Field Day Mystery



MultiEnglish Year 8 - Book 1

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TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ MİLLÎ EĞİTİM BAKANLIĞI

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THE DAY BEFORE EVERYTHING CHANGED

An exciting morning began at Northbridge Secondary School. It was the day before Field Day, the school's most enjoyable and inspiring tradition. Students rushed across the courtyard, carrying banners, colourful flags, boxes of equipment, and bags of costume for the Field Day event. Every corner of the school was filled with laughter and the teachers were smiling.



At the heart of all this energy stood Emma, the student council leader. With her clipboard in hand, she moved confidently. She knew exactly what to do.

"Jack, the speakers need to be tested by lunchtime. Lily, your banners must be hung along the main corridor so visitors can see them when they arrive. Arda, we still need the final version of the Field Day timetable."

Arda tapped his tablet calmly. "It's almost ready. I've reorganised the schedule so the charity event won't happen at the same time as the sports performance."

"Brilliant," Emma said, and she looked relieved. "This is going to be world-class. Mrs Green will love it."

Jack, who was connecting wires to the main stage speakers, laughed. "She'll love it as long as the technology holds. The system failed during last week's online webinar. If it collapses again, we'll be in trouble."

Lily, carrying a massive roll of banners she had painted herself, was shocked. “Don’t joke about that, Jack! I’ve barely slept—I’ve been so overwhelmed with homework. And now you’re telling me that everything could go wrong?”

Jack held up his hands. “Relax, relax! I’m just saying the Information Technology (IT) team promised everything would be tested. We’ll be fine.”

Mr Wilson approached the group, holding papers that looked like evaluations. “Good morning, council. I hope everything is going well. Remember, Field Day is more than a celebration. It’s a tradition. People expect a high standard.”

Emma said “We’re ready, sir. We’ve already prepared the project stands, the prize table, the performance stage.”

Mr Wilson smiled. “And don’t forget the trophy. It will be cleaned this afternoon and will be placed inside the display cabinet. The cabinet will be locked, so the trophy will be safe. Tomorrow, it will be presented on stage during the award ceremony.”



When she heard about the trophy, Lily's eyes shone. "I love that moment," she said. "When the winner is announced and everyone cheers, it's the best part of the whole day."

"Only because you like seeing your designs on stage," Jack joked.

Lily said. "Maybe, but still."

As the group left to finish their preparations, Mrs Green, the headmistress, walked across the courtyard. She greeted the students, then turned to Emma.



“Everything must run efficiently tomorrow. The ceremony will be lived on the school’s digital platform. We cannot have any disruptions.”

“Yes, ma’am. We’re doing our best,” Emma said.

“Good,” Mrs Green replied. “Tradition and high standards are important. And the trophy represents our school traditions.”

Nobody knew it then, but those words would soon be very necessary.

By late afternoon, the council was tired but satisfied. The decorations were finished, the stage lights were tested. Then, the banners were hung perfectly. The students were practising their performances excitedly, and everything was ready.

As the sun set, Emma gathered the group. “We should check on the trophy before we go home.”

They walked together to the main hall.

Inside, the World-Class Achievement Trophy shone under a spotlight. The cabinet was locked, as promised. Everything seemed fine.

Lily smiled. “See? Nothing to worry about.”

But the next morning, when the school doors opened, the trophy was gone.

And nothing would be the same again.

THE VANISHING ACT

The moment Emma saw the cabinet, she couldn't believe her eyes. She looked again, hoping the trophy would appear. It didn't. It showed nothing except dust particles.

"No… no, no," she spoke quietly. "This isn't happening."

"It was locked, right? Yesterday, it was definitely locked."

"It still is," Arda said quietly, sitting down to examine the keyhole. "There was no sign of force. No damage."



Lily slowly backed away. “This can’t be real. Field Day is in three hours. The award ceremony is today. The live stream starts at one. This is a disaster.”

Emma pressed her hand against her forehead, trying to stay calm. “Okay. Everyone, breathe. There must be a reasonable explanation.”

But inside, she felt very nervous.

Just then, Mr Wilson approached, carrying schedules. “What’s all the noise? Students may hear you outside.”

He froze when he saw the empty cabinet. “…Oh,” he whispered. “This is serious.”

Emma stepped aside. “Sir, we didn’t touch anything. We’ve just arrived. The trophy is missing.”

Mr Wilson didn’t panic. He looked serious, but he stayed calm. Then he said, “We need to tell Mrs Green immediately. She will want to deal with this quietly.”

Lily looked worried. “Maybe she thinks we’re responsible?”

“You aren’t,” Mr Wilson said firmly. “I know you. And besides, the cabinet was locked. Whoever did this planned it.”

Arda added, “We can check the cameras. They record everything.”

Jack said. “Yes. The IT team installed new ones last month after the online-learning equipment went missing.”

“Good thinking,” Mr Wilson said. “Follow me.”

The group headed to the security office, a small room near the staff lounge. Monitors showed the school corridors and classrooms.

They watched the night-time video recording.

At 11 p.m., the corridor was empty.

At 11:20, the cleaners passed through, chatting quietly.

At 11:35, all lights were still on.

Then at 11:45, the video cut out. The screens flashed, followed by a sharp electronic noise.

And then the hallway lights went out completely.

Emma stepped closer. “That’s exactly the time the IT team mentioned last week. They said the system might need a system reset.”

Arda shook his head. “Yes, but the reset had to be checked by security. This power cut… it feels planned.”

The interruption lasted only a few minutes while the system restarted automatically. According to the log, the security team checked the network immediately afterwards. When the lights came back on, the cabinet stood in the corner exactly as before.

But the trophy was gone.

Mr Wilson rubbed his chin thoughtfully. “It’s a possibility. But we can’t jump to conclusions.”

Mr Wilson pointed at the screen. “Look! That shadow. What’s that?”

At the end of the hallway, a blurred shape moved past the cabinet. It was barely visible on the shaky camera.

It was too quick to identify and too dark to recognise, but it was clearly someone.

Emma looked at her friends. “We need to find out who that was.”

They went straight to Mrs Green’s office. The headmistress was watching the replay.



When the shadow appeared, she came forward. “Pause it.”

The video recording froze.

The shadow had a clear outline—a jacket, maybe a hoodie, and a backpack, or something on the shoulders.

“Could it be a student?” Lily asked.

“Possibly,” Mrs Green said.

Emma stepped forward. “Ma’am, with your permission, we’d like to investigate. Quietly. We won’t cause any disruption.”

Mrs Green raised an eyebrow. “Why do you want to take responsibility for this?”

“Because Field Day is important to us, and that trophy is a part of it,” Emma said. “It’s our tradition. We can’t let it disappear without trying to fix things.”

There was a long silence.

Then Mrs Green said. “You may investigate—but quietly. No blame. Nothing should stop the event. And remember…” She softened her voice only slightly. “Field Day cannot be cancelled. The ceremony must continue as planned.”

Jack whispered, “Even without the trophy?”

Mrs Green didn’t answer. Emma understood exactly what that meant. The pressure was on.

As they left the office, Lily asked quietly. “So… where do we start?”

Emma looked at her friends and took a deep breath. “We checked what happened last night,” she said. “Someone took the trophy. And we’re going to find out who.”

FIRST CLUES AND A SUSPECT

After leaving Mrs Green's office, Emma, Jack, Lily, and Arda went to their usual meeting spot—the small library corner. It was quiet and out of the way, perfect for a private conversation.

"We need a plan," Emma said. "We have only a few hours before Field Day starts. That's not much time to solve a mystery like this."

Jack said. "First, we should check who had access to the trophy cabinet yesterday. It might be the IT staff, teachers, or some students who stayed late for practice."

Lily looked annoyed. "I saw Ethan near the hall yesterday. He said he saw someone moving really fast, wearing a jacket. But he wasn't sure if it was a student or a staff member."

Arda raised an eyebrow. "That means we have a witness, even if it's not clear. Let's begin by making a list of everyone who could be there. Then we can check their schedules during the power cut."

Emma wrote rapidly:

. IT Team
. Teachers with after-school responsibilities
. Students staying late for practice

Jack added:

. Security staff (they might have keys)
. Cleaning staff

Lily looked thoughtful. "Maybe someone is trying to scare the council? Field Day is a big deal. I know some students love practical jokes…"

Emma shook her head. "No, this is different. The trophy isn't just an object; it means a lot to the school. And someone planned this. Look at the timing—the lights went off for exactly ten minutes. That wasn't random."



Arda leaned forward, pointing to a page in Emma's notebook. "And look at this timetable we found in the corridor. Someone wrote, 'Midnight—trophy—cabinet.' It's clearly a clue. Whose handwriting is it?"

Jack studied the paper. "It looks familiar… maybe someone from our year. Could it be…?"

Before he could finish, a sudden movement caught their attention. Ethan, the younger student, looked through the library door. "I saw someone last night," he whispered. "Near the cabinet. Wearing a backpack, moving fast. I think they were heading towards the old IT room."

Emma was excited. "That's our first real lead. The IT room… it might hold more than just wires and computers. Maybe there's another clue, or even the trophy itself."

Lily said. "Then we go there next. But we need to be careful. Whoever did this probably knows the building better than we do."

Arda said, "And if it's someone among the staff, we'll have to be careful. We cannot be sure who did it."

Emma took a deep breath. "All right, let's go."

CAMERAS AND THE DARK SILHOUETTE

The old IT room was quiet and dusty. Emma, Jack, Lily, and Arda approached carefully while glancing over their shoulders.

"Remember," Emma whispered, "we're looking, not facing them. We can't let anyone suspect we're onto them."

Jack said nothing and checked the door. It creaked as they slipped inside. The hallway outside remained empty. The room was filled with old monitors, routers, and boxes labelled *Archived Projects.*

Lily noticed something immediately: a small digital tablet on a pile of folders. Its screen was still on. It looked like it had been used recently.

The video recording flashed, then showed a dark silhouette. A person in a hoodie moved quickly, holding a medium-sized object. They paused for a second near the cabinet, then disappeared into the corridor.

Jack said "That's the same shadow Ethan described!"

Lily's hand shook slightly. "Can we see their face?"

Arda shook his head. "It's too dark. But… wait. Look at the backpack. There's a patch—a small green emblem. I've seen that before. Someone in our year wears a jacket with the same symbol."

Emma thought quickly. "Then it's a student. That explains why the trophy was taken without forcing the lock. They knew the building."

Suddenly, the tablet beeped. A message appeared on the screen:

"Stop looking around, or Field Day will be ruined. – Someone is watching."

Lily was shocked. "Did they just warn us?"

Jack said seriously. "They definitely know we're looking. That means they're still around."

Emma looked determined. "We can't stop now. We need to trace where that shadow went after the cabinet. This room might hold another clue."

Arda said, while checking the old cables. "It looks like somebody who knows technology used this room as a temporary hiding place."

Lily spoke quietly. "Do you think the trophy is still inside the school?"

Emma looked at the screen. “It has to be. Whoever took it hasn’t finished yet. And we’re going to find it before anyone else notices.”

The four exchanged a look. The tension was clear.

This wasn’t over.



SUSPECTS AMONG FRIENDS

The group sat together in a quiet corner of the library. The shadow, the backpack, the message—it all felt like something out of a storybook. It was real, and the clock was ticking.

Lily broke the silence. “Do you think it could be someone in our year? I mean, it has to be. Who else knows the timetable so well?”



Jack said. “I’m not sure who did it yet. But the green emblem on the backpack… I’ve seen it before. It’s rare. And that reduces the possibilities.”

Arda came back, arms crossed. “We need to be careful. If it’s someone we know, we have to consider their motives. We can’t just assume the worst.”

Emma tapped her notebook nervously. “But think—who benefits if the trophy disappears? Someone wants attention, or maybe they want to make the council look bad. And Field Day… it’s the perfect moment.”

Lily said, “I just hope they don’t ruin the performances too. The choir’s practice, the drama group, the dance… all of that effort could be wasted.”

Jack glanced at Emma. “We also have to think about timing. Field Day starts in a few hours. Whoever did this has to act soon. That means the trophy is probably still inside the school. They can’t risk taking it outside.”

Arda pointed at the timetable on the table. “There’s a pattern here. Every power cut, every security failure—it all looks planned. And someone left that message on the tablet. They’re watching us. We need to be careful. If we accuse the wrong person, we could make it worse.”

Emma said “Then we take it step by step. First, check the CCTV again. Second, trace their route after the power cut. Third, think about where they might hide the trophy temporarily.”

Lily hesitated. “And if it’s someone we know?”

Emma paused. “Then we remember: This isn’t personal. It is about the trophy, the tradition, and Field Day.”

For a moment, the library was silent. The shadow in the IT room was no longer just a blurry figure; it was a difficult task that required teamwork.

Jack finally said, “Alright. Let’s split up. Two check the cameras, two check the old classrooms. Keep your phones on. And be careful.”

Emma said, “Let’s find that trophy before Field Day.”

They left the library corner and walked through the hallways.

A SECRET MESSAGE IN THE IT ROOM

Emma and Lily moved towards the old IT room. The hallways were quiet. “I still can’t believe someone dared to leave a message for us,” Lily whispered, glancing nervously at Emma.

Emma frowned. “It’s clever. They want to scare and also distract us. Whoever is behind this thinks we’ll give up. And we won’t.”

They went into the IT room again. On the desk, the digital tablet was where they had left it. Emma reached for it carefully.



"Let's check it again," she said. The screen showed a list of files. One caught her eye—a short text document titled: *Follow the light, midnight hall.*

Lily looked over. "Midnight hall? That doesn't make sense."

Emma shook her head. "It doesn't have to. This is a clue. Whoever took the trophy is trying to tell us something—or lead us somewhere. Look." She opened the file. Inside the text were several words: stage, curtain, library, projector.

Arda, who had just joined them, scanned the room. "They're giving clues about possible locations. Stage and library… that's smart. Maybe they've hidden the trophy in a place no one usually checks, like behind equipment or inside an unused cupboard."

Jack arrived with a notepad. "Exactly. And if we check the CCTV near the stage, we might see where the shadow went. We know it's someone who knows the building well."

Lily hesitated. "I just hope it's not someone we know."

Emma touched her arm. "We need to think carefully and stay focused and find the trophy before Field Day starts."

They split up and searched the room—drawers, storage boxes, old equipment. Emma found a folded piece of paper stuck under a pile of cables.

She opened it and read aloud:

"Time is short. Look where the lights shine but shadows hide. Only the brave will see."

Jack's eyes widened. "They're leaving clues deliberately. And there's a pattern— the stage, the projector, shadows… it's all linked to Field Day setups."

Emma said, "Exactly. Whoever planned this didn't expect us to notice the details. Now we know where to look next."

THE TROPHY FOUND

After following every clue and solving the tricky puzzles, Emma, Jack, Lily, and Arda reached the old storage room behind the gym. The corridor was quiet.

Emma whispered, “This has to be it. The clues all led us here.”

Lily looked nervously. “I hope the trophy is still here. What if someone moved it?”

Jack replied calmly. “Then we’d start over, but I trust our plan. Whoever hid it didn’t expect us to follow the clues.” Arda stepped forward. “It’s unlocked. That’s strange.”

They pushed the door open slowly. Inside were old shelves and unused equipment. At the far corner, partly hidden behind a dusty curtain, Emma noticed a small wooden box.

She lifted the lid. Inside was the World-Class Achievement Trophy. It was heavy and clearly real.

Lily was shocked. “We found it!”

Arda picked up the trophy carefully. “We have it now. But who planned all this?”

Ethan, the younger student who had first noticed the shadow, stepped forward nervously. “I… I did,” he admitted. “I wanted to test how secure the school really was,” he continued. “And I was going to tell you straight away… but you found it so quickly. You were like detectives.”

Mrs Green appeared in the doorway. “I understand your curiosity, Ethan, but this was not the right way to handle it. Next time, you should speak to a teacher first.”

Ethan blushed.“I understand, Mrs Green. I’m sorry…” Mrs Green said, “Since your actions caused unnecessary confusion, I think it would be appropriate for you to apologise to the School Council and help the staff tidy up and prepare the field after today’s event.”

“That’s fair,” Ethan replied. “I’ll do it.”

Emma handed the trophy to Mrs Green. “The award is safe. Field Day can continue.”

The ceremony went ahead with cheers and performances. The trophy shone on the stage—a symbol of effort, cleverness, and teamwork.

Later, the friends sat together, exhausted but happy.

“This was an important experience for us,” Emma said. “It tested our courage and teamwork. And we succeeded.”

Jack smiled. “At least now we know what to do if something like this happens again.”



Lily added, “Maybe we could suggest an official school-approved Mystery Challenge Day. Students could prepare clues and riddles for one another, but everything would be organised, and carried out according to school rules.”

“That sounds like a great idea,” Mrs Green said. “It would encourage teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving in a safe and responsible way.”

As the sun set, the friends watched students celebrate. The trophy remained on the stage, exactly where it belonged.

Emma smiled. “Not a bad way to spend a school day.”

GLOSSARY

n: noun v: verb adj: adjective adv: adverb

achievement (n): something you succeed in doing after effort

admit (v): accept truth

archived (adj): stored for future reference

assume (v): to think that something is likely to be true, although you have no proof

back away (v): to move backwards away from something or someone, usually because you are frightened or nervous.

banner (n): a long piece of cloth or paper with words or designs

blame (v): to say or think that someone is responsible for something bad that has happened

blush (v): to become red in the face, especially because you feel shy or embarrassed

cabinet (n): a piece of furniture used for storing or displaying things

celebration (n): an event held to mark a special occasion

challenge (n): something difficult that tests your ability

cheer (v): to shout or encourage happily

creak (v): to make a long, high, squeaking sound when something old or heavy moves

dare (v): to be brave enough to do something

deliberately (adv): in a planned or intentional way; not by accident

digital platform (n): an online system or website for services or activities

display (v): to show something for people to see

disruption (n): an interruption or disturbance

effort (n): physical or mental energy used to do something

encourage (v): to give support or confidence

enjoyable (adj): fun or pleasant

evaluation (n): the process of judging or assessing something

exhausted (adj): extremely tired

failure (n): lack of success in doing or achieving something

field day (n): a school day with outdoor sports and activities

focus (v): to concentrate your attention on something

frown (v): to bring your eyebrows together when worried or angry

go ahead (v): to happen or be done as planned; to proceed

inspiring (adj): making you feel motivated or encouraged

interruption (n): a short stop in a process or activity

GLOSSARY

investigate (v): to try to find out the truth about something

laughter (n): the act or sound of laughing

lid (n): a cover on a container such as a box, pan, or jar that can be lifted on and off

notice (v): to become aware of something

pattern (n): a repeated design or decoration on something

performance (n): an act of singing, acting, dancing, or presenting in front of an audience

prepare (v): to get ready

pressure (n): a feeling of stress or worry

prize (n): something given for winning or doing well

project (n): school work that takes time and research

rub (v): to move your hand, a cloth, etc., backwards and forwards over a surface while pressing it

rush across (v): to move quickly from one side to the other.

schedule (n): a plan of times and activities

shadow (n): a dark shape made when light is blocked

shaky (adj): shaking and feeling weak

silhouette (n): the dark outline or shape of a person or an object that you see against a light background

split up (v): to stop having a relationship with somebody

stage (n): the platform where performances happen

stream (n): a live online broadcast (video or audio)

stuck (adj): not able to move or be moved from a position; fixed in a place

student council (n): a group of students elected to represent others

suspect (n): a person who may have done something wrong

timetable (n): a schedule showing when classes happen

tradition (n): a long-standing custom or practice

tricky (adj): difficult to deal with or do

trophy (n): a prize in the form of a cup or object

webinar (n): an online seminar or presentation

whisper (v): to speak very quietly using your breath, so that only a few people nearby can hear you

witness (n): a person who sees an event happen

world-class (adj): among the best in the world

QUESTIONS

A. Read the ideas below and decide which character most likely expresses each one. Write the character's name.

1. This person emphasises that the event must run smoothly because it will be broadcast live and should not face any interruptions.

→ _____

2. This person points out that the cabinet shows no physical damage and highlights that the trophy had been locked securely.

→ _____

3. This person explains that Field Day is a long-standing tradition and that people have high expectations of it.

→ _____

4. This person warns that technical problems could happen again based on an issue that occurred the previous week.

→ _____

5. This person advises everyone to stay calm, think logically, and investigate the situation quietly before the ceremony begins.

→ _____

B. Complete the sentences with the words below. There is an extra word.

streamed- digital platform - student council - banner - collaborate - achievement - tradition - performance - challenge - prize - celebration

1. Field Day is an important school _____ that brings students together every year.

2. Emma is the head of the _____ and organises the event carefully.

3. Students decorated the corridors with colourful _____ to welcome visitors.

4. Winning the trophy was a great _____ after weeks of preparation.

5. The award ceremony will be live, so it will be _____ online for parents to watch.

6. Solving the mystery of the missing trophy was a real _____ for the students.

7. Teamwork helped the students _____ and solve the problem together.

8. The final _____ took place on the main stage in front of the whole school.

9. The trophy is a special _____ given to the winning team.

10. Field Day is not just enjoyable; it is a _____ for the whole school community.

C. Read the statements carefully. Decide whether each statement is True (T), False (F), or Not Given (NG) according to the text. Correct the false sentences.

1. The trophy represents the school's identity. _____

_____

2. The cabinet key was lost. _____

_____

3. Mr Wilson immediately accuses a student. _____

_____

4. The IT system had previous problems. _____

_____

5. The story ends with the friends feeling unhappy and disappointed. _____

_____

6. Ethan intended to cancel Field Day. _____

_____

7. The trophy was found inside a wooden box. _____

_____

8. The council ignores rules. _____

_____

D. Read the questions below and answer them.

1. Why is Field Day described as more than just a celebration at Northbridge Secondary School?

_____

2. Who plays the main leadership role during the preparations, and how is this shown?

_____

3. What makes the disappearance of the trophy particularly shocking?

_____

4. Where do the students first investigate after discovering the trophy is missing?

_____

5. Why does Mr Wilson insist on handling the situation calmly?

_____

E. Answer the questions with your own words.

1. Have you ever taken responsibility for organising an important school event? How did you feel?

2. If you were Emma, how would you react when you discovered that the trophy was missing?

3. Do you enjoy solving mysteries? What would be your first step in an investigation like this?

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ANSWER KEY

VISUAL REFERENCES

The visuals have been prepared by the commission. Artificial intelligence has been utilised in the visuals of the material.