

MADE IN JAPAN



On her tenth birthday Jenny Jackalanda invited seven of her friends, James, Jack, Joseph, Jerry, Jane, Jacqueline, and Jill, to a party. They all came and sat down at a table that had a huge decorated birthday cake in the middle. And there was a small green horse on a little platform in the center of the cake.

"It's made out of jade," Jenny said. "It's called a *netsuke*"—which she pronounced "net'su kē"—"and it's terribly valuable. The Japanese used to put it on the string that they fastened their kimonos with, because the kimonos had no buttons. My uncle lived in Japan and he gave it to me for my birthday. Isn't it cute?"

Jenny's friends agreed, but secretly they thought that she was bragging and that she'd put the netsuke in the center of the cake so that nobody could touch it. They were too polite, however, to say anything except, "Oh, it's nice."

When it was time to blow out the candles on the cake, Jenny turned off all the lights, stood up on a chair, and took a deep breath. Then she blew, but she blew so hard that she blew over one of the candles. It fell on a paper napkin, which promptly caught fire and made everyone scramble around looking for water.

After the fire had been put out and the lights were turned back on, Jenny let out a scream. "My netsuke!" she yelled. "My birthday present! Somebody took it!"

Who?

Questions

1. Where had Jenny been sitting?
2. How was the fire put out?
3. Did the children leave their places in a hurry?
4. Why didn't anyone see who took the netsuke?
5. Did the thief leave any clues?
6. In which chair had the thief been sitting?
7. Who took the netsuke?

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