

A. Hawkins
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126 7th Avenue
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Dear Students,

How can I ever thank you? Our dear Alice is home safely, and without a scratch. This is exactly what Cavia Elementary and I have been hoping for. You are some all-star investigators, that's for sure!

After getting a call from your instructor, I invited [Suspect #3's name here] in for a meeting. She was so terrified. Shaking from head to toe! I just mentioned Alice's name once, and she broke into tears and confessed it all.

Here is what happened: [Suspect #3] thought that it was her weekend to take Alice home. When she came into my classroom after school, she thought I had already gone home for the weekend. She panicked, thinking that Alice would be left alone all weekend if she didn't take her home.

It wasn't terribly easy, of course, hence the mess she left behind in the classroom. After dashing into the classroom and finding I wasn't there, she panicked! She ran to the back of the classroom holding that bulky solar system project and bumped right into my skeleton model, knocking it down. The paint on Jupiter was still wet and it smeared orange paint smudges on the tables and chairs as [Suspect #3's name here] made her way to the back of the room.

When she got to Alice's enclosure she remembered it was locked. There was no way to open it without a key! Fortunately, our kind janitor Mr. Johnston just happened to walk by. [Suspect #3's name here] knew he had a master set of keys for the whole school. Sure enough, he was happy to help her unlock Alice's enclosure that afternoon. I think that if we took a shoe print from Mr. Johnston, we'd see that his shoe print matches the muddy partial print left behind in the classroom that day. And that funny lemon smell? Well that was from the special cleaner he uses! He spilled it on the floor by mistake when he unlocked Alice's cage and he opened the window to air out the scent.

Well, once the whole hulabaloo about Alice going "missing" hit the news, [Suspect #3's name here] was terrified! She hadn't stolen Alice. She was just trying to take care of her as she had promised. But [Suspect #3's name here] was so scared that she didn't tell anyone what happened. Oh, I wish she would have!

Instead she hid Alice at her home, hoping that all of the attention would die down and that everyone would forget. But that didn't happen, did it? Instead your outstanding forensic skills led us to [Suspect #3].

What a big misunderstanding! Of course, no one is mad at [Suspect #3's name here]. She took superb care of Alice while she had her. And now she knows that telling the truth is always the best way to go. What heartache would have been saved if she had just done it sooner!

Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you! My heart can rest easy again. In gratitude, please accept these guinea pig stickers. Just a small way to remember how your hard work helped to bring our sweet Alice home.



Mrs. Hawkins
Elementary Science