

# The Crystal Clarion

## Our PETS™ Newsletter

Issue 7

Editor-in-Chief  
Yolanda the Yarnspinner

Fall 2006



### From the Editor's Desk

It's that time again! New faces and new adventures!

In some schools, maps of Crystal Pond Woods are adorning hallways, while CPW annexes are being created within classroom walls.

This issue focuses on some management tools for some of Dudley's activities that you may want to incorporate into your own program this year, along with ways to tweak his story and Isabel's brainfocals™.

Remember — this newsletter is intended to network YOUR ideas. Keep them coming in!!! See p. 3 for details!

### Keeping Tracks (PETS™ Green & Blue Books)

Several of Dudley's convergent small group activities in both the green and blue PETS™ books are manipulative puzzles that are just a ton of fun. Monitoring student progress, however, has been a teacher challenge.

What works for me is the set of simple, formative rubrics you see below on which the students keep track of their progress. There's a stamping station on a side table and when a student finishes a puzzle successfully, he or she stamps the paper accordingly. If work is in progress when the class ends, that is similarly recorded on the rubric with stamps. It's fun, provides me with a simple way to manage the diagnostic information I need, and gives students something concrete to take home, too!

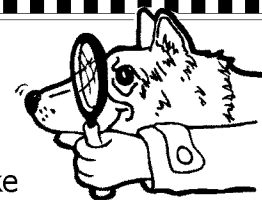
*Contributed by Dodie Merritt*

Crystal Celebration: Keeping Track				
Name:	No chance to try this	Just out of the gate	Coming down the homestretch	Across the finish
Class:				
Parade				
Costume Party				
Car Race				
Baseball Game				

PETS TABLE LOGIC				
Name:	No chance to try this	Still looking for the right seat	Almost!	Everyone's here, ready to eat!
Class:				
Dinner at Max's				
Yolanda's Literary Circle				
Jordan's Luncheon Party				
Dudley's Picnic				

PETS SILHOUETTES				
Name:	No chance to try this	In progress	Almost!	Pretty as a picture!!
Class:				
Puzzle #1				
Puzzle #2				
Puzzle #3				
Puzzle #4				
Puzzle #5				
Puzzle #6				

See pp. 4-6 for full-size versions.



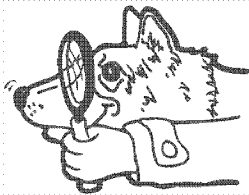
With telling and retelling, stories evolve and improve. Such is the case with Dudley's story. In this version, there are several adaptations that make the story work even more effectively:

- ✦ present tense — Dudley is a detective;
- ✦ Dudley received a special gold detective badge — making it clear that the badge is made of metal;
- ✦ establishing a home for Rosalyn Robin in the apple tree as well as the one for Rascal Raccoon next door; and
- ✦ a greater focus on this 3-step detective process — finding the clues, reading the clues, and thinking about the clues in order to find the one, and only one, right answer.

Some educators are not overly concerned when most children don't pick up on the glint in the original version and use this as an opportunity to instruct about the importance of not discarding clues at first glance, stressing the necessity of pondering all clues until you have the one right answer. This opportunity is not lost with this new version as most children still focus on Rascal, but there are enough clues now for the discerning detective to make a case against Rosalyn.

*Contributed by Dodie Merritt*

## DUDLEY'S



## STORY

### DUDLEY THE DETECTIVE

One bright, sunny morning, Dudley the Detective woke up, stretched, and yawned.

"What a GREAT morning," he thought to himself. "This will be a fine day for solving a mystery."

Dudley is a detective. He *loves* to solve mysteries. He *loves* to spend his mornings looking for and FINDING clues, then READING what they tell him about the latest mystery in town.

Dudley's favorite afternoons are spent THINKING about all the information he has gathered. He's always careful NOT TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS. He prefers to ponder a mystery until after dinner.

Once Dudley has eaten dinner, the phone will begin to ring, for all the folks in town know that Dudley will have figured out the ONE correct answer while doing his dishes. He'll exclaim, "I'VE GOT IT!!"

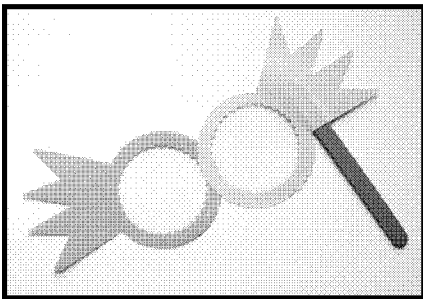
**From the Trenches**

As Beverly Pryor points out ...

*Despite how nicely the stems of Isabel's Brainfocals™ frame the title on p.59 [the Red book], the fact still remains that one of them is backwards ...*

so that page has been revised following her suggestions— check out p. 7.

Another consideration is to use award diecuts and popsicle sticks:



I tell my students that if they were in France, these would be known as their brainstorming "lorgnettes"!

**Inquiring Minds**

*Dear Yolanda,*

*I have a question about the first whole class lesson with Yolanda in the red book. The directions for the worksheet, Stupendous Statements, tell the students to use only the words below to make as many sentences as possible. However, the lesson involves using imaginative, creative words and phrases so I am wondering what is the intent of the worksheet when it limits the students' use of words.*

*R. D.*

Dear R. D.,

As pointed out in the diagnostic notes, the goal of this lesson is to see how creatively students can work with a given set of words. What kinds of combinations can they derive from these lists? How many words can they work into one sentence? Is there variety to the types of sentences they make? Do the sentences reflect an unusual or mature sense of humor? Is there an adept use of phrases rather than just single words? This exercise challenges a student's flexibility of thought, allowing them to "play" with and push the limits of a given set of words.

Sincerely, Yolanda



**Spotlight YOUR Ideas!**

YOU can be a part of all this fun simply by ...

- using PETS™ in your classroom and
- **sharing your ideas!!!** Then, to recognize your support of colleagues-in-need:
  - POL is offering a **\$20 gift certificate** for ideas used **In the Spotlight ...**
  - or a **free literature guide of your choice** (by N. Polette!) to anyone whose ideas are used in **Brief Bytes.**



- You can e-mail your PETS™ enhancements to me at:

**yarnspinnr@hotmail.com**

- or snail mail them to me at this address:

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**Clarion Contributors**

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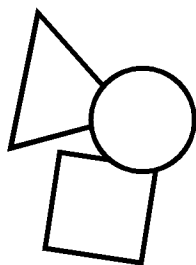
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**Beverly Pryor**

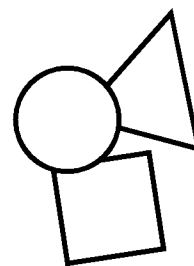
Bay City ISD  
Bay City, TX

**????? Got Qs ??????**

Send in YOUR questions and let's see how other PETS™ users have resolved your predicament!



# PETS TABLE LOGIC



Name:

Class:

	No chance to try this	Still looking for the right seat	Almost!	Everyone's here, ready to eat!!
Dinner at Max's				
Yolanda's Literary Circle				
Jordan's Luncheon Party				
Dudley's Picnic				



# PETS



# SILHOUETTES

Name:

Class:

	No chance to try this	In progress	Almost!	Pretty as a picture!!!
Puzzle #1				
Puzzle #2				
Puzzle #3				
Puzzle #4				
Puzzle #5				
Puzzle #6				

# Crystal Celebration: Keeping Track

Name:

No chance to try this	Just out of the gate	Coming down the homestretch	Across the finish line!
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Class:

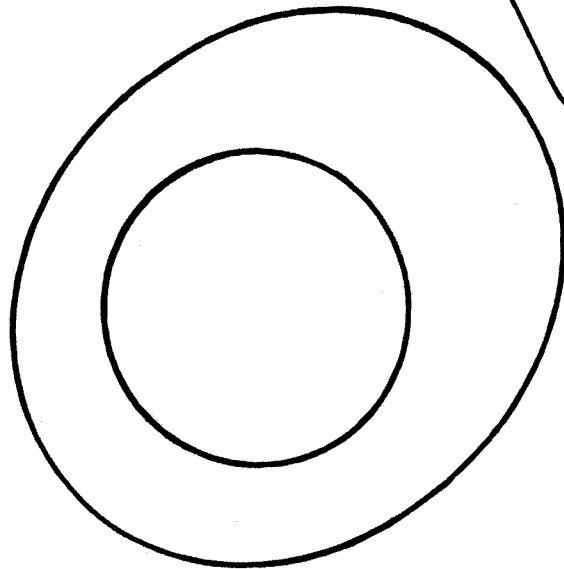
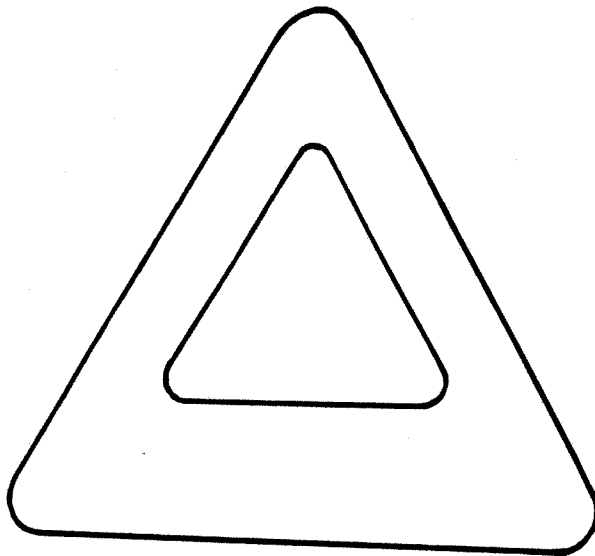
Parade				
Costume Party				
Car Race				
Baseball Game				



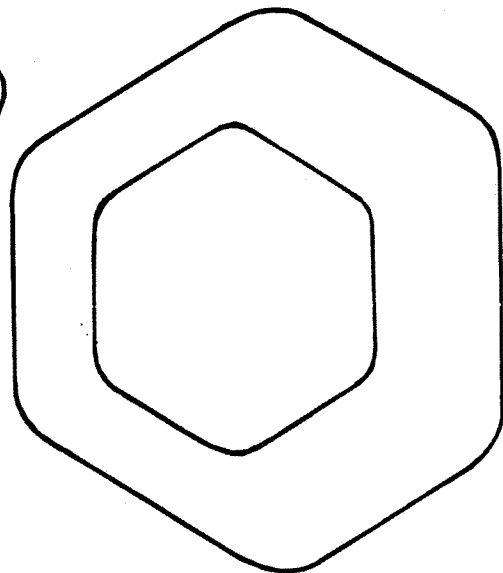
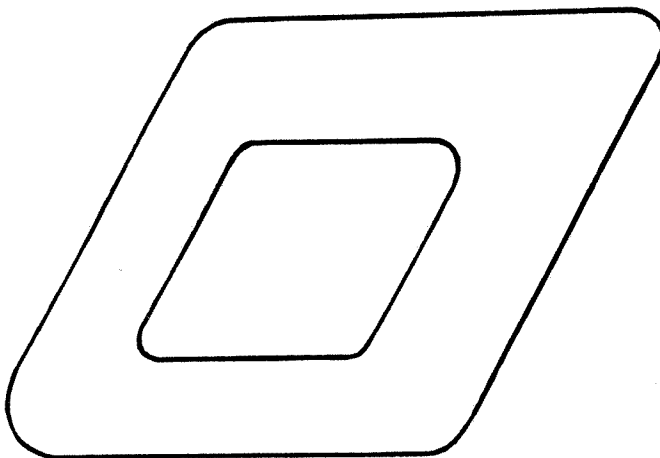
**Brainfocals™**

**Brainfocals™**

**Name:**



Cut out the 2 arms and any 2 shapes.  
Glue together and decorate.



As Dudley stretched and yawned on this particular morning, he realized that he did not have a mystery to solve today! "How disappointing," he thought to himself, but he put on his detective uniform anyway.

First, Dudley slipped on his trench coat, since many detectives wear trench coats. Then he put his magnifying glass in his coat pocket. Detectives need magnifying glasses to search *carefully* for clues.

The only thing Dudley needed now to be ready for a good mystery was his detective badge. Dudley had received this very special gold badge for graduating from his detective school with honors!

As he searched his room, however, Dudley couldn't find his badge anywhere! He looked high. He looked low. He looked to the left. He looked to the right. He looked EVERYwhere, but his detective badge was *not* to be found.

This was definitely a very distressing situation, but Dudley knew that he was the BEST detective in the Woods, so if *anyone* could find his badge, certainly HE was the one.

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The first thing Dudley needed to do was ... FIND SOME CLUES. First, he noticed that his window was open. He also saw muddy pawprints in his room that appeared to be those of a raccoon. Dudley knew that Rascal Raccoon often got into trouble, but Dudley did NOT want to jump to the wrong conclusion, so he continued looking for clues.

In his backyard, Dudley found more pawprints going up and over his fence towards Rascal Raccoon's house next door. As Dudley continued his search for clues, he had to shade his eyes from the bright sunlight reflecting off an old apple tree in his backyard. Later, out of the corner of his eye, he noticed his friend, Rosalyn Robin, returning to her nest in that old tree. However, after looking all over the yard and even back inside his house, Dudley still had not found his badge.

After lunch, Dudley sat down to think about the case. It seemed like Rascal Raccoon was the likely culprit, but Dudley knew he SHOULD NOT JUMP TO A QUICK CONCLUSION, so he continued to ponder the mystery during dinner. Carefully he thought about each of the clues he had found.

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*What clues has Dudley found to help him solve this mystery?*

*Now let's see if Dudley's figured things out yet ...*

He was washing his dishes after dinner when Dudley suddenly burst out, "I've GOT it!"

Dudley rushed outside and got out his ladder from the tool shed. He carried it over to the apple tree, and then he climbed up to the spot from which the sunlight had been reflecting so brightly into his eyes earlier that day.

Sure enough, there in Rosalyn Robin's nest was Dudley's missing detective badge. Rosalyn admitted to seeing the beautiful shiny object in Dudley's house and to flying in that open window to take the special badge.

Rascal Raccoon had been in Dudley's house, too, but not to take the detective badge. That was a mystery that Dudley would have to save for another day!

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**THE END**

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