

Dark clouds and a cold, damp wind didn't stop the students from enjoying their recess outside. They just zipped up their coats and wrapped their scarves snugly around their necks. But when the drizzle turned to a stinging rain and the playground became a muddy marsh, Ms. Blanca called her students back into the classroom.

"Remove your wet shoes and leave them in the coat nook!" she told them as they entered. The students were laughing and talking, and at least one of them wasn't paying attention. After everyone was seated, Ms. Blanca saw a pattern of muddy footprints from the doorway toward the students' desks. Ms. Blanca looked at her students' feet. All she could see were socks. Whoever had made the muddy footprints must have taken off his or her shoes and brought them back to the coat nook.

Ms. Blanca found a ruler. Kneeling, she measured one of the footprints. Then she inspected the design. The toe of the footprint had wavy lines with a smooth area in the center. The heel had large and small diamond shapes. Ms. Blanca went to the coat nook.



1. Who is Ms. Blanca?

- (A) a teacher
- (B) a detective
- (C) a janitor

Circle the phrase that helped you answer the question.

2. What is **drizzle**?

- (A) sparks of light
- (B) fine misty rain
- (C) frosting

Underline the sentence that helped you answer the question.

3. Why did Ms. Blanca tell the students to remove their shoes?

- (A) The shoes smelled.
- (B) The shoes were muddy.
- (C) It was naptime.

4. The student who left the footprints _____.

- (A) wasn't paying attention
- (B) didn't like Ms. Blanca
- (C) had no shoes

5. How will Ms. Blanca figure out who left the muddy footprints?
