

Name _____



Hidden By Voice

Directions: Read the mystery passage below. Some sentences are written in **passive voice** to hide the “criminal.” Your job is to:

- Identify which sentences are in passive voice.
- Explain why the author might have chosen passive in those spots.
- Answer the case questions at the end.

(1) Last night, the museum was locked at 9:00 p.m. by the guard. (2) Around midnight, a loud crash was heard in the main hall. (3) The glass case was shattered, and the crown jewels were stolen. (4) The detectives searched the museum carefully, but no one saw the thief. (5) Fingerprints were found on the door, but they did not match any staff. (6) Finally, the jewels were discovered hidden in a bag near the back exit.

1. Which sentences are written in passive voice? List the sentence numbers.

2. What effect does the passive voice create in this passage?

3. Rewrite one passive sentence in **active voice** to make it more direct.

4. Why might a mystery writer choose to use passive voice instead of active voice?
