

Complete the Mystery

Read the two paragraphs below and decide what might happen next in the story. Underline the words or phrases that give you clues about the ending, and then write a paragraph concluding the story.

Janie came in from recess with the rest of her class to find her teacher, Mr. Holmes, looking down at his desk and frowning. Janie took her seat along with the rest of the class, watching as Mr. Holmes walked to the front of the room. Slowly, the noise and bustle of students settling in and taking books from their backpacks died down. Mr. Holmes looked out at the kids and began to speak.



“What do you notice about my desk?” he asked. “Can anyone tell me what’s different?” Janie looked at Mr. Holmes’ desk, and suddenly she realized why he’d looked upset. Nibbles, the class hamster, was missing from her normal spot, along with her cage and the bag of hamster food that always sat on the corner of the desk. That’s when Janie remembered that she had seen Doug standing beside the door at the start of recess, seeming to wait for everyone else to file out into the yard. She glanced under Doug’s desk and noticed a strangely square lump beneath his jacket. Janie hesitated, and then slowly raised her hand.

Concluding paragraph: Answers will vary.

