

Story Hour Kit

Featuring the picture book by Jason Gallaher & illustrated by Jess Pauwels (Simon & Schuster).

WHOBERT Whoever, Owl Detective: Story Hour Kit

THE KIT

This kit was designed for librarians, educators, and booksellers, and for families hosting playgroups, parties, or simply looking for an engaging read aloud. Best for ages 4-7.



In this “who, who done it” picture book, Whobert Whoever, owl detective, comes upon Perry the Possum, “lying awfully still.” Whobert has his next case! Following a woodland getaway trail, Whobert searches for clues, talks to eyewitnesses, and points to *many* suspects. Readers come to suspect something of their own. Perry might be “playing possum,” and the culprit causing Perry’s distress might be closer than we think!

With this kit your readers can become the hapless but charming detective by making a Whobert hat (complete with wings), sporting a paper magnifying glass, and starting out on the getaway trail with a detective kit bag. In that bag will be a detective’s notebook with a list of evidence they need to find. The kit provides six cut-out evidence cards to hide around your space. The evidence cards fit perfectly into the detective notebook, allowing readers to wrap up the case. Also tucked into the detective kit is a list of recommended mystery picture books.

The kit contains:

- Poster and copy to share your event
- Suggested preparation
- Detective owl hat (with wings!)
- Cut-out magnifying glasses
- Print and fold detective notebook
- Printable evidence cards
- Labels to make lunch bags into detective kits
- Reproducible book list

ABOUT THE BOOK

Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective

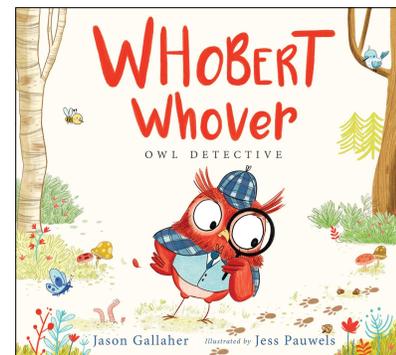
By Jason Gallaher

Illustrated by Jess Pauwels

Published by Margaret K. McElderry Books

ISBN-13: 9781481462716

Age Range: 4 - 6 Years



Help Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective, keep his woods safe in this hilarious who-who-dun-it. What happened to Perry the Possum? Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective, is on the case!

Did Debbie the Duck whack Perry with her wicked wings? Or did Freddie the Frog soak Perry in his sickening slime? And what if the culprit is closer to home than Whobert expects?

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PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

“With a cleverly placed page turn and anticipated rhyme...Pauwels' digital forest scenes full of tiny onlookers such as bees, spiders, and worms complement Gallaher's witty wordplay...A cracking whoooooo-dunit.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Why should adults get all the good unsolved mysteries? Debut author Gallaher's pun-laden whodunit starts with a classic scene: Perry the Possum, “lying awfully still” on the forest floor... Belgian artist Pauwel's exaggerated drawings, the assured comic rhythms of the storytelling, and a facepalm-worthy ending (which turns on Whobert's cluelessness and Perry's characteristic possum behavior) make this a satisfying and rousing silly read-aloud.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

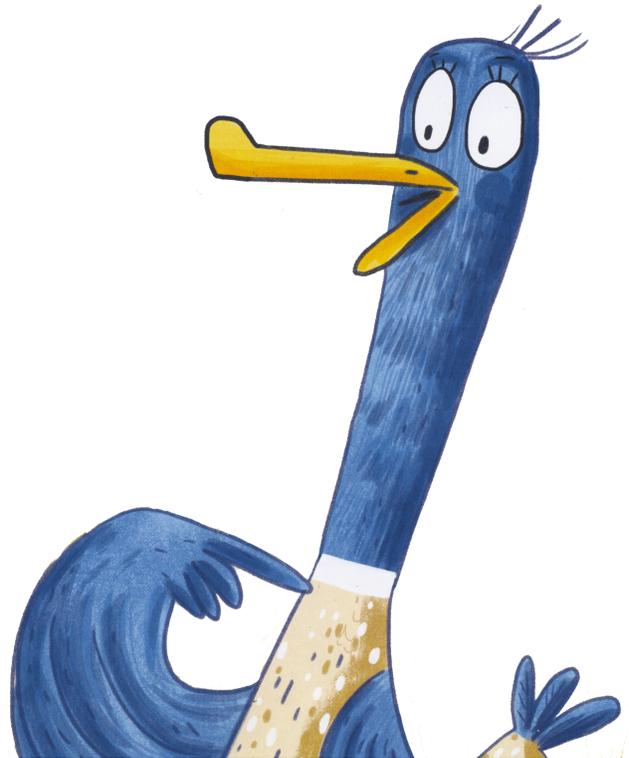
OTHER RESOURCES

Enjoyed using this kit? Visit CuriousCityDPW.com for other story hour kits, event kits, treasure hunts, book club guides, book giveaways, and more ways to engage in children's literature with play, conversation, and social action.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Jason Gallaher is a children's book writer who fell in love with detective work while watching episodes of Blue's Clues. He solved the mystery of what to do when he grew up and became an author when he learned being a merman is impossible (at least for now). Jason lives in Austin, Texas, with his Pomeranian, Pom Brokaw, who is a super sleuth when it comes to finding treats. Visit Jason online at JasonGallaher.com.

Jess Pauwels lives in Brussels, Belgium, so she can have the best French fries, the darkest chocolate, and the crunchiest Speculoos in the entire world. With her artist's cap on eight months a year, she mostly illustrates picture books and magazines stories. She loves caffeine, colored pencils, traveling, and documentaries about monkeys.



WHOBERT Whoover, Owl Detective: Story Hour Kit

PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES

You will, of course, create your own grand program or classroom activity! Following are simply suggested ways to prepare for an event or classroom experience.

___ Locate a copy of the picture book **Whobert Whoover, Owl Detective** by Jason Gallaher and illustrated by Jess Pauwels (Simon & Schuster).

Marketing

___ If you list your events in newsletters and/or online calendars, here is some text that may help with those listings:

In this “who-who-dun-it” story time, we will meet the great owl detective, Whobert Whoover, and solve the case of poor Perry the Possum (who may be simply playing possum). We will pop on our owl hats and search for clues and suspects to fill our detective notebooks. Join us as we celebrate the picture book **Whobert Whoover, Owl Detective** by Jason Gallaher and illustrated by Jess Pauwels (Simon & Schuster) and other books filled with nature’s mysteries. All welcome, but best for ages 4-7.

___ If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page 8), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster on your computer, you can find a JPEG of the poster design on CuriousCityDPW.com. Simply search for “whobert” and navigate to the Story Hour Kit listing. The fonts on the poster are Minion Pro and Cavorting.

Becoming Whobert

After a read aloud of this picture book, your readers will want to test their own detective skills. Why not play at being the charmingly hapless Whobert Whoover? With owl hats and magnifying glasses, readers are ready to find out “who, who done it.”

___ Print Whobert Hats on pages 9-10 on regular or card stock paper. Print enough for each reader. Consider pre-cutting the pieces for easy owl assembly on the day of the event.

___ Print Whobert Magnifying Glasses on page 11 on card stock paper. Print enough for each reader. Consider pre-cutting the glasses for magnificent magnifying. If you have a circle cutter, the inner circle is 2.5 inches.



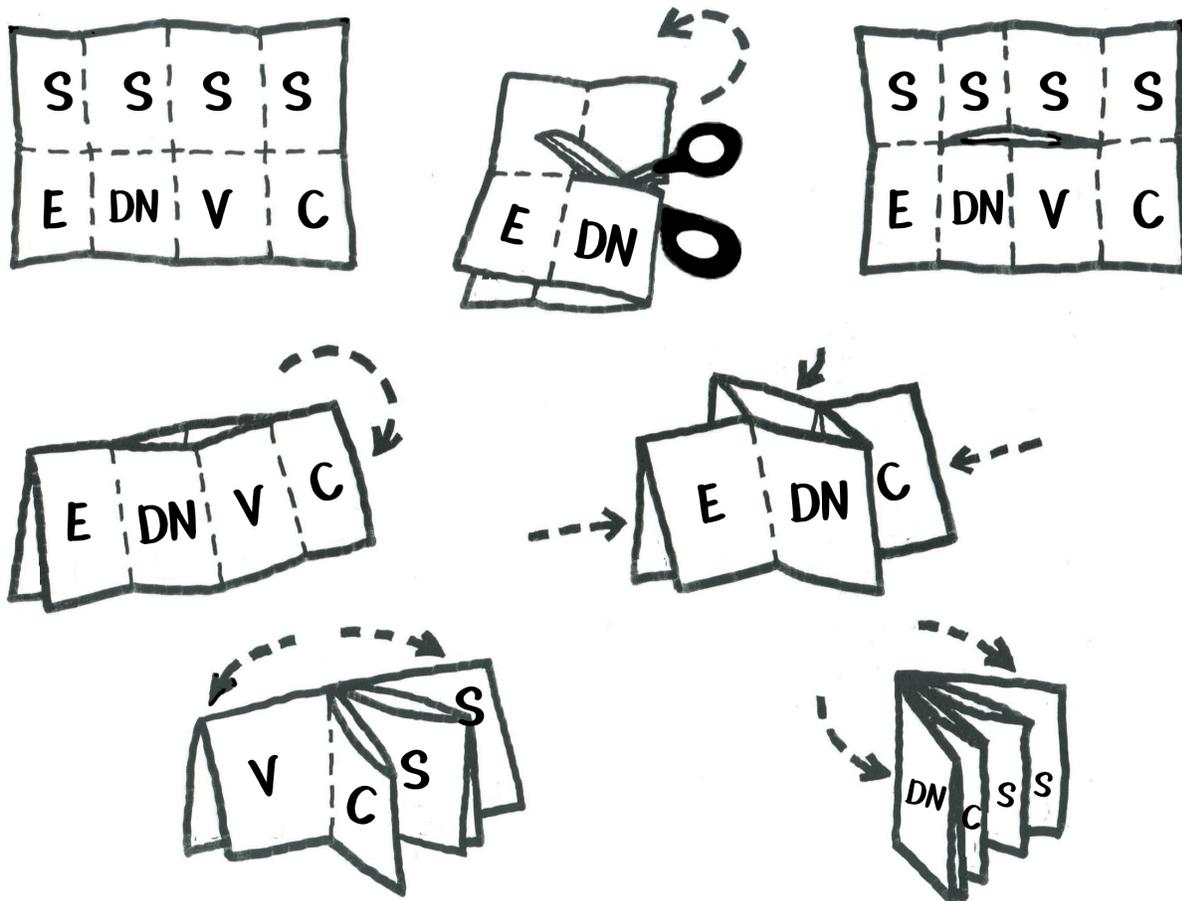
WHOBERT Whoever, Owl Detective: Story Hour Kit

Following the Getaway Trail

Once your readers are transformed into owl detectives, they will want to solve a mystery. They can revisit the story by searching your space a.k.a the “getaway trail” for evidence. That evidence will be six cards representing the victim, a clue, and four suspects. With a detective’s notebook and detective kit bag in hand, they can collect their evidence. Each piece of evidence has a corresponding page in the detective’s notebook.

___ Print Whobert’s Detective Notebook on page 12. With a fold and cut, this sheet becomes an 8-page book! Assemble a notebook for each of your readers. The diagram below demonstrates assembly.

Start by making clean folds on the dotted line of the Detective Notebook sheet. Making folds in both directions will help make a tidy book. The letters on the diagram correspond to the words on the printed template. E is for Evidence, DN is for Detective Notebook, and so on.



___ Print Whobert’s Evidence sheet on page 13. Print enough for each reader. Cut out each piece of evidence and group the victims, clues, and each set of suspects into piles. Set aside to hide these on the day of the event.

WHOBERT Whoever, Owl Detective: Story Hour Kit

Following the Getaway Trail (cont.)

___ Nature has its own mysteries. Consider matching the evidence cards with a non-fiction book or books corresponding with the evidence card's animal. There is a frog, a beaver, an owl, a duck, a possum, and a feather. On the day of the event, you might place the evidence card near its matching non-fiction book or books. What books you choose will determine the path of the getaway trail where your readers will search.

___ Secure paper lunch bags for each reader as a Detective Kit. There are labels available on page 14 if you want to decorate the bags.

___ Print Whobert Whoever's Favorite Detective Picture Books list on page 15 to give to your readers. The list was built from recommendations by librarians on the ALSC list serve.

___ Consider prepping the detective kits with a detective's notebook, crayon, magnifying glass, and book list.

PREPARING THE DAY OF THE EVENT

___ Place your six evidence cards around the room. Make sure each item is stacked together. For example, all the clues (feathers) are together.

___ Lay out owl hat pieces with tape on your project table. Additionally, lay out glue sticks for detective book assembly.

___ Place your detective kits within reach for post read-aloud distribution. Place one near your story hour chair for a demonstration post read-aloud.

THE EVENT

___ Consider starting the event by making owl hats with readers as they arrive.

___ Read the the picture book **Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective** by Jason Gallaher and illustrated by Jess Pauwels (Simon & Schuster). There is a repeat refrain of, "Who, who done it" that makes a fun call and response.

___ Revisit detective vocabulary like victim, clue, and suspect with dialogue like:

It is not easy being a detective. Can you tell me what a detective does?

What is a mystery?

To be a good detective you have to know certain words.

WHOBERT Whoever, Owl Detective: Story Hour Kit

THE EVENT (cont.)

First is victim. A victim is someone who has been scared by someone else. Who is the victim?

Second is a clue. What is a clue? A clue is something you find that tells you something you did not know. A clue is something you discover that helps solve the mystery.

The third word is suspect. What is a suspect? A suspect is someone you think did something wrong.

The fourth word is evidence. A detective needs evidence to prove someone did something wrong. Whobert needs evidence to prove that someone scared Perry the Possum. The victim, the clues, and the suspects are all evidence.

___ Start them on collecting evidence by demonstrating what is in the detective kit:

Do you want to play detective? Do you want to solve the mystery of “who, who done it”?

Let’s see what is in your detective kit.

You have a magnifying glass to help you see clues.

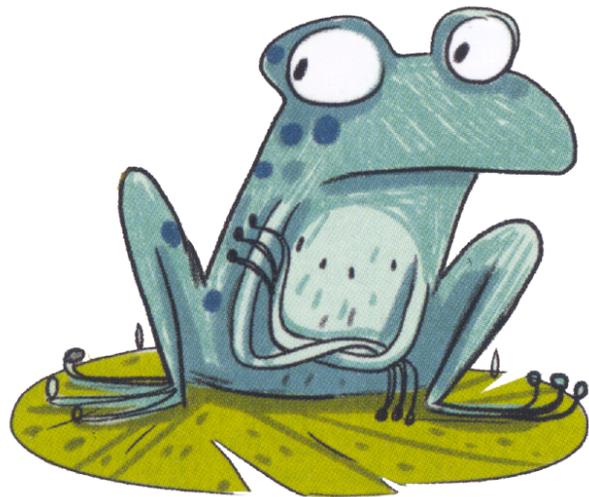
You have a detective notebook to make notes about the evidence you find. On the back of your notebook there is a list of evidence you will find hidden around the room. Do you want to see if you can find evidence?

___ Hand out the detective kits. Send them down the getaway trail!

___ Bring your detectives back to your project table to assemble their detective notebooks. They can glue their evidence onto the pages.

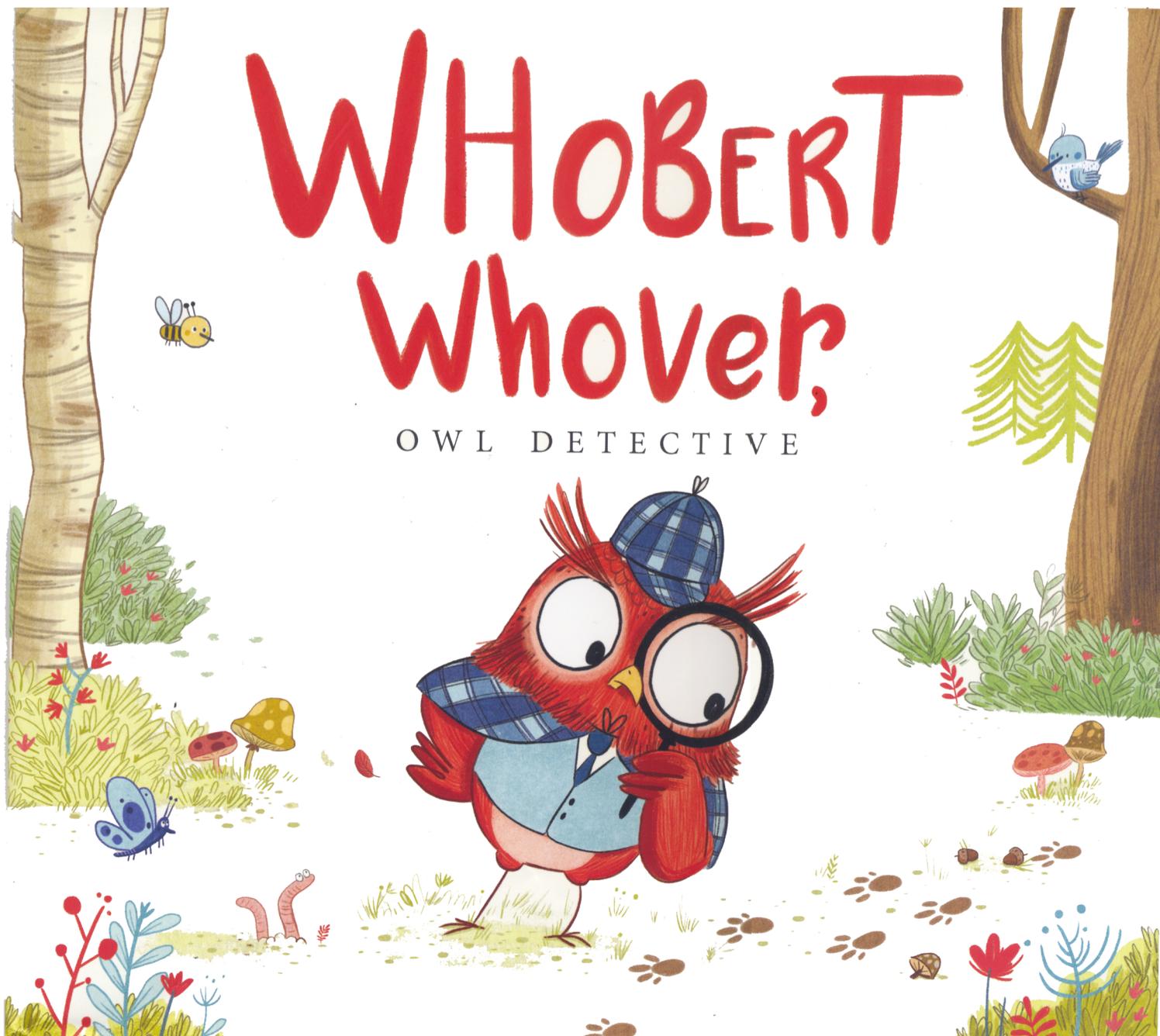
___ Point out that there are more great detective reads in the detective kit.

___ You have cracked the case, my friend. The case of how to create curiosity about nature’s many mysteries and about detective fiction has been solved!



WHOBERT Whoover,

OWL DETECTIVE



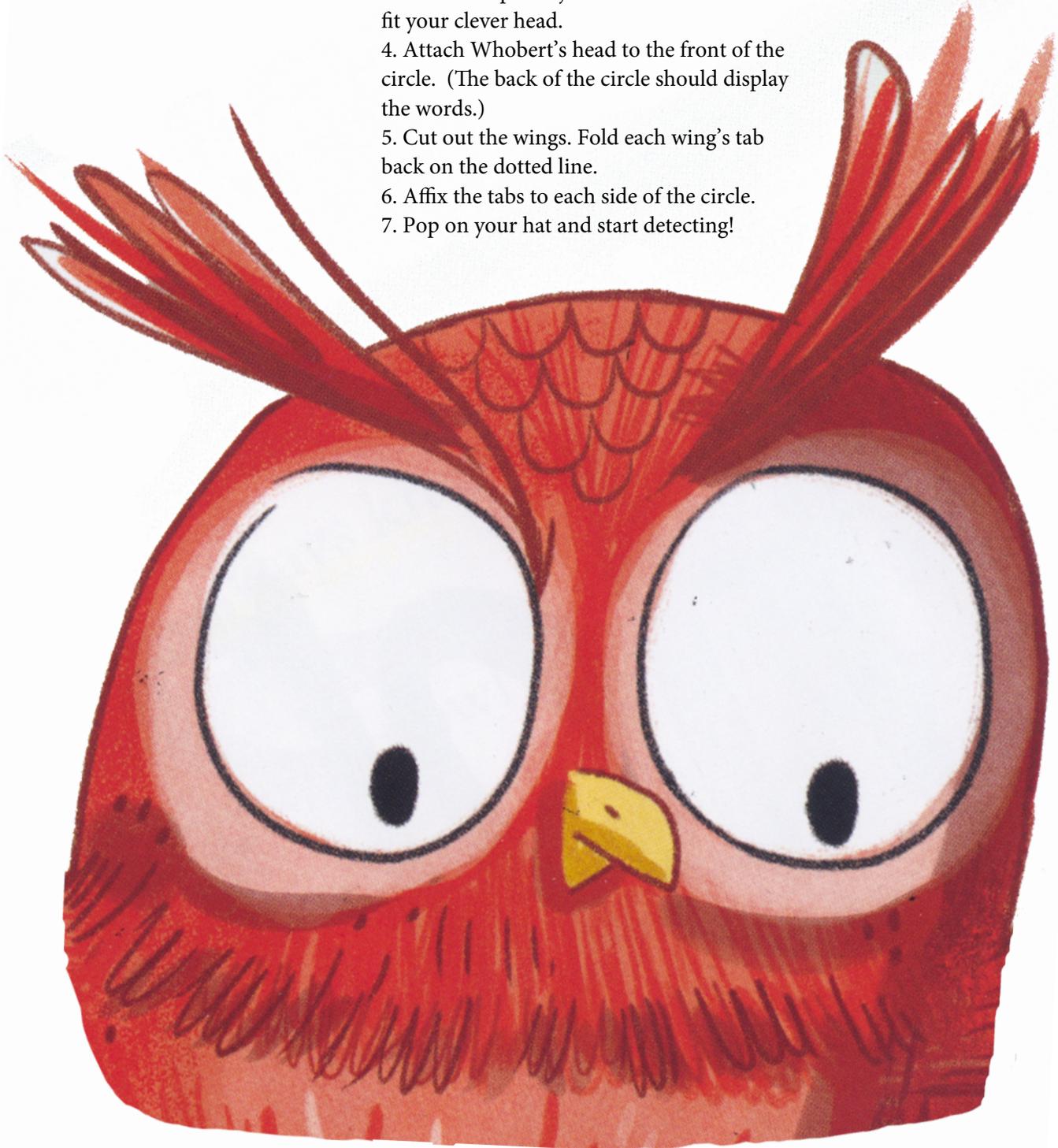
Featuring the picture book by Jason Gallaher and illustrated by Jess Pauwels (Simon & Schuster).

WhobertWhoover.com #Whobert

Whobert Hat: pg. 1

How does one make a Whobert Hat and take on all of the great skills of the famous owl detective?

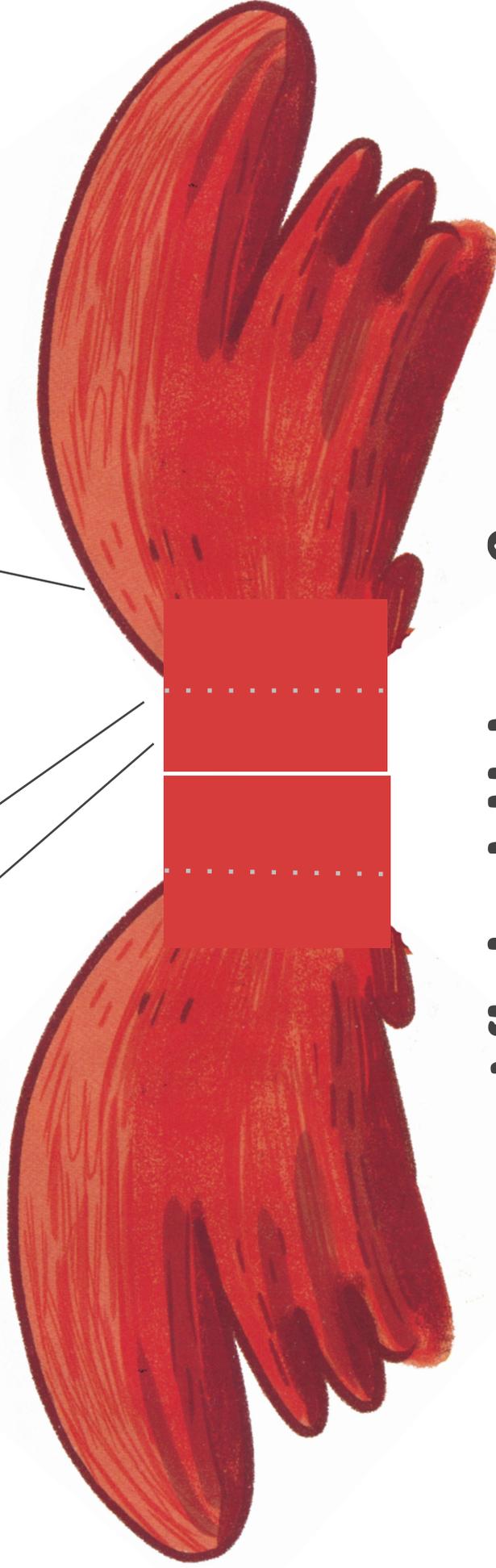
1. Cut out Whobert's head on pg. 1.
2. Cut out the 2 strips on pg. 2.
3. Join the strips into a circle. Secure the circle with tape. Adjust the circumference to fit your clever head.
4. Attach Whobert's head to the front of the circle. (The back of the circle should display the words.)
5. Cut out the wings. Fold each wing's tab back on the dotted line.
6. Affix the tabs to each side of the circle.
7. Pop on your hat and start detecting!



TAB

FOLD LINE

WING



Whobert Hat: pg. 2

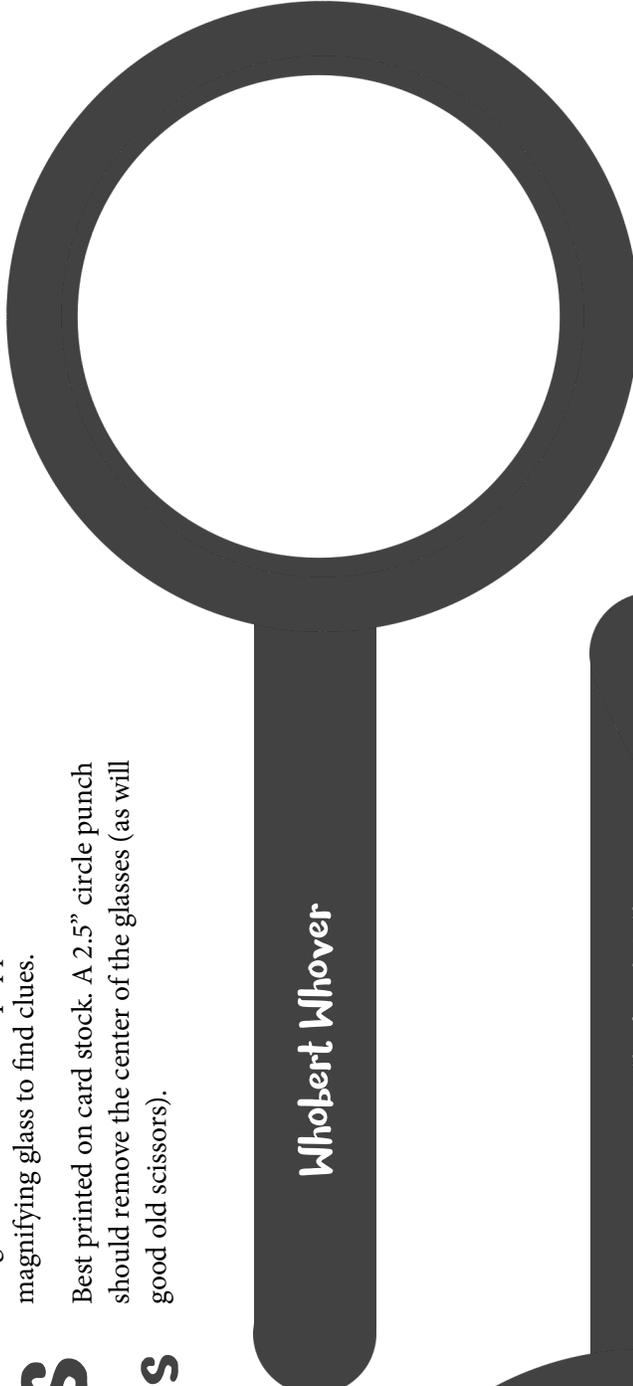
Whobert Whoover

#Whobert
Images © Jess Pauwels

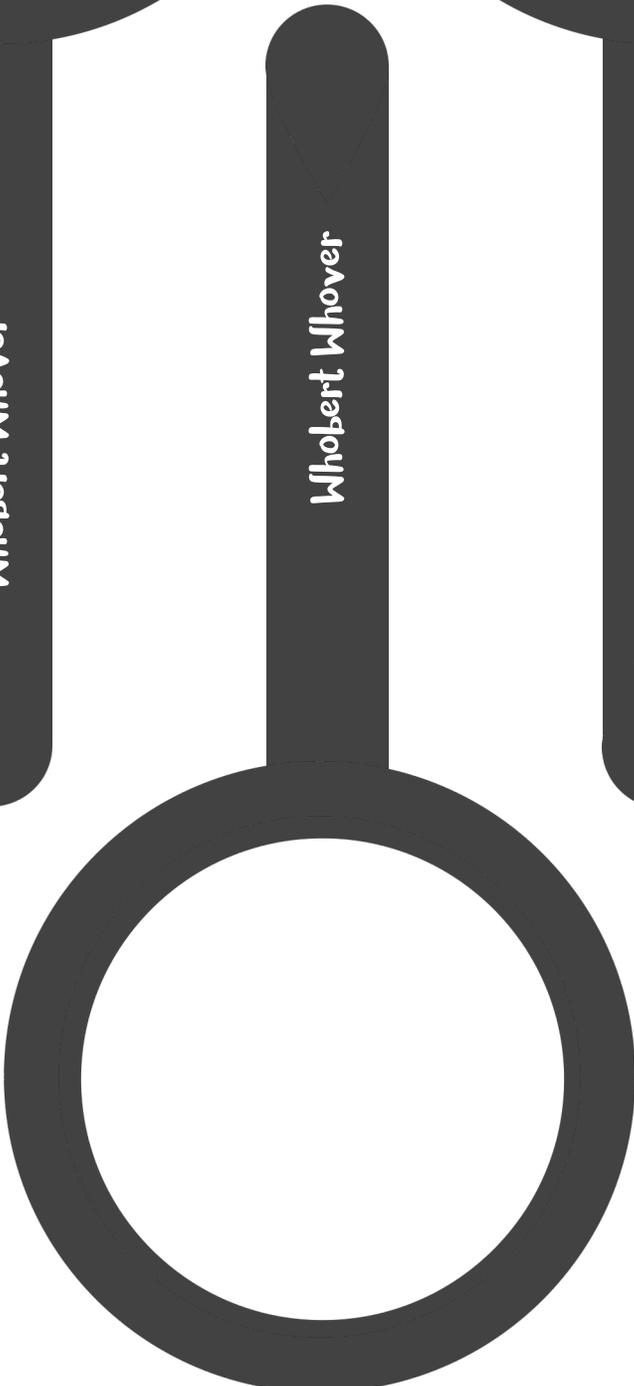
Whobert's Magnifying Glass

All good detectives are equipped with a magnifying glass to find clues.

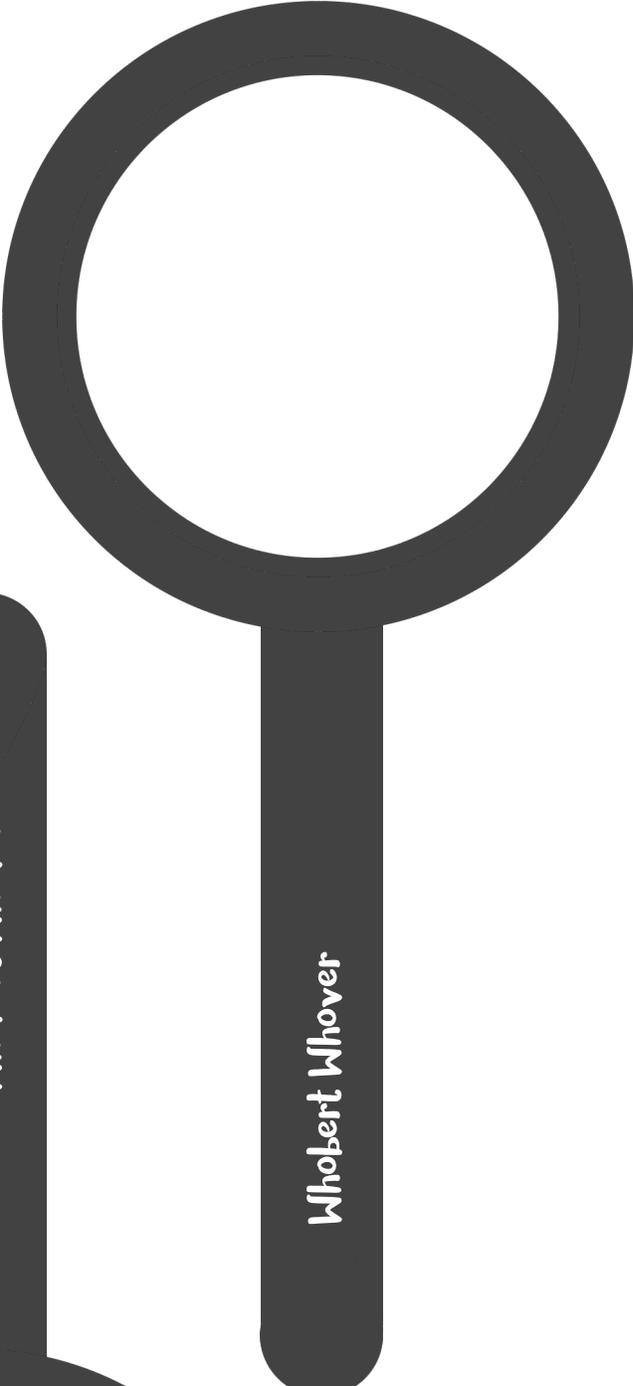
Best printed on card stock. A 2.5" circle punch should remove the center of the glasses (as will good old scissors).

A large magnifying glass template with a circular lens and a handle. The handle is a thick black bar with rounded ends. The text "Whobert Whoover" is printed in white on the handle.

Whobert Whoover

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Whobert Whoover

Suspect

All images © Jess Pauwels

Suspect

Suspect

Suspect

Evidence

Can you follow the getaway trail to find this evidence?

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



Whobert Whoever,
Owl Detective

Detective Notebook

Created for the picture book
Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective
by Jason Gallaher and illustrated
by Jess Pauwels (Simon & Schuster).
WhobertWhoever.com

Victim

Clue

Whobert's Evidence

Detectives must gather their evidence! Print this sheet on regular paper and cut out the six evidence cards. Print enough so that each reader will have a complete set of cards. These cards will eventually be glued into the Detective Notebook. To get ready for the event, make piles of Freddie's, Beckys, Whoberts, and so on to hide in your space on the day of the event.

Freddie



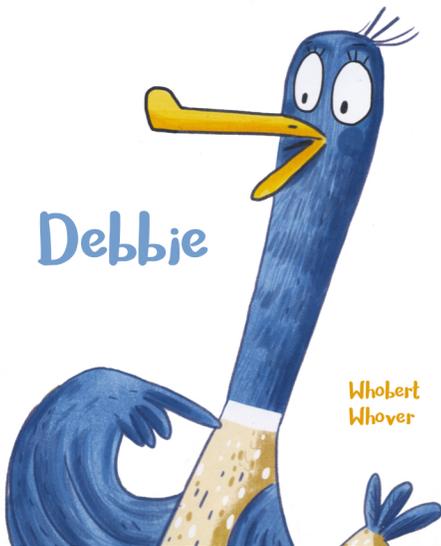
Becky



Whobert



Debbie



Perry





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Owl Detective

Detective Kit

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Detective Kit

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Whobert Whoever,
Owl Detective

Detective Kit

Image © Jess Painwels

Whobert Whoover's Favorite Detective Picture Books

Who Ate All the Cookie Dough? by Karen Beaumont & illustrated by Eugene Yelchin (Henry Holt and Co.)

Ace Lacewing: Bug Detective series by David Biedrzycki (Charlesbridge)

The Troublemaker by Lauren Castillo (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes by James Dean, Kimberly Dean (HarperCollins)

Whobert Whoover, Owl Detective by Jason Gallaher & illustrated by Jess Pauwels (Simon & Schuster). Of course!

William & the Missing Masterpiece by Helen Hancocks (Candlewick Press)

Art Dog by Thacher Hurd (HarperCollins)

The Great Paper Caper by Oliver Jeffers (Penguin Young Readers Group)

Who Pushed Humpty Dumpty?: And Other Notorious Nursery Tale Mysteries by David Levinthal & illustrated by John Nickle (Random House)

How to Find a Fox by Nilah Magruder (Feiweil & Friends)

Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective series by Lauren McLaughlin & illustrated by Debbie Ohi (Random House)

Tuff Fluff: The Case of Duckie's Missing Brain by Scott Nash (Candlewick Press)

Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation by Mark Teague (Scholastic, Inc.)

Tough Cookie by David Wisniewski (HarperCollins)



Image © Jess Pauwels

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