



The Case of the Missing Kugel

Ages 6-9
A story and 9 activities

The Case of the Missing Kugel

It is Friday afternoon, and the kugel has vanished.

Bracha stands in the kitchen with her hands on her hips. This morning there was a big golden noodle kugel on the counter, still warm, cooling under a dish towel. Now there is only a towel and nothing else.

"Somebody took it," she announces.

"Who?" asks her brother Duvid, popping a grape into his mouth.

Bracha narrows her eyes. "You."

"Me? I've been at the library all day!"

"You always take food."

"So do you!"

"Okay, okay." Bracha puts up a hand. "Let's be detectives. Detectives don't just point. They collect clues."

She gets a notebook from the drawer and writes: THE CASE OF THE MISSING KUGEL.

"Clue one," she says. "The towel is folded. If someone grabbed it fast, it would be messy."

"That's true," says Duvid. He is interested now.

"Clue two. There are crumbs. But not on the floor. Only on the windowsill."

They both go to the window. A few yellow noodle crumbs sit on the ledge, next to a tiny muddy paw print.

"A paw print," whispers Duvid.

"Clue three," says Bracha. "The back door is open a crack."

They follow the little muddy prints out the door. They lead across the porch, down the steps, and across the yard to the hedge.

Behind the hedge, lying on his back in the sun, is Mr. Buttons, the neighbor's orange cat. A single noodle is stuck to his whiskers. Beside him sits a large glass dish, licked clean. It was not a small kugel.

"Mr. Buttons!" says Bracha.

The cat opens one eye, yawns, and goes back to sleep.

"We accused each other," says Duvid. "And it was a cat."

"I accused you first," says Bracha. "Sorry."

"It's okay," says Duvid. "You were hungry, and you were mad. I've done it, too."

They look at the empty dish. The sun is dipping low, and Shabbos is coming in two hours.

"What are we going to do?" says Bracha. "Mommy's guests are coming."

"We can make another one," says Duvid. "I know the recipe. It's noodles, eggs, sugar, and cinnamon."

"You know the recipe?"

"I watched Mommy do it last week."

They run back to the kitchen. Bracha boils the noodles, and Duvid cracks the eggs. They stir in the sugar and a big shake of cinnamon, and slide the pan into the oven.

When Mommy gets home, the whole house smells warm and sweet.

"You made a kugel?" she asks.

"We made two," says Bracha. "One was eaten by a cat."

Mommy bursts out laughing. "Mr. Buttons?"

"He left a clue," says Duvid. "A whisker."

That night, the kugel comes out golden, with crispy edges. The guests have seconds. Even Duvid and Bracha think it is better than the first one.

After Shabbos, Bracha tears a page from her notebook and writes: Case closed. The culprit is an orange cat. We did not blame each other, and we baked a better one.

She tapes it to the fridge, right next to a drawing of Mr. Buttons, wearing a tiny detective hat.



Activity 1 of 9

Remember the story

1. What is missing in the story?

2. What clues do they find?

3. Who takes the kugel?

4. What do the children do next?



Activity 2 of 9

Fact or guess? (circle one)

1. There is a muddy paw print on the windowsill. Fact / Guess
2. Duvid takes the kugel. Fact / Guess
3. Duvid knows the recipe from watching Mommy. Fact / Guess
4. The second kugel is ready before Shabbos. Fact / Guess



Activity 3 of 9

Think and write

1. Why does Bracha first blame Duvid?

2. What are clues you can use instead of guessing?

3. How do you feel when someone blames you for something you didn't do?

Activity 4 of 9

Word search (find all 6)

Words: KUGEL, CLUES, DETECTIVE, PAWPRINT, NOODLES, CINNAMON

F	P	P	A	W	P	R	I	N	T	W
H	C	H	S	T	U	E	P	K	D	C
H	M	W	D	O	U	Y	G	S	P	I
C	L	U	E	S	M	L	I	L	A	N
S	F	T	Y	E	V	E	R	R	V	N
E	D	E	T	E	C	T	I	V	E	A
L	F	N	C	B	R	W	K	U	Y	M
D	L	G	W	M	J	J	U	E	I	O
O	M	U	H	D	Y	I	G	U	T	N
O	N	J	M	P	Y	H	E	D	R	P
N	U	O	H	P	F	P	L	J	C	H



Activity 5 of 9

Scrambled words (from the story)

1. ELKGU = _____

2. UESCL = _____

3. INNCMOA = _____

4. DWSLLWOINI = _____

5. NSEOLOD = _____



Activity 6 of 9

Say it out loud

Practice each line in a calm, steady voice:

"Let's look for clues first."

"I'm sorry I blamed you."

"Let's fix it together."

Activity 7 of 9

My chart

My Detective Chart

#	The mystery	The clues	What really happened
Case 1			
Case 2			
Case 3			



Activity 8 of 9

Draw it

Draw Mr. Buttons the orange cat wearing a tiny detective hat.





Activity 9 of 9

Answers

Remember the story:

1. A noodle kugel
2. A folded towel, crumbs, a paw print, and an open back door
3. Mr. Buttons, the neighbor's orange cat
4. They make another kugel

Fact or guess: 1 Fact; 2 Guess; 3 Fact; 4 Fact

Scrambled words: KUGEL, CLUES, CINNAMON, WINDOWSILL, NOODLES

Think and write: answers will vary; talk them over together.