



Case 8 t he missing football

The story of the Football toy!

Every Wednesday evening, the garden behind Skunky Luke’s house transformed into something extraordinary.

Lanterns glowed between the flowerbeds. Tiny paw print signs pointed visitors toward the “Detective Headquarters.” A crooked cardboard magnifying glass hung from the fence with glitter letters reading:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CASE FILES

Can YOU solve the mystery before Skunky does?

Tonight’s case had already caused chaos.

Because the football was gone.

Not just any football toy either.

This was the famous squeaky football Skunky Luke and Snowball played with every week in the garden. The toy had survived mud puddles, rabbit chases, squirrel stampedes, and one unfortunate spaghetti incident.

And now...

It had vanished. 🏈 🐾

Head to the event page and look for posted clues! Because someone out there knows something

Clue #1 and a bit of backstory!

The evening wind rustled through the tomato plants as Detective Skunky Luke adjusted his detective hat.

Snowball stood beside the toy chest with wide eyes.
"I KNOW it was in here yesterday!" Snowball squeaked, tossing stuffed mice and rope toys behind him dramatically.
Bandit sniffed the grass carefully.
Peter the rabbit twitched his ears.
Then everyone froze.
From somewhere near the garden pond came a loud:
"RIBBIT."
Another answered.
"RIBBIT RIBBIT."
Suddenly... frogs began hopping out from the tall grass.
One.
Two.
Five.
TEN FROGS. 🐸🐸🐸
The detectives stared in disbelief.
Because the last time the football had been seen...
the frogs had appeared that night too.
And now the football was missing.
Coincidence?
Or frog conspiracy? 🧐

🔍 FIRST CLUE FOR YOU DETECTIVES

Skunky Luke carefully searched near the toy chest and discovered something strange hidden beneath a garden leaf...
A muddy trail of tiny wet footprints leading toward the pond. 💧
But mixed into the frog prints was something even stranger:
A single white fluff tuft.
Snowball gasped.
"That looks like stuffing from the football toy!"
Now the detectives must answer three questions:
Why did the frogs appear both nights?
Who dragged the football away?
And what happened near the pond after sunset? 🌙
Was it the frogs 🐸? Or something else?

🔍 CLUE #2

While searching near the pond, Peter noticed something tangled in the tall grass beside the water.
It was the missing football's squeaker. 🏈
But that wasn't the strange part.
The squeaker was covered in tiny lily pad bits... and beside it were several frog-sized drag marks leading underneath the old wooden bridge.
Bandit sniffed carefully before stepping back.

“Someone,” he whispered, “was trying to hide evidence.” 🧐👁️

"The frogs! They showed up mysteriously the other day during our garden play. With no explanation. Then the storms came, knocked out power and we couldn't finish. We got sidetracked and never had our indoor adventure either. They frogs must be it!"

Marley assumed.

Snowball shook his head. "Perhaps, but look at those clues so far. Skunks, what do you think?"

"I think maybe someone or something is messing with the frogs, Skunky said as he held his chin.

Detectives, what do you think?



Here is clue #3

🔍 CLUE #3

Detective Skunky Luke discovered torn football fabric caught on the old garden fence. 🏈

The rip matched the missing football perfectly.

But beside the fence were only ONE set of tracks.

Bandit's tracks. 🐾

Snowball's tracks. 🐾

Peter's tracks!

When questioned, Bandit looked away and quietly said:

"I didn't steal the football ...but I know what happened to it."

🐸 "The frogs may not be the guilty ones after all," Snowball said.
"Yeah," Peter began. "Maybe it was the storm on Monday that made us lose power?"



🔍 CLUE #4 1 hour left to solve!

As the detectives searched the garden after sunset, Snowball discovered something half-buried beneath muddy leaves near the fence. 🍂

It was a torn strip of red fabric. 🧶

Bandit immediately froze.

But before anyone could accuse him, Peter pointed toward the broken fence posts nearby.

Fresh storm damage. Splintered wood. Deep mud from Monday night's rainstorm. 🌧️

And stuck between the cracked boards...

Tiny pieces of football stuffing. 🏈

Something about this case still wasn't adding up.

Did Bandit break the football...

or was he trying to hide what REALLY happened?



FINAL CLUE

Detectives... it's time to solve CASE FILE #8. 🔍

After examining the broken fence, the muddy storm damage, the torn football fabric, and the missing piece of Bandit's handkerchief... Detective Skunky Luke believes ONE final answer fits the clues.

So what REALLY happened to the football?

- A) 🌧️ The Monday storm destroyed it
- B) 🦊 Bandit accidentally caused it with his handkerchief
- C) 🐸 The frogs secretly took the football
- D) 👁️ Someone else is still hiding in the garden

Here's what detectives know:

- Part of Bandit's red handkerchief was found near the broken fence
- Football stuffing was trapped between storm-damaged boards
- Frog tracks stopped at the pond
- Snowball and Peter's tracks were also near the scene that night

Did the football become tangled in Bandit's handkerchief during play... only to be caught in the fence and torn apart by Monday night's storm? 🌧️🏈

Or is there still one final twist left to uncover?

🦊 FINAL GUESSES BEFORE THE CASE IS CLOSED!

CASE FILE #8

THE CASE OF THE
MISSING FOOTBALL



FINAL CLUE



DETECTIVES... IT'S TIME TO SOLVE CASE FILE #8.

SO WHAT REALLY HAPPENED
TO THE FOOTBALL?



After examining the broken fence, the muddy storm damage, the torn football fabric, and the missing piece of Bandit's handkerchief... I believe **ONE** final answer fits all the clues.

HERE'S WHAT DETECTIVES KNOW:



Part of Bandit's red handkerchief was found near the broken fence.



Football stuffing was trapped between storm-damaged boards.



Frog tracks stopped at the pond.



Snowball and Peter's tracks were also near the scene that night.



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Did the football become tangled in Bandit's handkerchief during play... only to be caught in the fence and torn apart by Monday night's storm? Or is there still one final twist left to uncover?



FINAL GUESSES BEFORE THE CASE IS CLOSED!

Detectives, are you ready for the reveal? We half solved the case. But in the end, I, Mr. Skunky Luke figured it out with all of your help still. Here is the reveal.

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CASE FILE #8: SOLVED

After one final search of the garden, Detective Skunky Luke finally uncovered the truth behind the missing football. 🌙

The answer was...

A)  The storm

AND

B)  Bandit's handkerchief

Earlier that Monday, everyone had been playing together in the garden. Dad and Uncle Greg tossed the football while Snowball and Bandit chased after it near the pond. During the excitement, the football accidentally became tangled in Bandit's loose red handkerchief. Neither of them noticed.

The football became trapped beside the old wooden fence just before the storm rolled in. 
Overnight, heavy rain, mud, and strong wind damaged the fence and tore the football apart. Bandit later found pieces of it caught in the boards... but hid them because he didn't want Snowball to feel guilty. 

And the frogs? 

Completely innocent.

They were only near the pond because they witnessed the entire thing.

CASE FILE #8:

CLOSED. 

Thank you to **Nicole Garwood** and **Dawne Leaf** for participating. You made my Mum Soo happy. Dawne Leaf is this week's winner though. Woot. But those who played, still get bronze paw coins for their answers. Mum will tally everything up over the weekend.



The long awaited Garden Adventure that led to case #8!

Monday evening had started like one of those perfect backyard nights that nobody realizes will become important later. 🌻

The garden buzzed with laughter, squeaky toys, and zooming paws as the whole crew spilled outside for playtime.

Mom stood near the flowerbeds waving the laser pointer across the grass while Snowball launched himself after the glowing red dot like a tiny white rocket. Peter bounced wildly through the clover trying to “help,” though mostly he just startled everyone every six seconds. Near the pond, Dad and Uncle Greg had started a football game with Bandit and Snowball using the old squeaky football toy. 🏈

“Long pass!” Uncle Greg shouted.

Dad tossed the football high over the garden path.

Bandit leapt for it dramatically, his red handkerchief fluttering behind him like a superhero cape. Snowball jumped too, paws flying through the air as both of them crashed into a pile of leaves beside the old wooden fence.

Everyone burst out laughing.

Even the frogs near the pond gave startled little ribbits before hopping into the water. 🐸💧

The football disappeared somewhere in the chaos, but nobody noticed at first.

There were too many things happening:

laser pointer chases toy chest raids.

Peter attempting to carry three toys at once

Bandit insisting he “almost caught it”

Snowball dramatically flopped into the grass afterward.

As the evening darkened, clouds slowly rolled overhead. A low rumble echoed in the distance.



Mom called everyone inside just as the first drops of rain began falling into the garden.

Nobody realized the football had become tangled in Bandit’s loose handkerchief during the play tackle near the fence.

Nobody realized it had been left behind.

And in the middle of the evening...

the storm came. 🌧️🏈