

Ronald and Rose and the birthday surprise

By Amy N. Illustrated by Jacinta S.

characteristics on their note pads. Then they examined the table.

“I don't remember this dent,” remarked Ronald.

“Yes, and what is this red stuff?” Rose answered his question with another. She pointed to what looked like some dried paint, except it was a bit shinier and had a faint lingering smell. After a little more observing, they combined their results. Their list read:

- ◆ the clue must be small or light-weight to fit on the not-so-well-made table
- ◆ the ribbon that was found on the table is frayed
- ◆ there is a note that seems to be just a random rhyme
- ◆ there is a small rip in the ribbon
- ◆ there is a dried paint-like substance on the table
- ◆ there is a new dent in the table
- ◆ the ribbon has ridges on it
- ◆ there is a small piece of tape on the side of the table
- ◆ the first letter of the last line of the note is not capitalized

Rose looked at Ronald.

“Have you figured out who stole it yet?”

“You mean you have?” Ronald looked up in surprise.

“Of course!” Rose laughed.

Answer:

“See,” she said, pointing to the table. “The stuff that we thought was red paint is really nail polish. I noticed that Alice had some new nail polish on. But here's the real clue: if you take the first letter in each line and put it together, it spells out 'Alice'. That's why the rhyme wasn't as good as Mom's usually are. She put the indented lines to throw us off.”

TO BE CONTINUED.....