SUBWAY reads south: the first landmark that way is the Saloon. Stop 5.
6. SALOON reads southwest: the first landmark that way is the Director's Trailer. The end of the route.

Why not the others? The map alone allows 5 different routes, and in them stop 2 could be the Castle, the Jungle, the Pirate Ship, the Saloon or the Subway. Only the headings in the grid pick out this route.

The cart was left alone at the Pirate Ship set, Henrietta's second stop.

Rufus Gilchrist is in charge of the Pirate Ship. Who opened the envelope is still a mystery. But the director had a secret of her own: the page in the envelope was a fake ending, written to catch a leak. Now she knows which set to watch: the Pirate Ship.

Solutions · Case 5

The Bonus Case Files

SOLUTION · CASE 5

The Glued Points at Tollington

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

Rooms found in the grid:

CAP: Tea Room; CLAMP: Layout Hall; CLOGS: Workshop; EPOXY: Storeroom; PROBE: Storeroom; SMOCK: Storeroom; TWEEZERS: Storeroom; VISE: Workshop; WATCH: Workshop.

How the evidence decides it

1. CAP: Ludovic is in the Tea Room, whose doors need red, green or blue; his only band was gold.
2. PROBE: Matilde is in the Storeroom, whose doors need gold or blue; her only band was green.
3. WATCH: Valentin is in the Workshop, whose doors need gold or green; he carried blue and red.
4. CLOGS: Anneliese is in the Workshop too; she reaches the Tea Room and the Layout Hall, but not the Storeroom (gold or blue).
5. SMOCK: Cosima is in the Storeroom (EPOXY, TWEEZERS); gold opens the Layout Hall (CLAMP), then the Workshop (VISE).

Why not the others? Anneliese looks guilty until EPOXY and TWEEZERS turn up in the Storeroom.

Cosima Larkworthy glued the points. She wanted her old Valley Line layout sent to the national show.

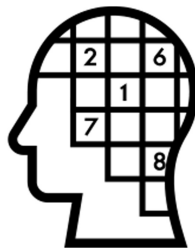
CASE CLOSED

Thank you for investigating.

You have just solved five cases that are not in the book: a bonsai show, a library story night, a vintage car rally, a film studio backlot and a model railway exhibition.

Detective Mystery Word Search holds fifty more, in three parts from beginner to advanced, each with a full step-by-step solution.

For more puzzle books and free printables from MindGrid Books, visit mindgridbooks.com.



MindGrid Books

© 2026 MindGrid Books. All rights reserved.

You are welcome to print this file for your own personal use.