



AN IN THE HILLS MINI-MYSTERY

Lost Along the Mad River

From the moment the group left Creemore in the big van, Chris had a bad feeling about this hike. It wasn't the group; they were a good bunch. And it sure wasn't Creemore for everyone had enjoyed the town. Nor was it the hike. Anywhere on the Bruce Trail was a winner to Chris. The issue was the two guides. They were rookies; that much was obvious. Nothing wrong with that but they didn't get along. The one named Shirley was especially, well, chewy, argumentative. Didn't seem to like anything. The other, 'the tall one' – nobody seemed able to remember his name – tended to sulk. The weather didn't help Chris's mood either. The late summer sun, so pleasant in Creemore that morning had been covered by cloud and it was clear a storm was coming.

The hike, fortunately, was to be a short one: start in Devil's Glen and then a loop back to the van. But only an hour after they'd left the blazed trail for what the tall one called "a creative sojourn into the bush," Chris knew they were lost. And it didn't help that a whispered conversation between the guides turned into a clearly audible spat.

"You hear that?" the tall one said fiercely, one finger pointed upward. He was replying to Shirley's challenge of: "You got us in here you get us out!"

"That sound? You hear it?" the tall one continued. "That's the Mad River. We walk to the Mad. Then we use the map to know where we are."

"Mad River, my eye!" Shirley was blustering now. "That's the wind we hear!"

Chris hesitated. She knew how to determine which guide was right. What she didn't know was how to offer her solution tactfully.

How does Chris know which guide is right?

By the Left, Quick Change!

Notice how you can change the word **left** to the word **hook** in four steps by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.

left – loft – loot – look – hook

Here are some more "left quick changes." Remember: you change one letter at each step, and each change must produce a new, real word. Slang, proper names and made-up words do not count.

left _____ foot

CHANGE LEFT TO FOOT IN THREE STEPS

left _____ hand

CHANGE LEFT TO HAND IN FOUR STEPS

left _____ wing

CHANGE LEFT TO WING IN FIVE STEPS

left _____ bank

CHANGE LEFT TO BANK IN FIVE STEPS



Holding the Bag in Belfountain

At Belfountain School, seven children in a primary class were handed a bag containing seven coconuts. Their challenge was to see how quickly they could divide the coconuts equally among themselves. To their credit, they accomplished the task in under a minute, each child getting one coconut. But at the end of the exercise there was still one coconut in the bag!

How could that happen?



The Weatherperson from Caledon East

It might have been the bad traffic on his commute to the radio station in Toronto or possibly a comment at the staff meeting that his weather reporting was getting a bit dull. Whatever the reason, radio listeners that day were treated to this report by the weatherperson living in Caledon East.

"Today's weather, as you have probably noticed, is different from yesterday. If tomorrow's weather is the same as yesterday, the day after tomorrow will have the same weather as the day before yesterday. But if the weather tomorrow is the same as the weather today, the day after tomorrow will have the same weather as yesterday. If you had to drive all the way from Caledon East, as I did early this morning, you know it was raining this morning and has been all day. Just like the day before yesterday. Now yesterday..."

At this point, just as the weatherperson was going to remind listeners whether or not it was raining or clear yesterday, the station went to a commercial. Fortunately, there was already enough information in the report to figure that out.

Was it raining or clear yesterday?

Between Hillburgh and Erin

Three pipes are connected to a small reservoir between Hillsburgh and Erin. One of the pipes (the Hillsburgh pipe) can fill the reservoir in six hours; the second (the Erin pipe) can fill it in four hours. The third pipe is used for drainage and can empty the reservoir in three hours.

On a Tuesday morning in September, the reservoir was completely empty. Because of a miscommunication immediately after the lunch that day, a worker left the drainage pipe open to its widest limit. At precisely the same time, two other workers opened the Hillsburgh and Erin pipes to their widest limit. Thus, beginning at 1 p.m., all three pipes were working at full capacity, two filling and one draining.

At what time that day did the reservoir become filled?

Silas Moves to Mono Mills



After the fair in East Garafraxa, Silas moved his medicine show to Mono Mills where a highly publicized political debate was scheduled. Sale of liquor was forbidden at this event and whenever that happened, sales of "Renarm's Stomach Soother," Silas's special elixir, always seemed to double, even triple. That's why he offered a puzzle for adults only this time. The prize was two bottles of the elixir.

To try the puzzle, a contestant first had to buy a bottle of elixir, although there was no limit to the number of tries (or bottles) the contestant could purchase. (Silas ran out of "Stomach Soother" that day by 3 p.m.)

This was Silas's special puzzle for the Mono Mills debate:

Draw a design of seven squares and place at least one of seven shells in each square. Each square in the design must touch all of the other six in some way. Three of the squares must each be a different size than every one of the others.