

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES

TEACHER'S GUIDE AND COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

This new edition of favorite Tom and Ricky mysteries makes this series even more appealing to struggling readers ages 9-14+. With more sophisticated covers and illustrations by noted artist Patrick Faricy to support the text, these two sets are precisely leveled and suited for use at either the independent or the instructional level. Each book has 70-75% decodable text and 20-25% sight words (Fry 200 and Dolch Preprimer-First reading lists), with no more than 5% challenge words.

For Independent Level: If your student can decode one- and two-syllable phonetically regular words and has mastered the Fry 200 and Dolch Preprimer-First reading lists, these books may be used for independent reading. You may choose to familiarize your student with the challenge words (see below) beforehand. The challenge words include words that may not be phonetically decodable at this level (officer), are higher-order concepts (government), are higher-level sight words (school), or are abbreviations (Mr.).

For Instructional Level: These books can be used for either whole-class reading or paired reading. We suggest that you present the challenge words beforehand.

When your students have finished reading a book, you can assess comprehension using the questions for each book below.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 1

THE GOLD MINE MYSTERY

Challenge Words

anything

Eddie

Gold

heard

hold

looked

looks

money

Mr.

Officer

Oh

police

shook

something

talking

told

tunnels

walked

warm

wood

worked

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Tom and Ricky discover the cave in the hill?
2. What made Tom and Ricky follow the tire tracks up the hill?
3. What were the men doing in the mine?

Answer Key

1. They were looking for Patches/Patches chased a rabbit into the bushes.
2. They heard gunshots/They didn't know what the truck was doing there.
3. They were shooting gold dust into the rock/Preparing the mine to trick people into thinking there was gold.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 1

THE FALLING STAR MYSTERY

Challenge Words

Agent
ago
answered
Ball
dollars
Eddie
fall
falling
falls
friend
government
looked
looking
looks
money
Mr.
Officer
sold
walked

Comprehension Questions

1. What was so important about the falling star for the boys?
2. What was so important about the falling star for Bert?
3. Why did Ricky tell Bert where he thought the missing can was?

Answer Key

1. They wanted to sell the space rock to a museum/They wanted to see what fell from the sky.
2. He wanted to find a spy satellite to sell its secrets.
3. He wanted Bert to fall in the well.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 1

THE SECRET STAIRCASE

Challenge Words

answered

built

door

doors

friend

gold

hospital

key

living

looked

looking

looks

money

Mr.

officer

officers

school

today

wall

woman

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Tom and Ricky meet Mr. Bell?
2. What was the secret in Mr. Bell's house?
3. How did Tom and Ricky find the hidden staircase?

Answer Key

1. Ricky's mom sent Tom and Ricky to do yard work for Mr. Bell.
2. There was a hidden staircase/There was gold hidden in the house.
3. Patches bumped against the wall and it opened, revealing the stairs.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 1

THE TREASURE MAP MYSTERY

Challenge Words

ago
angry
Bear
call
friend
looked
money
Mr.
Officer
police
station
table
took
Treasure

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Tom get the treasure map?
2. What happened when Tom and Ricky found where the treasure was?
3. What did Mr. Hill ask the man in the white hat to do for him?

Answer Key

1. Tom's mom bought the box; the map was inside it.
2. The owner of the land wouldn't let them dig for it/He said the treasure had already been dug up.
3. Mr. Hill asked him to steal the map from an art show.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 1

THE UNLUCKY NUMBER

Challenge Words

cherries
Eddie
Eddie's
engine
Engines
Mr.
Officer
officer's
officers
police
strange

Comprehension Questions

1. What happened to the car parts that Ricky's dad was waiting for?
2. Why did Ricky get a phone call about cherries?
3. How did the boys help Officer Collins figure out who was stealing from trucks?

Answer Key

1. The car parts were stolen off the delivery truck.
2. Someone called Ricky by mistake/It was a wrong number/The robbers were using a code word.
3. They figured out the list of possible phone numbers/They took the list of phone numbers to Officer Collins.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 2

A VOICE IN THE NIGHT

Challenge Words

answered

Captain

cookie

Cookies

Eddie

laugh

laughed

laughing

looked

looking

movie

Mr.

Officer

parrot

parrots

wanted

woods

Comprehension Questions

1. What happened in the dream that Dave had?
2. What did Dave see when the boys went outside to look for the girl?
3. Why did so many people in town have the same dream?

Answer Key

1. A little girl called for help/said “Take me home”/said “Who has the cookies?”
2. Dave saw a large bird on a pole.
3. They were all hearing the parrot talk (when they were asleep).

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 2

MYSTERY AT BEAR LAKE

Challenge Words

answered

Bear

bears

Eddie

island

lives

looked

looking

looks

mirror

money

Officer

officers

Signal

someone

sure

Susan

Susan's

walked

walking

wood

woods

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Tom and Ricky plan to do at Bear Lake?
2. Why did the boys go to the island in the lake?
3. Why did Ricky think starting a fire on the raft would bring help?

Answer Key

1. They planned to go camping/go fishing.
2. They saw a light flashing from the island.
3. There was a rule against fires/They thought someone would be watching for fires and would respond to check it out.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 2

THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Challenge Words

answered

brother

brother's

brothers

door

doorbell

looked

looking

looks

Mr.

Mrs.

mystery

Officer

police

sorry

station

strange

talk

told

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Jack doing in town?
2. Why did Jack send Tom a birthday present?
3. What did Ricky see in Jack's room that made him think Jack was a robber?

Answer Key

1. He was visiting his sister (Mrs. Best)/He needed money/He was working.
2. Jack wanted Mr. West, the store owner, to leave the store so Jack could rob it.
3. Jack had boxes in his room that looked like Go-Player boxes.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 2

THE HAUNTED HOUSE

Challenge Words

ago	Mr.
answered	Mrs.
door	Ms.
fall	Officer
fallen	police
falling	station
haunted	talk
lived	talked
looked	tap
looking	took
looks	walked
machine	walking
machines	wanted
money	

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Mr. West check if his money was real or fake?
2. Why did Officer Collins think it was odd that there was a man at the Smith House?
3. Why was Ann puzzled when she pulled a \$20 bill out of her pocket at the game store?

Answer Key

1. He put it under a special (very bright, ultra-violet (UV) or fluorescent light/The real money had marks on it.
2. Someone used to live there but he didn't any more/There wasn't supposed to be anyone there.
3. She couldn't recall where she would have gotten a \$20 bill/She knew she didn't have that much money.

TOM AND RICKY MYSTERIES—SET 2

DIAMONDS IN THE SKY

Challenge Words

ago	money
answered	motor
building	motors
controls	Mr.
country	Officer
diamonds	police
door	poured
Everyone	pouring
friend	ready
front	told
heard	took
laughed	walked
looked	wanted
looking	War
looks	
model	

Comprehension Questions

1. What was so special about Ed's plane?
2. How did Ed get the plane?
3. What happened to the diamonds that were in the plane?

Answer Key

1. It was very old/It couldn't fly when Ed bought it/It was from World War II/It had diamonds hidden in it.
2. The owner abandoned the plane/left it at the airport/didn't pay rent for the space; so Ed bought it.
3. They fell out of a hole in the wing when the plane was flying.