



Chapter 5 - Newspaper

There was a strange occurrence last night as not one, but two crimes were unveiled, along with the latest haul from famed treasure hunter Monsieur Gargant. What was promised as an evening of revelations and mystery lived up to its hype, but for very different reasons.

When Monsieur Gargant took to the stage to show off his latest haul of long-lost goodies, nobody in the room could have predicted what they were about to see - nothing. Indeed, the mysterious glass display case proved to be entirely empty when the silken cloth was whisked away.

Of course, disarray soon descended. "It was utter chaos," said one guest who asked to remain anonymous. Another described the scene as one of anger and distress for all involved.

The haul itself was said to include a glass bottle of wine from the table of the famous Roman leader, Julius Caesar. It took one of the night's heroes, a young girl named Penny Wentwhistle, to point out that glass

bottles hadn't been invented at that time. Fingers quickly pointed towards the intrepid adventurer, and claims of insurance fraud and wholesale fakery were made.

One can only imagine the shock of all present when Gargant revealed that the bottle had indeed been a fake, as had many of his previous finds. However, he insisted that he was innocent of the theft, and our juvenile detectives set their minds back on the case.

Donny Holistic, a reporter for this very newspaper, was present at the scene and reported that all of the adults were far more concerned with working out how to get a refund on their entry ticket rather than working out what was going on. That honour fell to the two children, who quickly went on to save the day.

After half an hour of dogged detective work, Penny, along with her friend Charles Popsicle, uncovered the true reason behind the historic heist.



“I knew that low-background steel was valuable,” Charles said after the hubbub had died down, “so it was really just a case of finding out who else would have known that. The criminal told us that his father owned a scrap metal yard, and from there, it was really just a matter of joining the dots.”



Scrap steel - low-background steel has a high resale value in certain markets.

The local police chief has confirmed that the children will probably be presented with some form of a medal as thanks for their efforts. A more cynical reporter would wonder whether it was to stop them from telling everybody how they solved a case before his own detectives managed to!

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find and copy a phrase from the first paragraph that describes something odd happening.
2. What is a “revelation”?
3. What does the phrase “live up to its hype” mean to you?
4. Find and copy a phrase that means people started to blame Gargant.
5. If somebody is “intrepid”, what does it mean?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

E

How has the author used quotes to add information to the text?

R

How long did it take the children to solve the case?

R

What will they get as a reward?

I

Why might the chief of police be embarrassed?

I

What evidence is there that the children were the only guests trying to solve the case?