

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

BEARCAT DAY 1: MATH PROFICIENCY (GRADES 6, 7, & 8)

DIRECTIONS: Read the story carefully. On a sheet of notebook paper, answer the question. **How did Emma know that Belinda and Carlos were the culprits?** Remember that this is for a grade. You need to write in complete sentences and show ALL your work.

The Barbell in the Bag

Every once in a while, Emma and Will's problem solving becomes a family affair. Here's an example of a time when their mom got involved.

Will and Emma's mom likes to go to the gym to ride the stationary bicycle. She generally goes on Tuesdays and Fridays. While she rides, she reads. She catches up on the newspapers that come out on Mondays and Thursdays. Usually, she reads nearly as fast as she pedals. But on Tuesday, October 2, she felt a gentle tap on her shoulder. It was Jim, the gym's manager.

"Have you got a minute?" Jim asked. "I could use your kids' help. I've got a crime that needs solving."

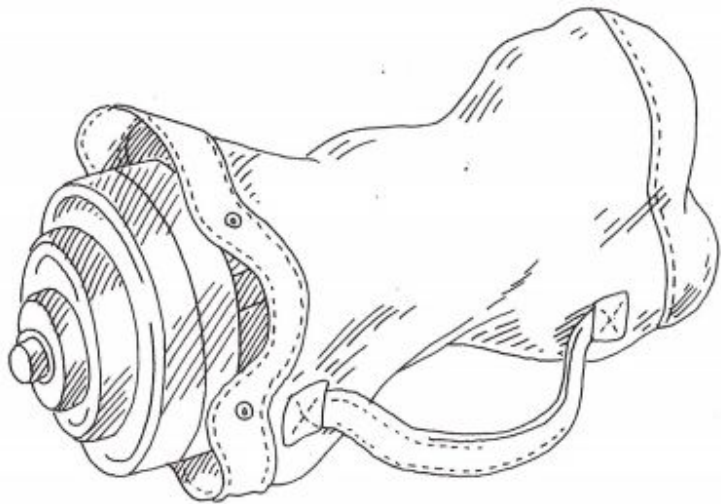
Jim told Emma and Will's mom that three days ago, on September 29, a 150-pound barbell walked off. He explained that the weight would have been far too heavy for only one person to carry very far. He added that a patron of the gym claimed to have seen the two culprits lugging a heavy duffel bag. It seems that Mr. Uphill spotted them carrying the bag between them, Jack-and-Jill style.

"You mean a couple of dumbbells made off with a barbell?" Emma and Will's mom asked.

"That's exactly what I mean," Jim answered. "Would you ask Will and Emma to stop by here after school? I would be very grateful."

Jim was waiting for the two detectives when they strolled up to the gym's front desk.

"So, a couple of dumbbells made off with a barbell on Saturday?" Emma inquired. Their mother had filled them in at home.



"Who did Mr. Uphill say he saw?" asked Will.

Jim leaned over the counter and whispered, "He says he saw Belinda R. and Carlos C. carrying the duffel bag together."

"Belinda R. and Carlos C. I know them," said Emma. "Are they regulars here?"

"As regular as Swiss clocks," Jim replied softly. "Belinda, Carlos, and their friend Aaron, too. The three of them joined the gym at the same time in early August. Aaron comes to the gym every other day. Carlos comes every fourth day. Belinda, I believe, works out here every third day. But let me check."

Will and Emma were impressed by how well Jim seemed to know the habits of his customers. Jim turned around the registration forms so that Will and Emma could read them, and pointed to the three names. "Yes, I was right. All three of them first came here together on Thursday, August 2."

Emma and Will looked at the signed forms, each carrying the date of August 2. Then Will reached into his pocket and pulled out his personal organizer. He and Emma looked at the calendar in the organizer. Next they looked at each other and then at Jim.

"The three of them were here together yesterday, weren't they?" Will asked.

Jim nodded slowly. He looked a little puzzled by the remark. "How'd you know?"

"We don't know yet which dumbbells walked off with your barbell, but we know that Carlos and Belinda didn't do it," Emma said with confidence.



How did Emma know that Belinda and Carlos weren't the culprits?



HINT: MAKE A CALENDAR.