

## THE CASE OF THE MISSING MEATBALL

**DIRECTIONS: READ THE SHORT STORY BELOW AND THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.**

It was a dark and stormy afternoon at our school. Seventh grade students were returning from lunch. Mr. G sat on his stool with a fresh stain of spaghetti sauce on his shirt.

“Mmmmm, what a delicious lunch I just had!” Mr. G exclaimed. “I’m completely stuffed. How was school lunch today?” His students looked at him like he was crazy.

Suddenly, Ms. K knocked at the door. She whispered to Ms. S, “Has anyone seen Ms. C’s lunch? She had spaghetti and meatballs, but it seems to have gone missing.”

Ms. S thought for a moment, going back in her memory to think if she had seen anything. She turned to Mr. G and asked, “Mr. G, did you see anything? I think you were in Ms. C’s room just before lunch started.”

Mr. G widened his eyes a little and quickly said, “no.” He stood up quickly, knocking his lunch box off of the table. When it hit the floor, a sandwich and an apple rolled out. Mr. G scanned the room, then asked the students, “Does anyone know anything about Ms. C’s missing lunch?”



1. Who do you think took Ms. C’s lunch?
2. List the pieces of evidence that make you think this person took Ms. C’s lunch?
3. Why do these pieces of evidence make you think that this person took Ms. C’s lunch?
4. Write a CER (Claim, Evidence, Reason) statement using your answers from questions 1-3.

Adapted from:  
Grymonpre, Kris, Cohn, Allison, Solomon, Stacey. (2012). *Getting Past “Just Because” Teaching Writing in Science Class*. Science Scope. January 2012