

# **Girl Detectives**



**by Judith Brand**

**illustrated by Jeff Seaver**

 **Harcourt**

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“Let’s play detective,” said Megan. “Jo and I can both be detectives, so you all go hide. Then we’ll look for clues to find you.”



🔊 “I see some tracks in the snow,” said Jo. “There are big ones and little ones. Maybe A.J. and Jim made them. Let’s go!”

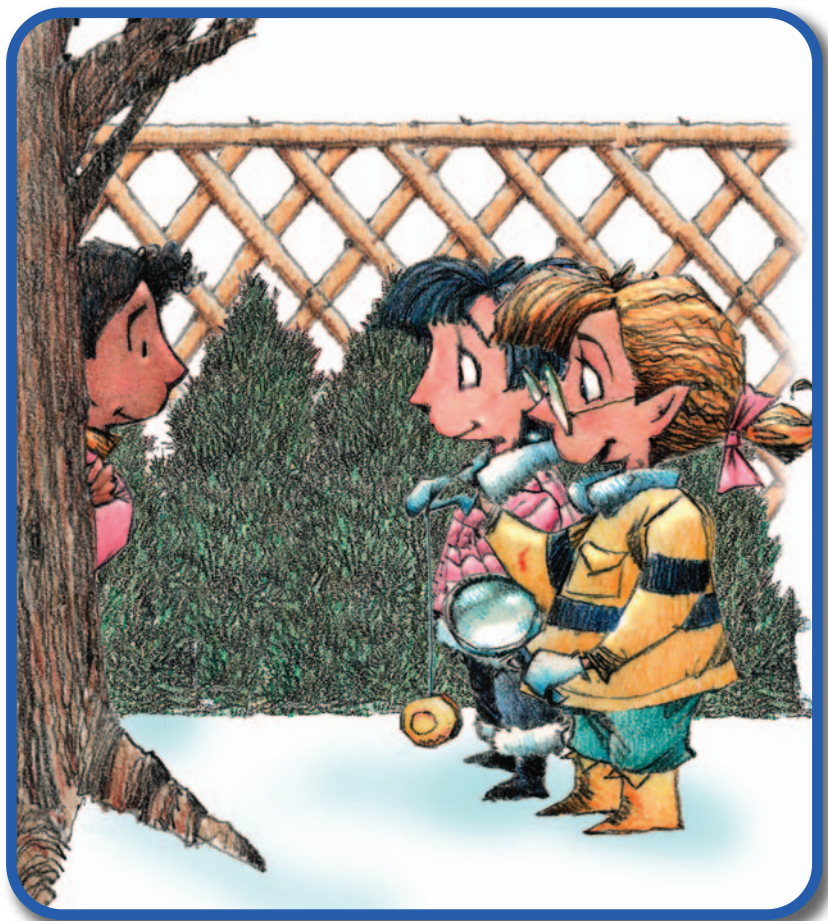




🔊 “I told you we would find them. They are both here,” said Jo. “Hello, A.J. Hello, Jim. We saw your footprints in the snow.”



▶ “Look,” said Megan. “There’s a gold yo-yo. Beth had a yo-yo.” Megan pulled the yo-yo from the snow.



- Megan held out the yo-yo.  
“Hello, Beth,” said Megan. “Here’s  
your yo-yo. It was a good clue!”





- ▶ “Are there any tracks in the mud?” Megan asked.
- ▶ “Yes,” said Jo, “but they were made by Penny, the cat!”



“Look near the post on the porch,” said Jo. “Look at the floor. Are those Evan’s footprints?”



🔊 “No, these footprints are too big,” said Megan. “I think Mom made these tracks.”



🔊 “I hope we find Evan soon,” Jo said. “Let’s go over there, okay?”





🔊 “Something broke this branch not long ago,” said Megan. “There’s a piece of the branch on the snow.”



- ▶ “Maybe an animal broke it,” said Jo.
- ▶ “No,” said Megan. “There are footprints also. I’ll show you.”



Jo said, “I see the tracks. And I see Evan, too. We found lots of clues and all of our friends!”





- ▶ “So do you want to play some more?” asked Beth.
- ▶ “No,” said A.J. “I’m cold. Let’s all go home.”






🔊 “I’m cold, too,” said Megan.  
“Nature is fun, but now I want  
to go inside and get warm.”




“I thought you’d be here,” Mom said. “This was on the floor.” Megan laughed. “Mom, you’re a detective, too!”


## **Think and Respond**

 **1** Who do Jo and Megan find first?

 **2** What clue helped Jo and Megan find Beth?

 **3** What clues help Jo and Megan find Evan?

 **4** What is the main idea of the story?

 **5** What nature clues do you see when you play outside?



**"Clues to Me"** Write a few words or draw a picture about something you like. Do not write your name. Mix up the papers with a small group of classmates. Put the papers face down so each person can pick one and identify the person it belongs to.



**School-Home Connection** Play detective in a room in your home to find clues left by family members who have been there. Look for clues that tell if you have been in the room, too.



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