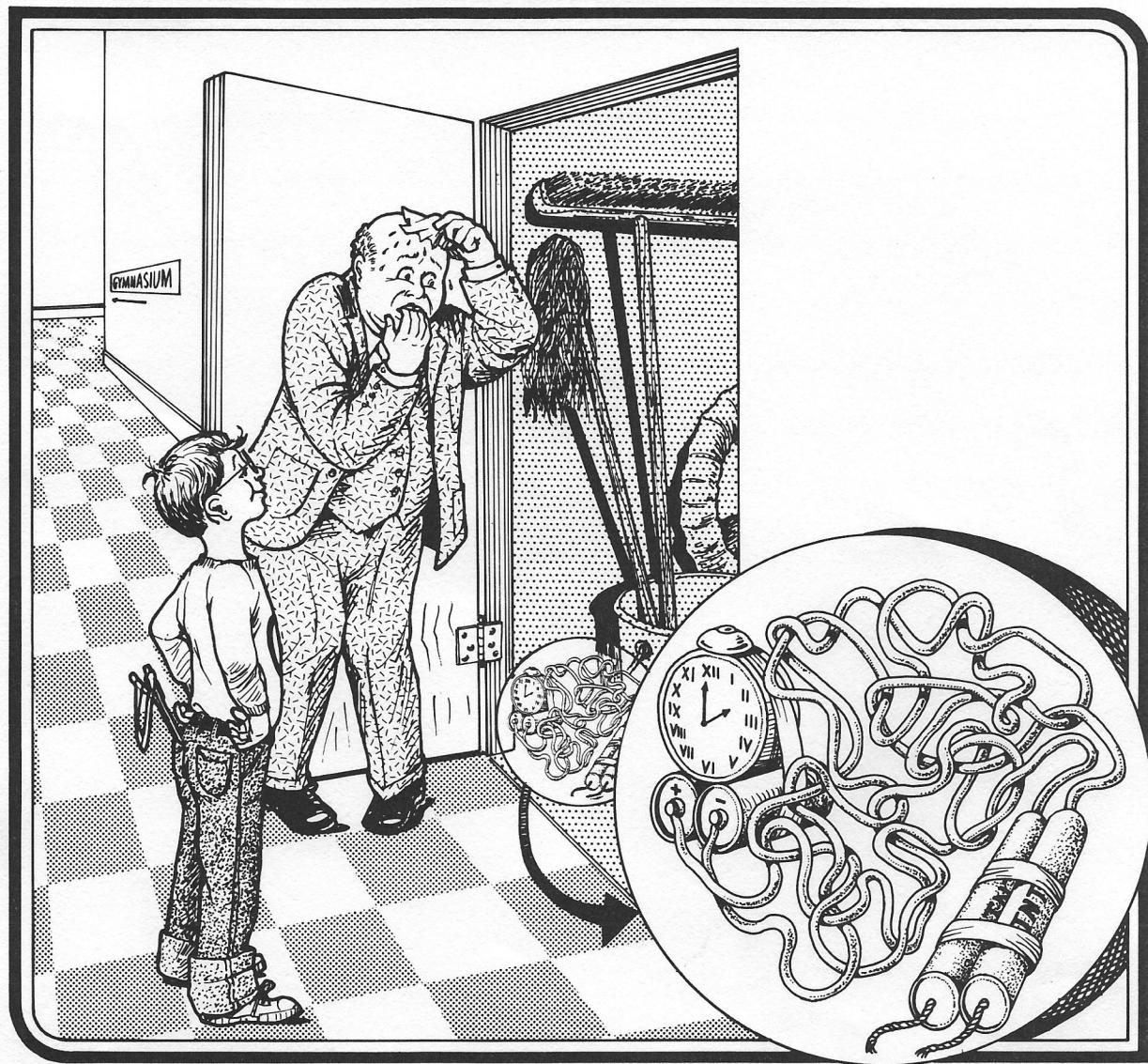


BOMB SIGHT



Mr. Bumbledee, a teacher, was in the main office of the Pilgrim Hat Elementary School when the phone rang. The principal answered, listened for a moment, then stammered into the phone. His face was white and his voice shook, and he dropped the receiver.

"There's a bomb in the broom closet," he said, "and it's going to explode as soon as it's touched, or maybe sooner."

"Then ring the fire alarm and get everybody out of school," said Mr. Bumbledee.

The principal disagreed. "No, because that means that everybody on the second floor has to walk right past the closet where the bomb is. The kids are much safer where they are. I'll call the fire department and see what they say."

"There may not be time for that," Mr. Bumbledee said. "I don't know what to do."

"Go look," the principal said.

Trembling, Mr. Bumbledee tiptoed upstairs to the closet and carefully opened the door. He kept staring at the wires but he was afraid to touch them. Then he became aware that somebody else was looking at the bomb, too. Turning around, Mr. Bumbledee saw a small, intent boy wearing glasses.

"Get away from here," Mr. Bumbledee said. "The thing might explode."

The small boy was Whiz McGonnigle. What do you think he said?

Questions

1. Does the mechanism in the closet contain the essential parts of a bomb?

Yes No

2. Is it dangerous to touch a live bomb?

Yes No

3. Was the clock mechanism designed to set off the bomb? Yes No

4. Could you render the bomb harmless by disconnecting the wires?

Yes No

5. Can you trace the wires with a pencil or your finger? Yes No

6. What does this tell you about the bomb?

7. What do you think Whiz said?

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