



REPORTING THE CASE OF The Stolen iPhone

Have you ever wondered how undercover policing works? The juicy parts? The other day we were discussing what new topics to cover. Suddenly I, Bevy, had an idea: undercover. Evie loved the idea. So we decided that would be our new topic.

For undercover, we came up with a cool experiment. We made a fake iPhone box, made it look real, put a rock inside to make it heavy like a real iPhone box, and put it outside on our front lawn. We angled our home security cameras so we could see if anyone took it.

We put it outside four times. The first time we put it out and left for school. When we got home, the iPhone box was not on our front lawn. We found it on our doorstep. We went to look on the security camera and found the footage. A really nice lady with a dog had come to our doorstep and tried to return it. She left it at our front door. Unfortunately I was at school when she rang our bell. My mom was on her bike ride. So we didn't hear the doorbell or get to interview her. But whoever she is, thank you.

The next two times we put it outside for 48 hours each time. No one took it. Each time, we brought it back in after 48 hours because it was about to rain.

The process of making the iPhone box was interesting. We



THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE FIND 7 HANDCUFFS



found two boxes. One was a little box that looked like an iPhone box. The other was a box for an iPhone 17 Pro.

For each box, we printed pictures and wrote "iPhone" on the side in orange, because the writing on the iPhone box is always orange.

The final time we put out the iPhone box, it disappeared. We got home from school and it was nowhere. It was gone. Nothing was recorded on our camera so we don't have more details.

As I said, we put a rock in the iPhone box. I think when the thief opened the box and saw a rock instead of an iPhone, the thief was sad. But don't feel too bad for the thief. Let's keep in mind: the thief did something wrong. We really hope it wasn't one of our readers.

I think we live in a pretty safe neighborhood because people passed by for several days and didn't take it, and one person returned it.

Be kind everyone. Because the phone was stolen once. And we don't want Skokie to turn into a dangerous place.



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LEARNING FROM THE GREATS: OFFICER RECONNU

The Lustig Letter: What do you think of our iPhone experiment?

Officer Reconnu: It makes me happy that there are still good people out there who do the right thing. I am surprised that someone may have taken it.

The Lustig Letter: Would it have surprised you if the iPhone was stolen all four times?

Officer Reconnu: It would've surprised me if all four times it got stolen. I would like to think out of those four times someone would've brought it back or knocked on your door.

The Lustig Letter: What would a police officer have done if the police officer saw our iPhone experiment box?

Officer Reconnu: In Skokie if a police officer finds something laying around they try to locate the owner. If they can't locate the owner, they bring it back to the police station and they do a report about it. Then it gets put in our property custody, which is the police department holding it for safekeeping in the hopes that the owner calls us and asks if we found something of theirs and then we can return

it.
The Lustig Letter: If someone stole our iPhone box, could they be sent to jail for that?

Officer Reconnu: I don't know if they would be sent to jail for that. They might get a court date and they might be released. It depends on the value of what they stole, whether it's a misdemeanor or a felony, and if they have prior offenses. All that comes into consideration. If we get a retail theft, typically [the criminal] is cited. They get a ticket and they go home that same day. But then they have a court date that they have to show up for. So they don't go to jail right away.

The Lustig Letter: How many cameras are in this police station?

Officer Reconnu: There's one camera right over there by the door. There's another camera right there and then we have a third camera right here so just in this room right here there's three cameras alone [recording] from three different places. Here's some of the videos (*points to videos*). When I'm sitting up here, I can also keep an eye on what's going on outside. I can see different areas within the police department. Here's one of our jail cells.

CHIEFS OF POLICE



VISITING JAIL

Guess what guys? I went to the them. Skokie Police Station to tell them. Guys, this is the bad part. There was a jail. Officer Reconnu walked us in. It was very clean. If you need a bathroom, the jail cell has a toilet. There was also a bed to lie on. If you are in the cell and need a blanket, the police give you a blanket. Officer Reconnu told us the cell is not a real jail cell. It's just a cell they keep you in for a short time. If you did something really bad, they send you to a more serious prison. I imagined being in that jail cell. I wouldn't want to be in there. It sounds really uncomfortable. Also, I said, "Can I please have an officer?" An officer came. His name was Officer Reconnu. I told the police officers all about myself.

Officer Reconnu gave me a tour of the Skokie Police Station. First, he showed me a machine that scans you. The machine can see if you have any metal on you. If the scanner sees metal, it makes a sound. I scanned Officer Reconnu. I scanned his walkie talkie. BEEP! Then I scanned the ring cuffs. BEEP! I scanned his shirt, but it had no metal. I didn't think about putting him in jail, even though there were all those beeps. I could see he was a real police officer, what? In Skokie there has never been a girl chief of police.

When I was driving home, I saw a lot of police driving cars. I wish I could have interviewed them too. the police office would talk to



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