

Chloe's Cracker Caper

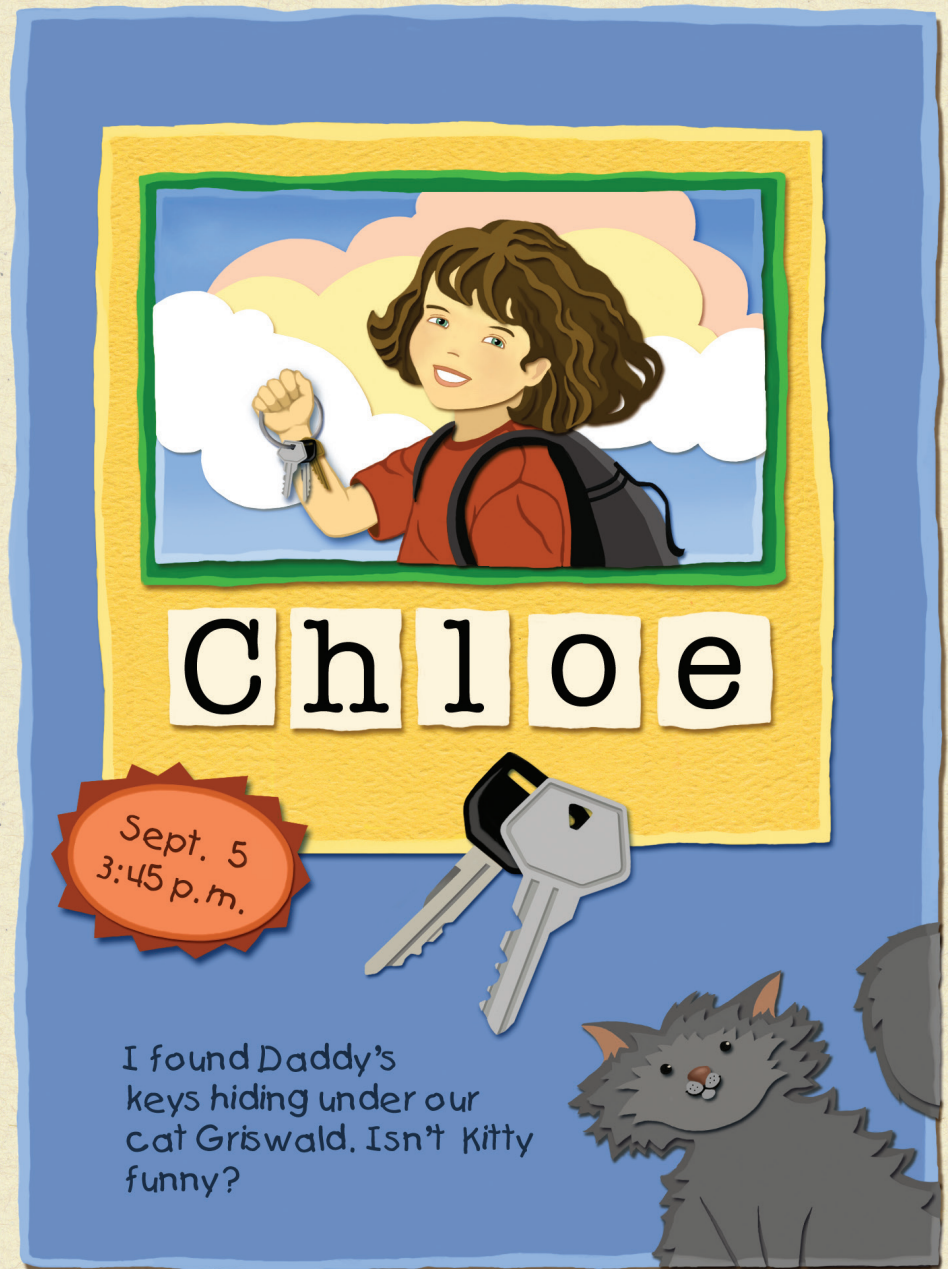


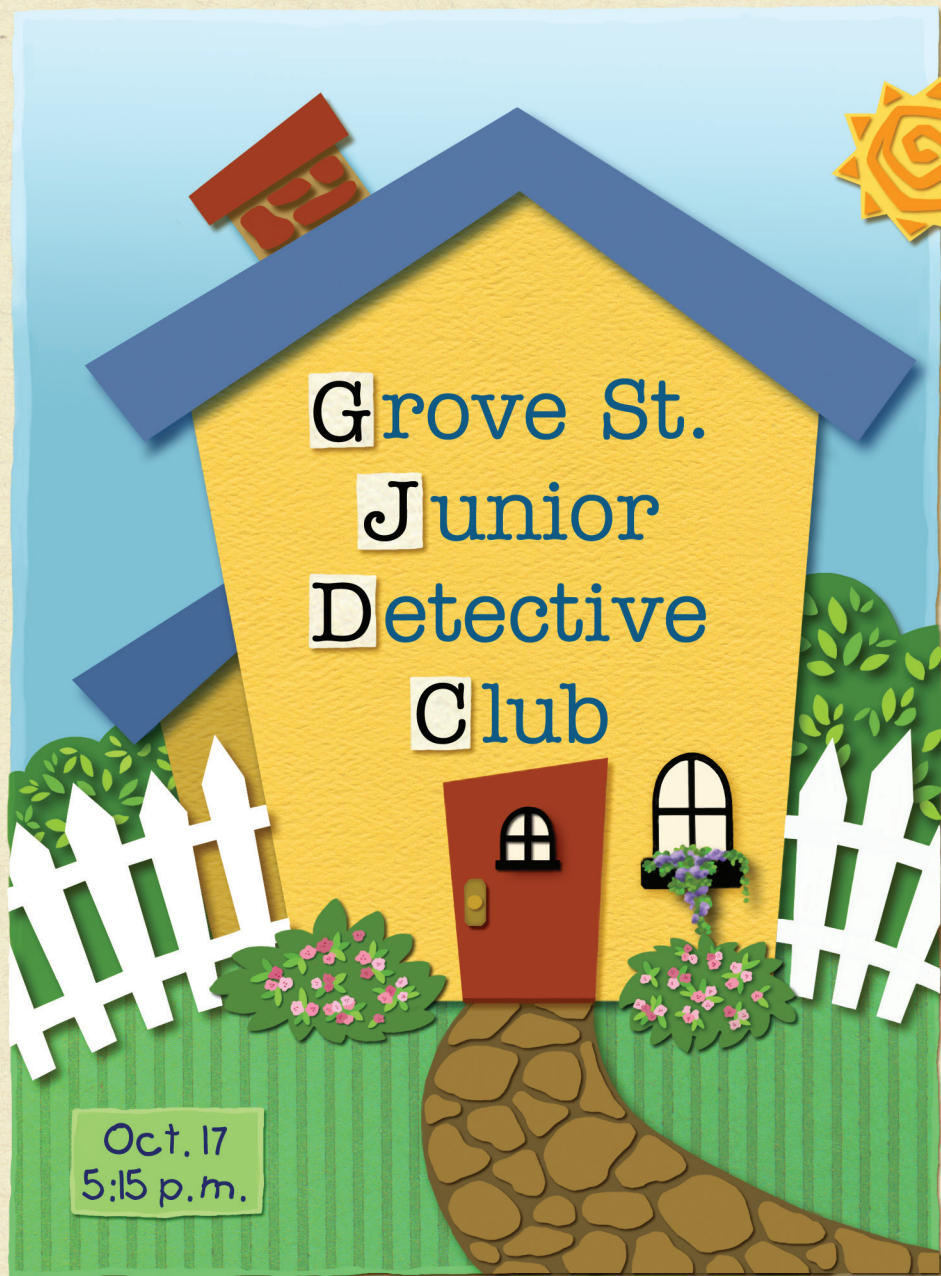
Written by Olivia Birdsall
Illustrated by Suzanne Smith



Hi! My name is Chloe Zenkman. I may look like an ordinary girl, but I am really one of the greatest detectives in the world.

Today I solved my biggest mystery yet. It was an even tougher case than the time I found my dad's missing keys.





My friends were coming to my house for the first meeting of the Grove Street Junior Detective Club. When I got home from school, I tried to fix our favorite snack—cheese and crackers, but . . .





Oct. 17, 5:54 p.m.

... the cracker box was empty.

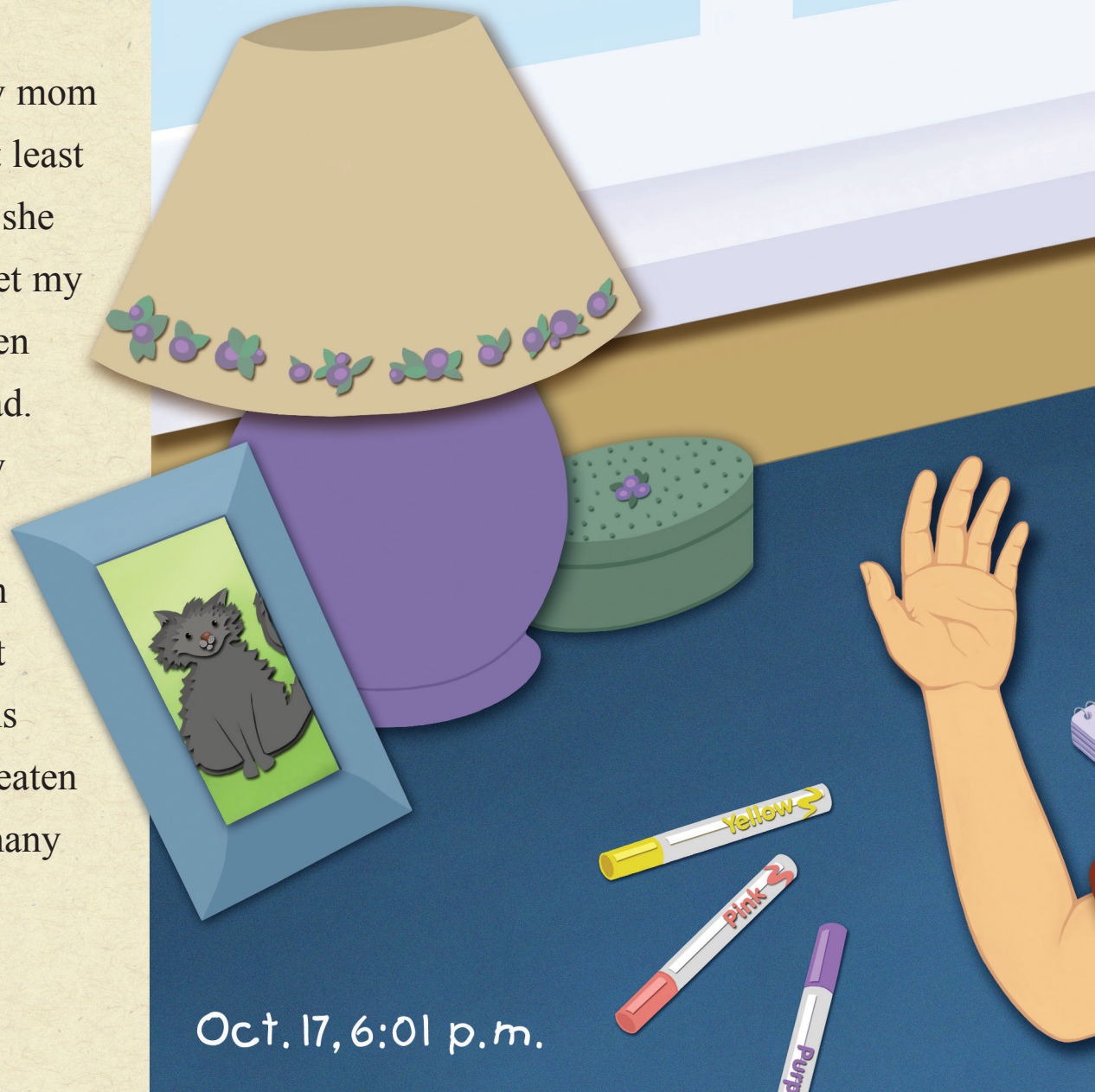


Oct. 17, 5:55 p.m.

“Something strange is going on here,” I said. “I smell a mystery.”
I examined the cracker box and found that 24 crackers come in each box.
“Aha!” I said. “My first clue: 24 crackers are missing.”



I guessed that my mom would have eaten at least 5 crackers, because she likes them a lot. I bet my dad would have eaten as many as Mom had. And I know that my brother Calvin always eats as much as everyone else put together. That means Calvin would have eaten 10 crackers. How many would that be?





5 plus 5 plus 10
would equal 20 crackers.
If my guess was correct,
4 would still be missing.

“Wow!” I said. “This
case is even harder than
the time I helped Mom
figure out what was in
the dish in the back of
the refrigerator.”



Oct. 17, 6:15 p.m.

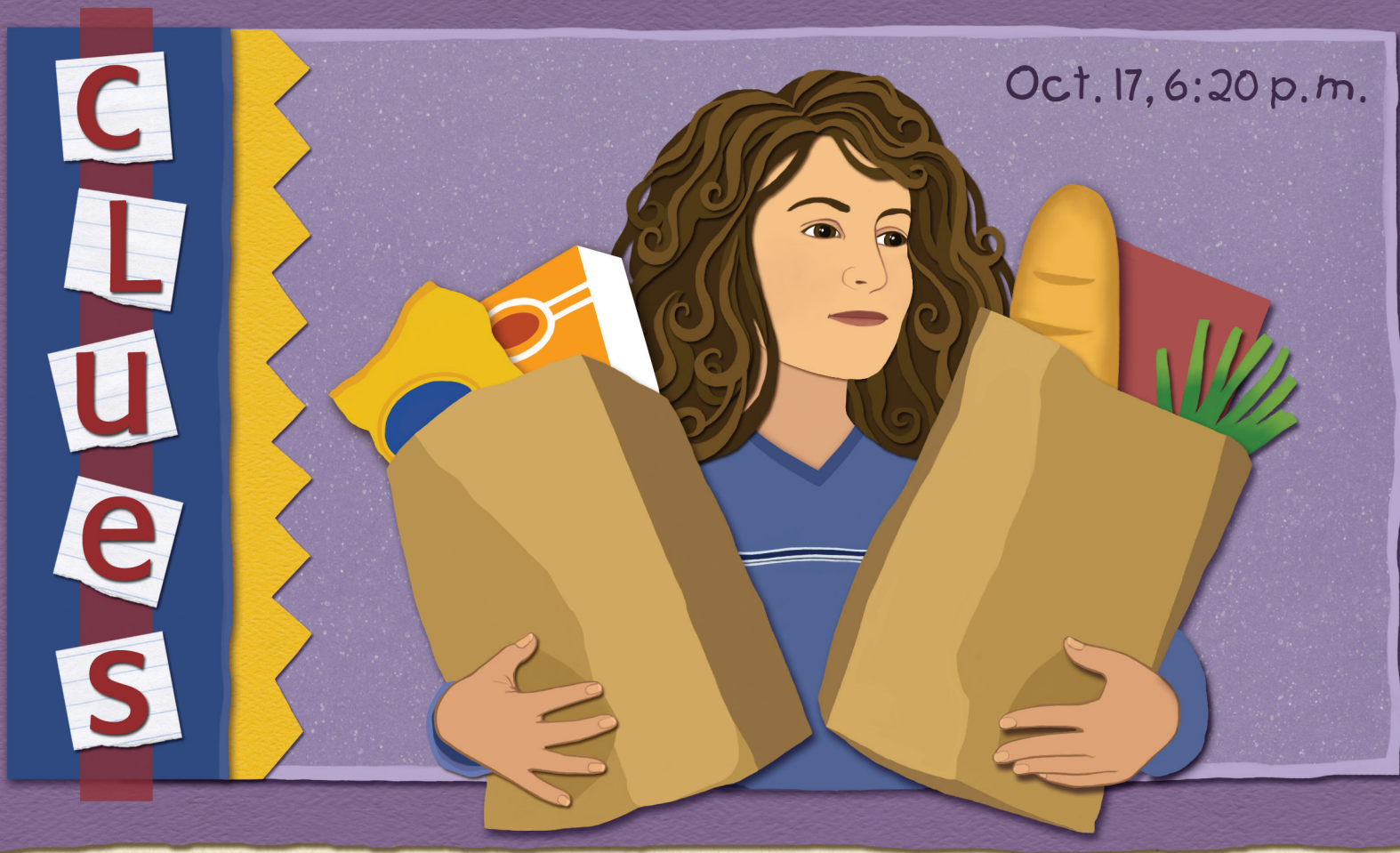
I decided to question my brother Calvin first. He wasn't in his room, but I DID find cracker crumbs all over his floor and in his bed.

"Hmm," I said to myself, "he must have eaten a lot of crackers—at least 16."



Oct. 17, 6:17 p.m.

If Calvin ate 16 crackers, then Mom and Dad would have eaten 8 crackers each. 16 plus 8 plus 8 equals 32. That would be more than 24. My guess was too high.



I went into the kitchen to look for more clues. Just then Mom walked in the door with two bags of groceries.

Oct. 17, 6:23 p.m.



“Hey, Mom,” I said. “All of the crackers are gone, and I needed them for my detective meeting. How many did you and Dad eat?”

Oct. 17, 6:27 p.m.



“Let’s see,” said Mom. “I ate 3, and your dad ate 3. Polly the Parrot said she wanted some, so we gave her 3, too.”



hmm...

I wrote what Mom said and added it up. “Okay, 3 for Mom, 3 for Dad, and 3 for Polly would be 9 crackers, plus 9 for Calvin equals 18. But there were 24 crackers. We’re still missing 6.”



Mom put the bags down
on the counter, knocking my
lunch box to the floor. The
lunch box flew open and
cracker crumbs spilled out.





Oct. 17, 6:40 p.m.

“Oops! I forgot about the 3 crackers I had for lunch.” I added up all of the crackers again: 3 for me plus 3 for Polly plus 3 for Mom plus 3 for Dad equals 12 crackers. “And if Calvin ate 12, too, that would make 24,” I told Mom. “No more missing crackers.”

“I guess that solves the mystery,” Mom said.



“But what about the meeting? What are we going to eat?” I asked.

“You’re in luck,” said Mom, reaching into one of the bags. “I bought a new box of crackers today.”

Math & Science

Guess and Check

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