

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Opening Activity

You are the Detective # 1

The Case of the Missing Painting

Name: _____ Period: _____ Row: _____

MATCH WITS WITH WORLD FAMOUS INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU:

Inspector Clouseau wasn't always sure of how he did it; but he did it on a regular basis. On some occasions he would see a police cruiser and stop to see what was going on just out of curiosity. Sometimes he would hear a police or ambulance siren and simply follow the sound until it stopped. He would quite often just be walking or driving around Pleasantville City when a sixth sense would tell him to turn here or stop there.

It was this sixth sense for crime that brought him to the Braxton Office Building on a windy and cold March day. Inspector Clouseau settled quietly into a chair in the lobby, patiently waiting for something to happen. The first visitor to catch his eye was a bike messenger, arriving with a package-filled backpack and a long document tube. The messenger disappeared into an express elevator labeled 45th Floor Express. Eight minutes later, the messenger reappeared and left the building, still carrying the tube but one package lighter.



As the messenger was walking out of the elevator an elegantly attired older gentleman using a cane in his left hand stepped into the elevator. The inspector noticed the man limped heavily on his left leg and was using a cane in his left hand for support.

The gentleman reappeared in the lobby twelve minutes later. On his exit from the elevator he nearly collided with a woman in a Liz Claiborne designer suit who seemed to be in a hurry. The umbrella she was carrying became momentarily entangled with the cane in the elderly gentleman's right hand as he was limping off the elevator.

"Watch where you're going," she angrily stated in loud harsh tone of voice.
"My apologies madam," the man replied.

The man limped off the elevator and the woman pressed her floor button while fidgeting with her umbrella until the elevator door closed. Her visit in the building lasted only six minutes.

The Inspector was beginning to think his crime-sensing instincts were flawed since he had seen no police up to this point. Perhaps he was losing his touch or maybe it was this cold he was experiencing. Then suddenly a pair of police officers rushed into the lobby and took the same express elevator to the 45th floor. "It's about time they called in the police," the Inspector said with satisfaction.

When the police left the building a half hour later, Inspector Clouseau followed them to the Wall Street Coffee Shop. He sat down in the empty booth behind the two officers, quietly ordered an English muffin, and listened intently to their conversation.

"What was a million-dollar painting doing in the reception area?" the older cop asked his partner. Clouseau recognized the man talking as Lieutenant Daniel Wu, an officer he had chatted with at dozens of other crime scenes.

The 45th floor, it seems, contained the offices of the Braxton Company's top brass, and the furnishings in the reception area included a small valuable oil painting, about one foot square. Only three visitors had been alone there long enough to cut the painting out of its frame—a bike messenger delivering documents, the never do well uncle of the company president wanting to borrow a few dollars, and the vice president's previous wife he had divorced a year ago, who had come to complain about her alimony payment being too little. All three had visited the offices on several occasions before the theft and could have noticed the unguarded painting on one of those earlier visits.

"Excuse me," Inspector Clouseau said as he rose from his booth and walked over to Lieutenant Wu and his partner. Wu saw the trim little man in his CSI TV show baseball cap and Court TV T-shirt and smiled. "Sherlock Holmes, I presume."

"That was my great-great-grandfather," the Inspector answered politely. "But I did inherit a few of his modest powers. Would you like me to tell you who stole that painting?"



WHO STOLE THE PAINTING?

WHAT CLUE GAVE THE THIEF AWAY? _____
