

Name _____



The Reading Detectives

Directions: Read the passage below once for understanding. Read it again carefully as a **text detective**, hunting for *clues* that answer the questions that follow. **Underline or highlight** the exact words or sentences that provide evidence for each answer.

Write the short quote where your clue appears next to each question. Remember: A good detective doesn't guess; they find **proof** in the text.

"The Mystery of the Missing Lunch"

Lena stared at the empty lunchbox on her desk. She was sure she had packed her sandwich that morning—it was turkey with lettuce and tomato. Her friend Max peeked over and said, "Maybe you forgot it on the counter again." Lena shook her head. "I double-checked before I left home."

As they looked around the classroom, Lena noticed crumbs on the floor near the class pet's cage. The hamster, Mr. Whiskers, was nibbling something that looked suspiciously like bread. Lena gasped. "No way—did *he* do it?" Max laughed. "I guess he was hungrier than we thought."

When their teacher, Mrs. Parker, came over, Lena showed her the evidence: crumbs, lettuce bits, and a tiny trail leading to the cage. Mrs. Parker smiled and said, "Looks like our class detective solved the case!"

1. What was missing from Lena's lunchbox?

Clue location: _____

2. Who helped Lena figure out the mystery?

Clue location: _____

3. What clue made Lena realize who took the sandwich?

Clue location: _____

4. How did Mrs. Parker react when Lena showed her the evidence?

Clue location: _____

5. What does this story show about Lena's personality? (Find two clues that support your answer.)

Clue locations: _____