# Who Did It?

Sort sentences by who takes the spotlight.

**8.LL.20** "Produce writing that shows a command of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics. a. Construct verbals (gerunds, participles, and infinitives) in pieces of writing, including isolated sentences, paragraphs, and essays. b..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### ACTIVE VOICE

In active voice, the subject does the action. This puts attention on who or what acts.

A chef sliced the melon.

### PASSIVE VOICE

In passive voice, the subject receives the action. Look for a form of be followed by a past participle; a by phrase may tell who acted.

The melon was sliced by a chef.

## 1 SORT

8 items

Circle ACTIVE or PASSIVE for each sentence; then, for PROVE IT, choose two items and explain how their subjects helped you decide.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | A shadow covered the hallway. | ACTIVE PASSIVE |
| **2.** | The coded note was hidden by the guard. | ACTIVE PASSIVE |
| **3.** | The lantern was carried by the custodian. | ACTIVE PASSIVE |
| **4.** | Nina opened the cabinet. | ACTIVE PASSIVE |
| **5.** | A breeze shook the curtains. | ACTIVE PASSIVE |
| **6.** | The scout traced the footprints. | ACTIVE PASSIVE |
| **7.** | The broken lock was found by the detective. | ACTIVE PASSIVE |
| **8.** | A stranger moved the statue. | ACTIVE PASSIVE |

## 2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

## 3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one active-voice sentence and one passive-voice sentence about a mysterious discovery.

**ACTIVE** _____

**PASSIVE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Rewrite your active sentence in passive voice, then write one sentence explaining how the new focus makes the discovery feel more mysterious.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Who Did It?

**GRADE 8 · 8.LL.20**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A shadow covered the hallway. | **ACTIVE** | The subject, shadow, does the covering. |
| 2 | The coded note was hidden by the guard. | **PASSIVE** | The subject, note, receives the action of being hidden. |
| 3 | The lantern was carried by the custodian. | **PASSIVE** | The subject, lantern, receives the action of being carried. |
| 4 | Nina opened the cabinet. | **ACTIVE** | The subject, Nina, does the opening. |
| 5 | A breeze shook the curtains. | **ACTIVE** | The subject, breeze, does the shaking. |
| 6 | The scout traced the footprints. | **ACTIVE** | The subject, scout, does the tracing. |
| 7 | The broken lock was found by the detective. | **PASSIVE** | The subject, lock, receives the action of being found. |
| 8 | A stranger moved the statue. | **ACTIVE** | The subject, stranger, does the moving. |

## PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

## PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ACTIVE**: The inventor uncovered a glowing compass.
- **PASSIVE**: A strange symbol was found by the apprentice.

**Challenge:** A glowing compass was uncovered by the inventor. By focusing on the glowing compass first, the passive version makes the discovery feel more mysterious.

For PROVE IT, accept explanations that identify whether the subject does or receives the action. Passive items are 2, 3, and 7.