

Want a FREE Set of MYSTERIES

Thank you for respecting my work!

Thank You!

Thank you so much for checking out this sample freebie! The complete set of **FIVE** Back to School Mysteries is available in my tpt store. I also have many other mystery units for different individual holidays and seasons to keep your students close reading all year long!

Instructions for Use:

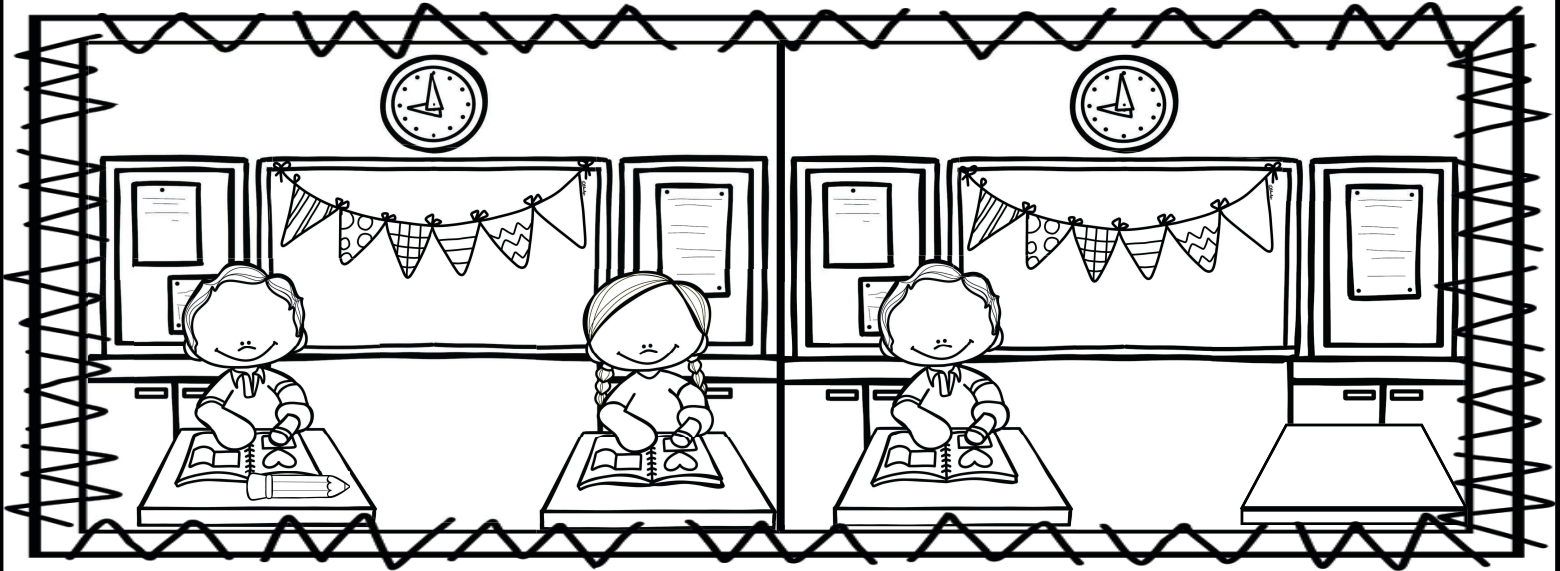
Close reading just got a whole lot more fun! It is the very first day of a new school year and odd things just keep happening. These mysteries will help your students read a little closer and strengthen their comprehension skills.

Copy a reading passage for each of your students. Or, if you want to save some paper, make one copy for a small group or set of partners in your class. You could even just make one copy for a document camera or print zero copies and display the passages on your SMART board.

You can work the close reading questions as a whole group or use them for individual comprehension practice. Mix it up if you want for each passage. These passages are also great for early finishers, to leave for a substitute, or as morning work.

Name: _____

Date: _____



The Case of the Missing Pencil

Today is Adam's first day of school. He has had so much fun already. He came to school very excited to see his friends from last year and meet many new ones. His seat is next to Anna. During quiet work time Adam learned that Anna moved from another state only a few days ago. Anna's family purchased or bought her school supplies just last night, but they had forgotten to pick up a package of pencils. Adam and Anna continued to talk quietly during seat work time until Adam hopped up to get a drink of water. When Adam returned to his desk, he heard his teacher say they only had a couple minutes to finish cutting and gluing. Luckily Adam was finished, all he needed to do was write his name on the top of his paper. Adam reached for his pencil, but...

Adam's pencil was missing!

Where could Adam's pencil be?

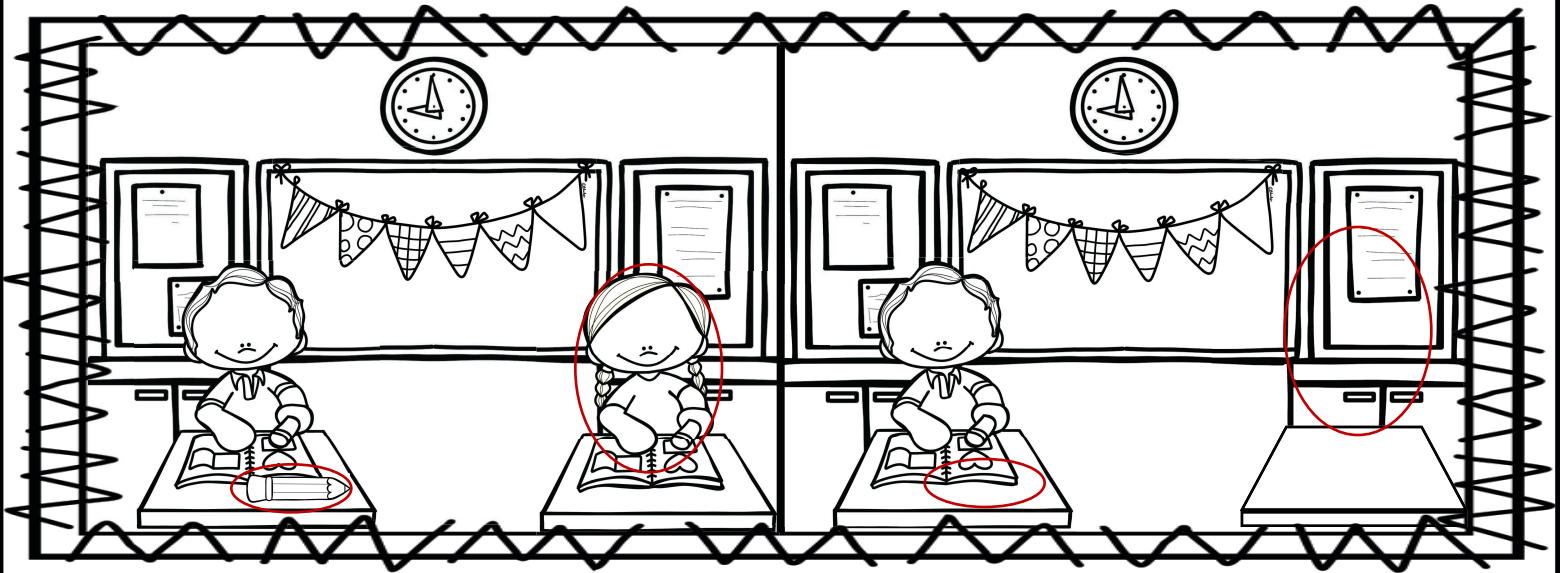
Directions: Read back over the clues and answer the questions below to discover where Adam's pencil probably is. Highlight or circle the part of the text that helped answer each question. Use the picture for help too!

1. Look at the pictures. Highlight or circle anything you notice that is different.
2. What do you think the word purchased means? _____

3. What were Adam and Anna doing in the story? _____
4. What do you think happened to Adam's pencil? _____

Name: _____

Date: _____



The Case of the Missing Pencil *key*

Today is Adam's first day of school. He has had so much fun already. He came to school very excited to see his friends from last year and meet many new ones. His seat is next to Anna. During quiet work time Adam learned that Anna moved from another state only a few days ago. Anna's family purchased or bought her school supplies just last night, but they had forgotten to pick up a package of pencils. Adam and Anna continued to talk quietly during seat work time until Adam hopped up to get a drink of water. When Adam returned to his desk, he heard his teacher say they only had a couple minutes to finish cutting and gluing. Luckily Adam was finished, all he needed to do was write his name on the top of his paper. Adam reached for his pencil, but...

Adam's pencil was missing!

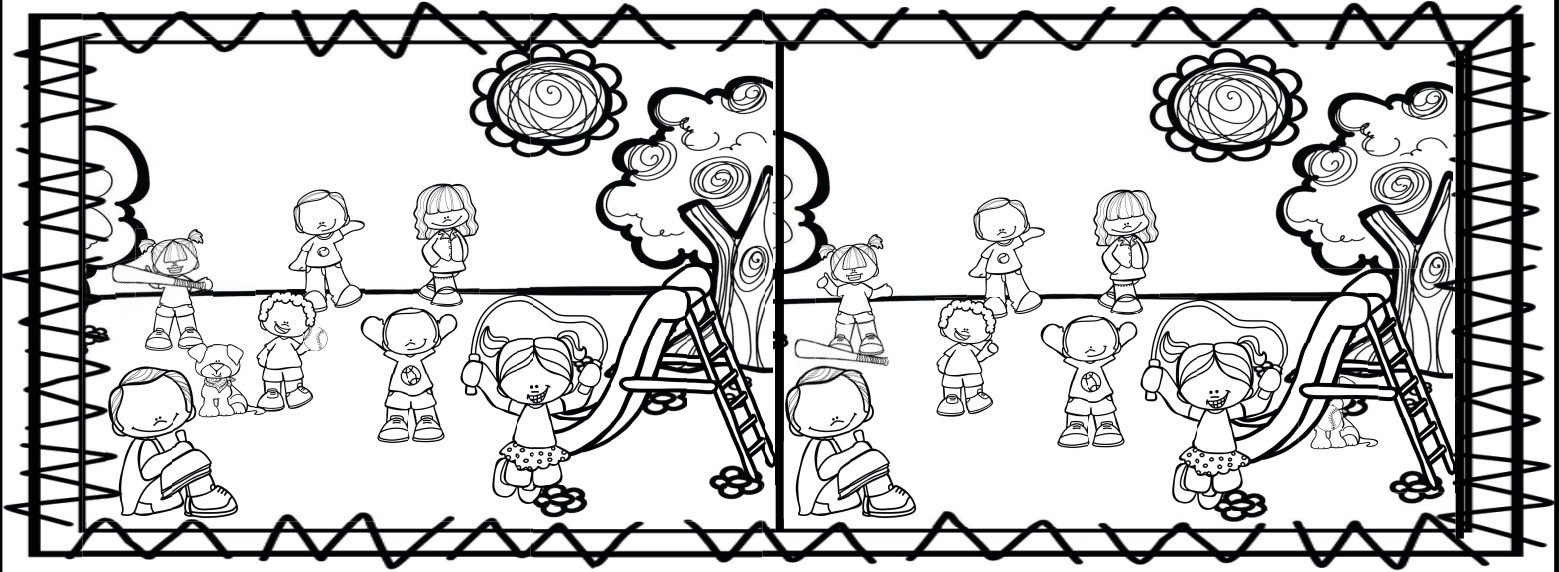
Where could Adam's pencil be?

Directions: Read back over the clues and answer the questions below to discover where Adam's pencil probably is. Highlight or circle the part of the text that helped answer each question. Use the picture for help too!

1. Look at the pictures. Highlight or circle anything you notice that is different.
2. What do you think the word purchased means? Purchased means the same thing as bought.
3. What were Adam and Anna doing in the story? In the story, Adam and Anna were working and talking quietly at their seats.
4. What do you think happened to Adam's pencil? Anna probably borrowed Adam's pencil to write her name on her paper.

Name: _____

Date: _____



The Case of the Vanishing Baseball

It's recess time! All the kids from Ms. K.'s class have had a great first day of school. Her class is so much fun. Noah enjoyed meeting some new friends today. He thought it was especially cool to meet Coco. Coco is Nicole's service dog. He will come to school each day and help Nicole in the classroom, at lunch, and at recess. It was amazing to watch Coco help Nicole. Nicole explained that Coco was a very good listener, but he did have one weakness. Baseballs. Nicole said Coco loved to play with baseballs, so much so that he would sometimes forget to listen when he spotted one. Noah and his new friends discovered they too loved to play baseball at recess. They were in the middle of a game when Nicole hit a home run. All the kids ran to get the ball, but it was no where to be found. They searched and searched but...

the baseball had vanished!

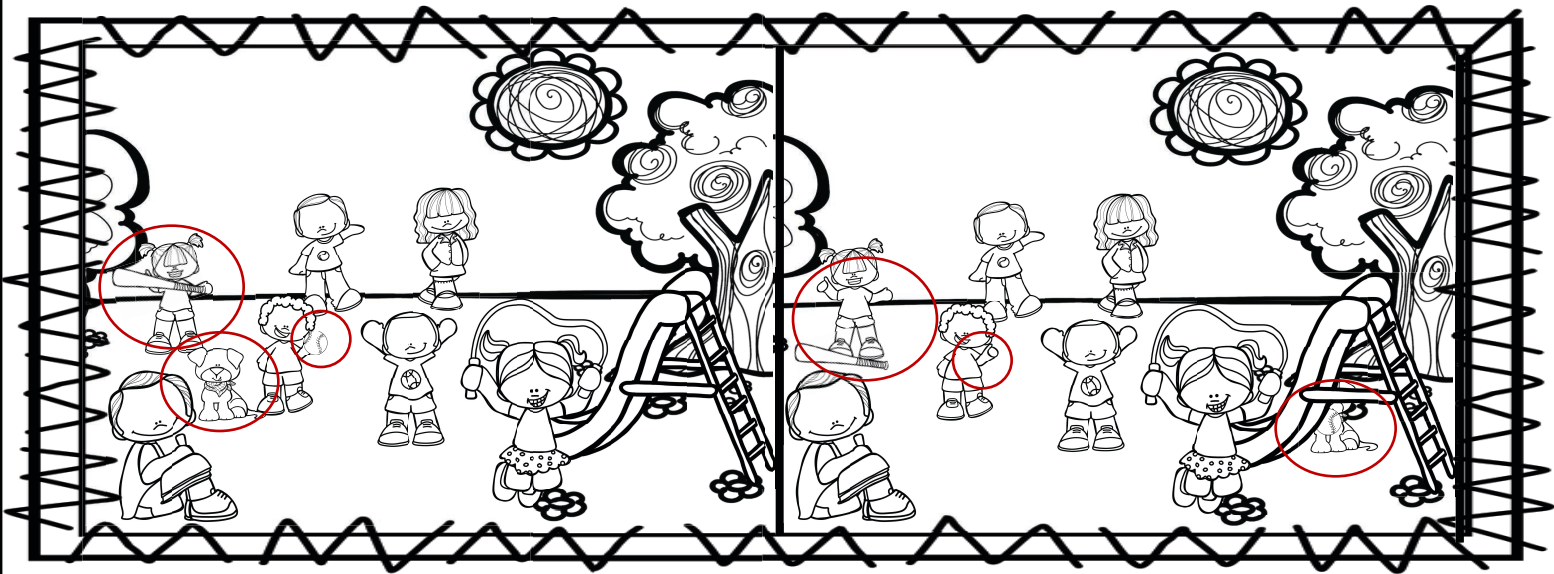
Where could the baseball be?

Directions: Read back over the clues and answer the questions below to discover what happened to the baseball. Highlight or circle the part of the text that helped answer each question. Use the picture for help too!

1. Look at the pictures. Highlight or circle anything you notice that is different.
2. Who is Coco? _____
3. What were Noah and his friends playing at recess? A) duck, duck, goose B) tag C) baseball
4. What most likely happened to the baseball? _____

Name: _____

Date: _____



The Case of the Vanishing Baseball **key**

It's recess time! All the kids from Ms. K.'s class have had a great first day of school. Her class is so much fun. Noah enjoyed meeting some new friends today. He thought it was especially cool to meet Coco. Coco is Nicole's service dog. He will come to school each day and help Nicole in the classroom, at lunch, and at recess. It was amazing to watch Coco help Nicole. Nicole explained that Coco was a very good listener, but he did have one weakness. Baseballs. Nicole said Coco loved to play with baseballs, so much so that he would sometimes forget to listen when he spotted one. Noah and his new friends discovered they too loved to play baseball at recess. They were in the middle of a game when Nicole hit a home run. All the kids ran to get the ball, but it was no where to be found. They searched and searched but...

the baseball had vanished!

Where could the baseball be?

Directions: Read back over the clues and answer the questions below to discover what happened to the baseball. Highlight or circle the part of the text that helped answer each question. Use the picture for help too!

1. Look at the pictures. Highlight or circle anything you notice that is different.
2. Who is Coco? Coco is Nicole's service dog.
3. What were Noah and his friends playing at recess? A) duck, duck, goose B) tag **(C)** baseball
4. What most likely happened to the baseball? Coco loves balls, so he most likely took the baseball to play with.