

SPELLING BEE



Whiz McGonnigle was a shoo-in to win the county spelling championship. After all, hadn't he spelt Afghanistan, Timbuktu, and Nebuchadnezzar without a mistake, when all the other finalists had tripped up at least once? Including Marcia Hagentuckle, who had never been much of a speller until she entered into the county tournament and qualified easily. Her only mistake was when she misspelt honey, which everybody else handled with ease.

There were rumors to the effect that she was to be given the list of words ahead of time. At first Whiz refused to believe the story, but when it was pointed out that Marcia's father had a stranglehold on some of the town officials and that he'd never been known for his moral principles, Whiz got worried.

Gradually the rumors became more specific, until it was fairly certain that Marcia would be handed the list of words immediately before the actual event. As a result, Whiz made certain preparations, with the help of Kippy Ironbledder, Skinny Hobart, and a few other friends.

The sketch shows the lobby of the town hall, with the contestants and their friends waiting to be told where to go. Can you foresee what is likely to happen?

Questions

1. Do you think that Marcia is about to be given the list of words?
Yes_____ No_____
2. Would Marcia have a chance to read such a list? Yes_____ No_____
3. Does the man signalling to Marcia have a suspicious list of words?
Yes_____ No_____
4. If he tripped or fell, would someone have a chance to grab his list?
Yes_____ No_____
5. Could the list be made useless by some physical means? Yes_____ No_____
6. If something occurred to create general confusion, could the list then be taken?
Yes_____ No_____
7. Name at least seven things calculated to create confusion and thus ruin the Hagentuckle conspiracy.
8. What do you think happened?

Solution on page 71