

illustrated by Jeff Seaver



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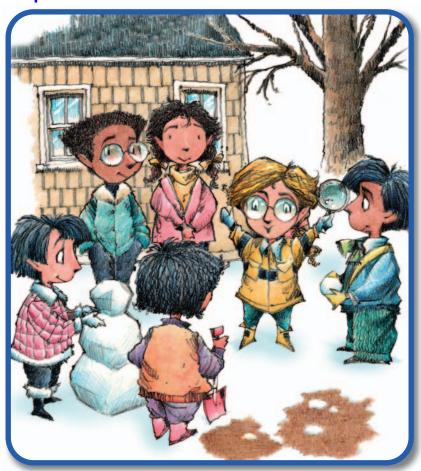


by Judith Brand illustrated by Jeff Seaver



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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."



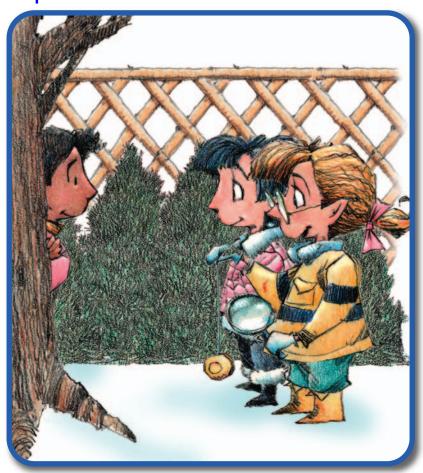
"I see some tracks in the snow," said Jo. "There are big ones and little ones. Maybe A.J. and Jim made them. Let's go!"



"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.

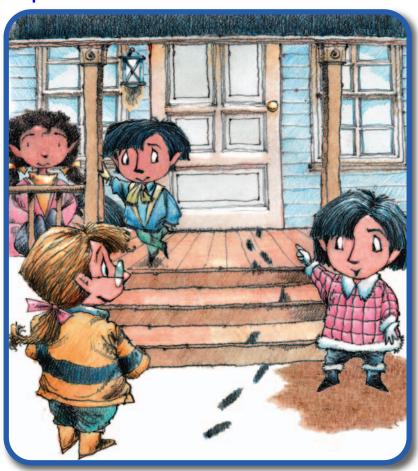


Megan held out the yo-yo.

"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?"



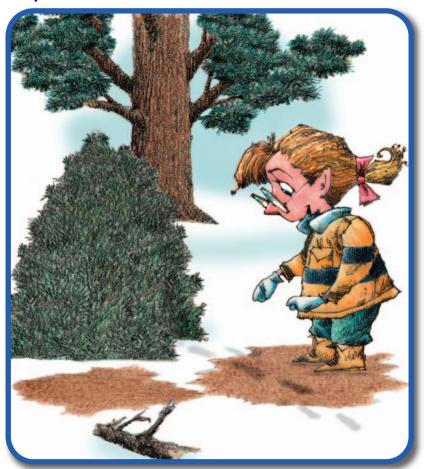
"No, these footprints are too big," said Megan. "I think Mom made these tracks."



"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

- Who do Jo and Megan find first?
- What clue helped Jo and Megan find Beth?
- What clues help Jo and Megan find Evan?
- What is the main idea of the story?
- 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.

Word Count: 291

