

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Opening Activity

You Solve the Mystery #7

Name: _____ Period: _____ Row: _____



The Piggy Bank

The man whom the newspapers called Hard-Hearted Hardy specialized in stealing children's piggy banks, which he often took in plain sight because he thought that children were not only weak and defenseless, but also too young to be able to identify him. He usually went into a child's bedroom through an open window, and if any children were there, he threatened them and often knocked them to the floor to scare them. Then, with a growl like a mad dog, would smash the piggy bank and help himself to the contents.

He got away with this deplorable conduct for almost a year, but one day he walked into a room where twelve year old Marvin, the son of the Bedford City chief of police lived. Marvin whose father had spent many hours teaching Marvin how to protect himself and two of his friends who were staying the night were playing in his bedroom. When Hardy came through the window looking for a piggy bank he looked at the boys and growled. As in the past Hardy expected the boys to fear him. Marvin and the boys knew

right away who he was. Instead of being scared, Marvin yelled “jump him.” Marvin grabbed his legs so that he fell, and the other two boys jumped on him holding down his arms and legs. Nevertheless, Hardy was able to fight them off and make his escape taking Marvin’s piggy bank with him. After that incident, Hardy dropped out of sight for a while.

On the basis of descriptions from Marvin and his friends, a police artist was able to draw a sketch of Hardy. The boys agreed that it was excellent in every detail, but the picture was of limited use unless the police had a suspect to compare it with, and at first they had none.

Four months later, the police arrested three men because they were spending large sums of money in small change within the shops of Bedford City. Many of the merchants had children who were victims and knew something seemed odd when several customers paid for merchandise with large sums of change and notified the police. All of the men arrested by the police were able to give logical reasons for the use of so much change so the case came down to the police artist sketch.

The police sketch artist made a sketch of each of the three arrested, they are labeled A, B, and C on page one. The police believed that one of the three was probably Hard-Hearted Hardy because even though their stories were possible none could prove their stories to be factual. Hardy had tried very hard to change his appearance by disguising himself since he knew he was being hunted by the police. Nevertheless, after the police had Marvin and his friends compare the three sketches of the man in Marvin’s room with the original sketch made by the police artist the day after the incident, Marvin and his friends were able to point out which of the three had robbed them. Can you?



LET US LOOK AT THE FACTS: (Circle the correct answer)

1. Do you think it was likely that Hardy had plastic surgery after the incident with the boys to disguise himself? Yes No
2. Could growing a beard be a likely disguise? Yes No
3. Could growing a mustache be a likely disguise? Yes No
4. Does a different type of haircut change the appearance of a person?
Yes No
5. Whose nose most resembles Hardy? _____
6. Whose mouth most resembles Hardy? _____
7. Which sketch A – B – or C is Hardy? **EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICE BELOW**
