To Catch a Thief

A long time ago and far away a wise magician was traveling through a strange land. He was tired from traveling all day. He stopped at an inn to spend the night and rest. He was the last guest to arrive.

The innkeeper was very glad to see the magician.

"Oh wise magician," the innkeeper said. "My wife's ring has just been lost. Can you help us find it?"

"Have you searched for the ring?" asked the magician.

"We have looked and looked everywhere," said the innkeeper. "Maybe the lovely ring was stolen."

After the evening meal the magician announced, "I believe a ring was stolen tonight before I arrived. I carry with me magical sticks that determine the truth. Each stick is the same length but by morning a thief's stick will grow one inch."

The magician gave each guest a magical wooden stick. In the morning everyone gathered to prove that they were innocent. One by one they filed by to compare their sticks with the magician's. They all matched the magician's stick except one. Somehow one stick was shorter!

"I have found the thief!" explained the magician. "You see, the thief cut one inch off his stick because he believed it would grow during the night."

Name: _____

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. When the magician stopped at the inn he was

    a. The first guest of the day
    b. The third guest of the day
    c. The last guest of the day

2. The innkeeper wanted the magician to find a missing

    a. Bracelet
    b. Ring
    c. Necklace

3. The magician's magical sticks were made from

    a. Wood
    b. Metal
    c. Plastic

4. The magician gave magical sticks to

    a. Guests at the inn
    b. The innkeeper's family
    c. Both guests and family members

5. Whose magical stick grew?

    a. The magician's
    b. The thief's
    c. Nobody's

Name: _____

Measuring

This exercise requires a pencil, ruler and a piece of paper.

1. Draw a magical stick as a straight line that is 4 inches long.

2. Draw a magical stick that is one inch longer than the first stick.

3. Draw a magical stick that is one inch shorter than the first stick.

4. Draw a square that is two inches on each side.

5. Draw a rectangle that is two inches by three inches.

6. Draw a triangle that is two inches on each side.

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. a
5. c

Measuring

No answer key.