

# An Unexpected Ending

The last address was Chrissy Gastner's place. Chrissy was a girl from my class, but she had not been at school for a few weeks.

In the driveway was a pickup truck with a fairly new set of RoadSnacker tires. We got up close to compare the tires with our cast. We were sure the patterns matched. Then Hara spied something on the driveway. "Oil leak!"



"This does not make sense," said Hal. "This truck belongs to Chrissy's brother, Doug. He is a nice a guy. Why would he steal pieces of the jungle gym?"

We heard a *clank* from the yard. It sounded like a wrench being dropped.

We looked over the fence. Everything fell into place. There was Doug reassembling the play equipment, wearing hiking boots. The boots looked like they would match our cast.

## Finding a Suspect

Most criminals leave evidence, such as tracks, behind. But, they can pick up evidence from a crime scene, too! When police find a suspect, they can search the suspect's clothes and vehicle for soil. They may find dirt or rocks that match those at the crime scene.

A forensic investigator is collecting soil from a suspect's



“Hey, Doug!” I called.

He jumped. And then he did something weird. He cried.

Then he told us the whole story. Chrissy was really sick in the hospital. “She loves the jungle gym,” said Doug. “I thought if she saw it when she got home, it might help her get better. I was going to return it.”

We spoke to the police and the town council. Doug apologized and agreed that what he did was wrong. The police said Doug would have to do some community service.

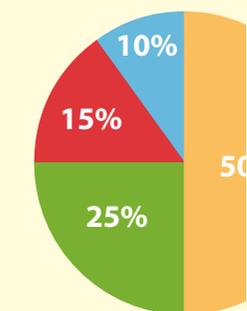
## LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Doug had to do 80 hours of community service. The circle graph shows the amount of time Doug spent on different jobs. Use the data to answer the questions below.

- How many hours did Doug spend delivering groceries?
- How many hours did Doug spend picking up litter and painting bus stop seats combined?
- “Doug spent more time caring for hospital gardens than painting bus stop seats.”

Do you agree with this statement? Use the data from the graph to support your answer.

**Percentage of Hours  
Doug Spent On  
Different Jobs**



**Key**

- Caring for hospital gardens
- Delivering groceries
- Painting bus stop seats
- Picking up litter

The council members were understanding. So was our Greenville community. We did a fundraiser and managed to make enough money to buy a new jungle gym for Chrissy.

When Chrissy came home, the new equipment was in her yard to help her get better.

Case closed!