

# introduction

# 2016 AQUARIUM PUZZLE HUNT

## *welcome, class of 2020!*

This is a puzzlehunt that will take place while you are at the aquarium. It is recommended that you work in teams of 5-8 people (Orientation groups are fine). There is a reward for the first 3 teams to solve all puzzles. Your team will need 1 phone that is capable of sending texts. Always use the same phone.

To begin, **text your team name to (619)-MIT-2020.**

***Need help? My accomplices located at Front Desk (where you received this sheet) are available for hints.***

My Dear Inspector:

I hear rumors that you've put your investigative services on hold to pursue a degree in underwater puzzle-writing at that unnamable Institute in Cambridge, USA.

It might come as an unpleasant surprise that your prized pet, Tim the Beaver, is now in my stolen possession. Beaver-napped, as one might say? You needn't worry, Tim is with my accomplices unharmed, for now. Though I could use a nice fur coat come wintertime - you know how unforgiving ours seasons here do get.

If you want your bucktoothed pet back unshaved, you're going to have to play my little game of 20/20. 20 cases. 20 questions. 20 more chances to save the day! Ahah! on second thought, as the exalted 'MIT student' you now are, I'm sure you'll make do with only 10 of them. There there, you've always admired the extra challenge!

Tick tock.. Sherlock. Time is of the essence.

Mystery certainly does follow mystery!

Always in enmity,

P.F.T.H.I

***There are 10 puzzles (mystery cases) scattered throughout the aquarium. Good luck!***

Submit answers by texting **(619)-MIT-2020** with the format: [puzzle number] [your solution].

For example, if your answer for puzzle 6 was sherlock, you would text **6 sherlock.**

**(THIS PAGE IS NOT A PUZZLE)**

# Mystery Case No. 10

## THE FINAL PROBLEM

Re: Undisclosed Address  
Cambridge, MA, USA  
January 4, 1945

Dear Inspector,

The last Mystery that shall be overcome is Death.  
Who will live to tell your story?

In death,

*A. Lovelace* *M. Curie* *R. Franklin* *A. Einstein* *I. Pavlov*  
A. Lovelace M. Curie R. Franklin A. Einstein I. Pavlov

***This is the last mystery case. You should be able to solve it once you have solved all (or most of) the other 9 cases...***

The resident of the rightmost dorm is a BCS (Course 9) major

The Turtle owner lives to the right side of the Beaver owner

The Kresge fan lives in the center dorm

The BCS major lives next to Albert

Ada lives to the left of the Chemistry major

The leftmost dorm is McCormick Hall

The Baker resident lives next to the Manatee owner

The Penguin owner lives next to the MacGregor resident

The Seahorse owner likes sunbathing out in Killian Court

<b>Name</b>	(2)					→	<input type="text"/>
<b>Dorm</b>		(5)				→	<input type="text"/>
<b>Major</b>			(2)			→	<input type="text"/>
<b>Pet</b>				(3)		→	<input type="text"/>
<b>Landmark</b>					(1)	→	<input type="text"/>

# Mystery Case No. 1

# DUPLICITOUS IDENTITIES

Dear Inspector,

Re: DNCC Headquarters  
Cleveland, OH, USA  
August 2, 2016

We've got a laughable Disney caricature running for President in my country. He goes by the name of Donald - Donald TRUMP. Some of his associates appear rather shady. I ask you to assist me in connecting the dots.

Yours sincerely,



Hillary Rodham Clinton



○



- *Stepped foot on the Moon*



○



- *Composed nine symphonies*



○



- *Starred in Mission Impossible*



○



- *Ended a great World War*



○



- *Governs the most exalted Institute of Tech on earth!*



○



- *Transforms into a pet rat*

# Mystery Case No. 2

# PERFECT HINDSIGHT

Re: L. Rafael Reif, Office of the President  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA, USA  
June 5, 2020

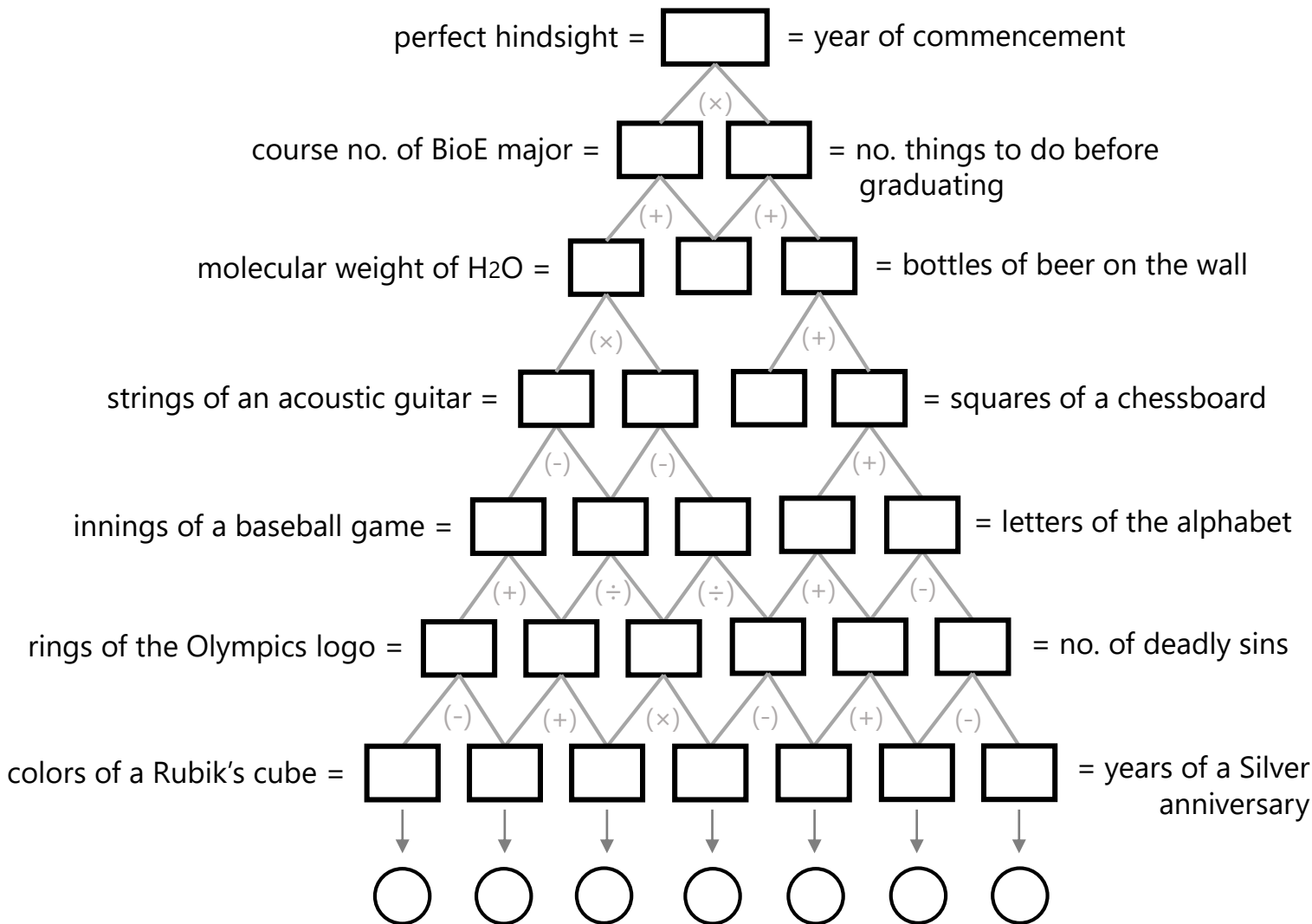
Dear Inspector,

Hindsight is indeed 20/20. Congratulations on completing your degree in underwater puzzle-solving - you've come a long way these four years. Now the only thing standing between you and your diploma is this puzzle I composed, just for you.

Yours sincerely,

L. Rafael Reif  
President

***The first operands of (-) and (÷) are always taken to be the larger number!***



# Mystery Case No. 3

# QUANTUM OF SOLITUDE

Re: 1 Seuss Dr.  
Solla Sollew, A Lonely Universe  
November 11, 2011

Dear Inspector,

I've discovered something truly unique, but no one believes a single word I say. I feel so alone in this universe. No one notices anything these days! Would you care to take a closer look?

I'm counting on these letters to find you well!

In solitude,



J.J. Horton

Serenity	History	Nile	Compound	Emu
Quietude	Chemistry	Ganges	Sometimes	Kiwi
Commotion	Literature	Charles	Churchyard	Ostrich
Tranquility	Linguistics	Caribbean	Superpower	Penguin
Peacefulness	Philosophy	Mississippi	Headquarters	Chickadee

Mystery Case No. 4

# A VANDAL IN OKONOKO

Dear Inspector,

My race car was vandalized at 3:23 PM this afternoon. It was parked at 250 52<sup>nd</sup> St, at a mid-town gas stop. The assailant left behind these graffiti notes as well as... a thesaurus.

I'm just a middle-aged, middle-class mom. What would anyone have against me?

Yours sincerely,

*Ana Irakari*

Ana Irakari

Re: Ana Irakari  
250 52<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Okonoko District, Japan  
1/17/11

1. HIGHEST PLACE

2. YELLOWFIN WHACKJOB

3. OLD-AGED CATS

4. COMPETITION VEHICLE

5. SOLITARY ACETAMINOPHEN

6. ZESTY MOSQUITO

# Mystery Case No. 5

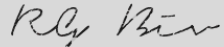
# A STUDY IN COLORS

Dear Inspector,

Lately I've been having some rather colorful hallucinations. Oh, the HUE-manity! I fear someone's got it out for my life. Please help!

Re: Yellowstone Nat'l Park  
Redding, WY, USA  
February 13, 1995

Yours sincerely,



R.G. Biv

1. Con\_\_\_\_\_nism
2. The \_\_\_\_t Gatsby
3. \_\_\_\_\_ you <3
4. Brains over \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_tific method
6. \_\_\_\_\_lation is not causation



1. 2. 3.

4.

5. 6.

# Mystery Case No. 6

# JADED FANTASIES

Dear Inspector,

Re: Disney World Swan & Dolphin  
1500 Epcot Resorts Blvd.  
Orlando, FL, USA  
March 15, 1997

It all started with a child's dream and a mouse. The real unsolved mystery in this world is why so many people grow up. The adult world never looks the same again. Why don't you take a stab at solving that.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Walter Disney

1. *"We've all heard the story countless times before: someone really pretty and someone who really isn't."*
2. *"I just want to be a part of this Earth - but I can't even walk the walk, or talk the talk."*
3. *"I'm just trying to be myself. Why isn't my stupid mirror working?"*
4. *"Yeah, sure... when you talk to a star, no matter who you are, you'll get whatever you want."*
5. *"Is it just me or does it feel like there's love in the air tonight? It's probably just me."*





# Mystery Case No. 7

## A SHADY LETTER

Dear Inspector,

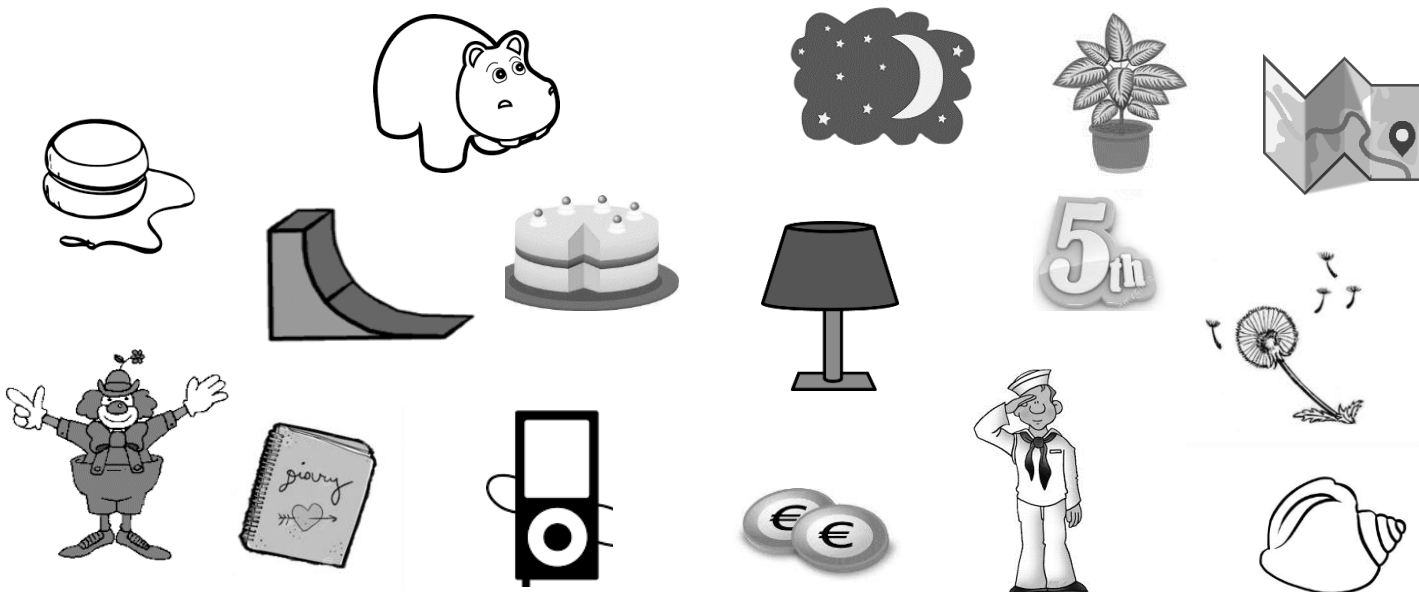
I received a rather shady letter in the mail recently. I can't make heads or tails of it... What's worse, all of the senders seemed to have signed their names in pictures.

Please help me track down these senders... maybe then I can finally make sense of this gibberish!

Sincerely Yours,  
*Sindhee Shader*  
Sindhee Shader

Re: Shader's Barn  
1400 Massachusetts Ave.  
Cambridge, MA, USA  
September 19, 2015

I t w r o t e a v i o l e t s w i r l e d d i a r y H e  
k n e w i t w a s n o t p o s s i b l e a l t h o u g h  
S h e l l s t r i p e d a f a l l e n t r a y  
E l l a n e v e r e x p e c t e d a f o x d e n D o t h a t  
T i m a s k a c l o w n o f c a k e H e n o d d e d T h e r e  
w a s a l o u d c a l l a m i n i s q u e a l P e t e r  
t h o u g h t p a y i n g a f i s t u t i l i t y w a s b a d  
H i s r e p l y a m i s t h a t T e a r t o p p e d i c e  
s w a m S h e p l a n t a h i p p o o n t h e r o o f  
S k y e m a p p e d f o o t p r i n t t o t h e r o s y  
p i c n i c



# Mystery Case No. 8

# A HEATED RELATIONSHIP

Dear Inspector,

Re: Dept. of Physics, Harvard University  
17 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA, USA  
July 7, 1997

I'm in quite a heated relationship with my Thermodynamics professor. I don't think I belong in his class... I feel like an imposter. Please help me square this up.

Yours sincerely,

*Gibbs Helmholtz*

Gibbs Helmholtz, a confused Thermodynamics student

1

- qty. conserved in collisions
- most abundant element in air
- ten to the minus twelfth
- work per unit time
- likelihood of an event

2

- HTML hyperlink tag
- vitamin for eye health
- heaviest isotope of Hydrogen
- time derivative of velocity
- pairs with thymine in DNA

3

- 299,792,458 m/s
- element found in all organic compounds
- vitamin also known as ascorbic acid
- coefficient of correlation
- programming language that UNIX operating system is written in

4

- electric potential difference
- putrid element found in fool's gold
- always-increasing thermodynamic quantity
- phase in which DNA replication occurs
- SI unit defined by radioactivity of cesium

1 • 2 • 3

4

=

-----



# Mystery Case **META**

# TWENTY QUESTIONS

*This META mystery uses ALL the answers you've collected  
in the previous 10 cases...*

Is it a \_\_\_\_\_ word ?

Is it a \_\_\_\_\_ creature ?

Is it a household \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Is it made in a \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Can it contain \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Can you buy it at the (MIT) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Is it used for emergency \_\_\_\_\_ purposes ?

Does it have high \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Can it be attached to a \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Can you \_\_\_\_\_ from this ?

— — — — —

SEND IN THE ANSWER BY TEXTING "META [YOUR SOLUTION]"