

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Disappearing Backpack

**Instructions** - Read each part of the story carefully. After each section, stop and answer the prediction question before moving on. Use evidence from the text to support your predictions.

**Part 1:** Janelle had never liked the third-floor lockers—they creaked, stuck shut, and smelled faintly of sour milk. But her regular locker was being painted, so here she was, cramming her books into locker #312 before homeroom.



She turned to grab her lunchbox, but it was gone. And so was her backpack.

There was no one in the hallway except Mrs. Greene, who was taping posters to the bulletin board.

Janelle frowned. She was sure she brought both.

**Prediction Question 1:** What do you think happened to Janelle's backpack and lunchbox?

**Your Prediction:**

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**Part 2:** "I must've left them downstairs," Janelle muttered and dashed to the first floor. She retraced her steps—past the office, the janitor's closet, and the art room. Still nothing.

As she turned the corner, she spotted a trail of crumbs. They led straight to the auditorium. Puzzled, she followed them. The doors were cracked open.

Inside, it was dim. But there was movement behind the stage curtain.

**Prediction Question 2:** Who or what do you think is behind the stage curtain?

**Your Prediction:**

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