

The Mystery of the Mysterious Criminals



Book 1

By Ronald Tascoter

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by Ronald W. Tascoter

Edited by Arnold & Mary Tascoter

I began writing this story on February 15, 2017 and finished it on April 14, 2017, Age 9.

INTRODUCTION

In this story, we are all brothers and friends. Caleb is 9, Danny is 10, Daniel is 8, I am 8, Joel (pronounced Joe-elle) is 7, Isna is 9, and Josiah is 8. Caleb, Joel, Isna (pronounced Eesna), and Josiah are my friends. Daniel and Danny are brothers.

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Chapter 1, The mystery begins

It was that kind of day when I wanted a mystery because I had never had a mystery before. Daniel and Danny came rushing. They both shouted, "Our dryer is missing!" But how? Three men were carrying the dryer, and that's all you know, I guessed. "Yes," that's all we know," said Daniel. "Why didn't you just take them down first," I said. "We decided to tell you first," they both said. "Okay, we have to tell Isna, Caleb, Josiah, and Joel," I said. We rushed off. Our mom told us that we could use the phone. We were excited to have our first case. Once we had called everybody, we sat in a circle. I called a meeting of the detective gang. "What?" everybody said confusingly. I explained to everybody the new gang that I just made up. The oldest got the highest rank. So Danny was the president, Isna was the vice president, Caleb was the secretary, I was the president of the servants, Josiah was the vice president of the servants, Daniel was the secretary of the servants, and Joel was the helper. Danny's job was to make all the decisions. Isna's job was to correct Danny when he made mistakes, and Caleb's job was to do the reports. My job was the most active job. I have to make reports to the servants, and I had to make decisions for the servants; but before I made the decisions, I had to make sure the decisions were good by checking in with Danny. Josiah's job was to correct me when I made mistakes. Daniel's job was to do whatever he was commanded. Joel's job was to help anybody who needed help, and he was also supposed to be a backup when anybody was hurt, not available, or on vacation. Danny declared the meeting to officially start. Danny told us that since it was just the first day we had ever had a meeting, he explained to everybody about what had happened. Everybody started talking about ways we could solve this mystery, and the meeting was on.

Chapter 2, The meeting and the search

I suggested that we would solve this mystery by looking for clues. Josiah suggested that we would solve this mystery just trying to find the criminals and bring them to the police. Danny thought my idea was better, but we both said that his idea could come in handy. Josiah hoped so. Danny said we should start at Beaver Lake. Beaver Lake was not far. It was just about eight blocks away from my house. Isna asked, "Where will these meetings take place?" Danny said that the meeting would take place at whatever location was most available. Danny asked if anybody had any more questions before the meeting of the detective gang was over. Joel asked, "When are we going to start hunting for the thief?" Danny said, "As soon as this meeting is over." Danny declared that the meeting was officially over. "Now, let's start hunting for that thief!" everybody said in a loud voice. "Off to Beaver Lake," Danny said. Once we got to Beaver Lake, we searched for clues. After two hours, Danny said, "I think we are not going to find any clues today. We'll search some more tomorrow." "Look!" we all said, "There are footprints!" we all shouted. "Let's see where they go." "Wait!" Danny said. "We must all see where these tracks are going tomorrow, but what if someone covers it, or someone makes footprints around these footprints? We won't be able to find them." "Oh yes," Danny said. So we looked to see where they went. "It does look like there's no end to these footprints!" we all said. "But there has to be," Joel and Daniel both said. "You're right," Danny said. So we followed them. A minute later, we arrived at the beach. We all looked confused. "Oh, that's right," we all said. "We live in Boston and according to my phone, we traveled southeast," Danny said. "That's why it took an hour and 5 minutes to get here." "Look!" we all shouted. "It looks like these footprints lead to the dock!" "Come on, let's check it out," Danny said.

Chapter 3, The exciting news

Once we got to the dock, the tracks disappeared. We did not know how the tracks could have disappeared. Josiah suggested that they go on a boat. I suggested that the criminal went swimming. None of us knew, so we just walked back home. Once we got back home, we had dinner, well, not all of us, by the way. The others had to go back home. "Well, I guess you're off on an adventure," Mom said. After dinner, the next thing that was different than usual days is that we watched the 9 o'clock news. They reported about a criminal sailing and trying to succeed with his plan of stealing a dryer. We were all excited. "That must be the way that a criminal got away!" we all said. "When we wake up the next morning, we'll have to do another meeting of the detective gang," Danny said. When we woke up the next morning, we got on our clothes, brushed our teeth, ate breakfast, and got everything ready. We called a meeting of the detective gang. Caleb also knew about the exciting news. He did the report. He said, "There has been a report on the 9 o'clock news that there was a robber trying to get away with a dryer on a boat sailing over the ocean." Josiah, Isna, and Joel were very excited. "Okay, everybody knows about the exciting news," said Danny. "Let's get going." "Wait," said Isna. "We have to tell our parents that we're going to be gone," she said. "Oh yeah, right," Danny said. "Hey, let's ask my dad if we could use his motorboat, too," Joel said. "Brilliant idea," all the others said. Danny declared the meeting of the detective gang over. "Let's go!" we all said. We told the parents of the detective gang that we'd be gone for a while. They said that it was okay, and Joel's dad said that they could use his motorboat. He also said that his motorboat was located at Johnson Lake, which was not too far from all of our houses. Then, he said that in order to get to the ocean, we'd have to go through a river called the James River. Johnson

Lake was not very big, so Joel's dad did not have to tell them where James River was. Once they got to the motorboat, everybody hopped in. Danny started the motorboat. The search was on.

Chapter 4, The second search

Once we all got to the James River, Josiah shouted out, "Hey, I guess my idea will work!"

"Remember when you said my idea might come in handy?" said Josiah. "Yes I do," I said.

"Well, since we can't see footprints since we're on the water, we'll just search around trying to find a boat that looks like it has a criminal on it," said Josiah. "A brilliant idea, Josiah," said Danny. So we searched and searched, and searched. "We've been searching for hours!" we all said. "I know," Danny said. "We'll just have to keep searching," he said again. "Hey, I've got an idea," he said once more. "Let's sing the song called, "We Are The Detectives of the Detective Gang." "Brilliant idea," we all said, except for Danny. And we sang the song called, "We Are the Detectives of the Detective Gang."

(To the tune of We Wish You a Merry Christmas)

Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
of the, detective gang.

Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
of the, detective gang.

(lower octave)

Solving cases down the lane...
Solving cases down the lane...
Oh, solving cases down the lane...
again, and again.

Solving cases down the lane...
Solving cases down the lane...
Oh, solving cases down the lane...
Again, and again.

(Return to normal octave)

Oh, we are the De- Detectives,

Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- detectives,
of the, detective gang.

“That was a nice song,” Daniel said. “Look!” Joel shouted. “There's a ship!” we all shouted.

Danny steered the motorboat toward the huge ship. The boat seemed to be moving away from the motorboat. “We need to catch up to that ship!” we all shouted. “I'm pressing the ultra speed button,” Danny said. He pressed the ultra speed button. Zoom, the motorboat shot like a rocket! Danny did not want to shoot like a rocket, so he pressed the off button. The motorboat slowed to a stop. “Look!” we all shouted. The ship was behind us. We went the other way. We went past the ship. “Very odd,” said Danny.

Chapter 5, On the ship

Finally, we got next to the ship. Then all of a sudden, we felt like someone was watching us. Then out of nowhere, a bunny was on our motorboat. We seemed to be spinning. We ended up still on our motorboat. "What just happened?" we all said. This exact thing happened every five minutes for hours. Once we finally got on the ship, we saw a mysterious note, right before our eyes. It said, "There are some tracks that will lead you there to the place you must beware." "That's mysterious," we all said. "This could lead to some sort of trap," we all said. "Caleb, Isna, you come with me. Joel, Josiah, Daniel, you guys wait here." "But what about me?" I said. "It's your choice who you want to go with," said Danny. "I choose to go with the younger ones," I said. After all, I am the leader of the servants." "Great idea," said Danny. "Thank you," I said. So we waited, and while we waited, Isna, Caleb, and Danny had found another note. The note said, "So now you have come to the place where you must beware, and behold you shall see a giant bear. Danny, Caleb, and Isna ran back to all of us and before any of us could say anything, we heard a thump, thump, thump, and a loud grizzly bear roar. The bear was about to come up the stairs. "Run!" we all said. So we ran and, ran and ran, and ran.

"Let's sing a song to help us run," Joel said. "Great idea," Danny said.

Run, run, run run run,
Right, around the corner.
Go, g-g-g-go...
again, and again.

Run, run, run run run, away,
from the grizzly bear.
Just keep, running, and, running.

Jump, jump, jump jump jump,
keep, jumping away...
Keep, jumping away,
again, and again.

Just keep... Running...
Away-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay...
Today-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay.

“It looks like we lost the grizzly bear,” we all said. “Look,” Joel said. “Look,” Daniel said. “Look,” Josiah said. “Look,” I said. “Look,” Caleb said. “Look,” Isna said. “Look,” Danny said. We had all found the same thing.

Chapter 6, Clues and riddles

This thing that we saw was a piece of paper. The piece of paper had a clue and a riddle on it. We read the clue first. It said, "If you are looking for a robber, you are going to need to look for a bobber." "Wait, everybody," said Danny. This could be a trap, you know. Let's see if the riddle gets us anywhere. The riddle said, "Be on the look out, and see what you can see." We all started being on the look out the very next day, but we couldn't find anything. Once we all came back together again, Danny asked, "Has everybody looked everywhere except on the lookout?" "Yes," we all said. Danny also asked, "Did anybody find anything?" "No," we all said. "But, we brought back some helpers to help us with this search," I said. "Here's Gavin, Levi, James, John, Lillian, Donald, Caroline, Kayla, Ronald, Joseph, Samuel, Samantha, Zoey, Jonathan, Ben, Josephine, Emily, Samson, Mac, Martha, Dylan, Jonah, Abraham, Abram, George, Joey, faith, Sabrina, Lewis, Len, Sandra, Scarlett, Chester, Elijah, Patrick, William, Catherine, Rachel, Bob, violet, Henry, Joel, Jessica, Pamela, Elaine, Janice, Jim, Claire, Matthew, Michael, Micah, Mitchell, Brandon, Anna, Nicholas, Nicole, Jennifer, Mary, Marianne, Marlin, bill, Daisy, Mason, May, April, Thomas, Christopher, Barbara, Juliana, Jay, Jane, Molly, Jade, and Brian. Oh, and Larry, too." Later, we saw a clue that said, "If you look at your hip, you shall be thrown off the ship." "Okay, I guess we're going to sneak off the ship, just in case you look at your hips," said Daniel. "Good idea. Splendid idea. Brilliant idea. Magnificent idea. Nice idea. Great idea. Good plan. Brilliant plan. Wonderful Plan. Wonderful idea. Great plan. Okay. Let's remember that. Sure. That's a fine idea." That's all the different things that everybody said. "Let's get started," we all said.

Chapter 7, Mystery solved

There are two lifeboats. 37 people will be put in each lifeboat. Since there were 74 of us, we counted off: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37 in this boat, and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37 in this boat. "We'll attach ropes to each boat, so they don't go wandering off in the sea", said Danny. "Great idea", I and the others said. Once we had tied the ropes, Danny called another meeting of the detective gang. We had told the others about the detective gang, and that it was only for us friends. Danny, Isna, Caleb, me, Josiah, Daniel, and Joel were all sitting in a circle alone. Danny called the meeting of the detective gang to officially start. "Okay, let's first talk about that riddle," Danny said. "What do you think that riddle meant, when it said, "Be on the lookout," Danny said again. "Oh, I bet I know!" said Joel. "Yes, Joel," said Danny. "Maybe it meant be on top of the lookout and see what you can see. "Great idea!" Danny said. Caleb said, "That makes sense because we wouldn't go in the hideout because there was a bear in there." Daniel said, "That makes sense too. We couldn't see as far in as we needed to. It is so dark we couldn't see as far from the window as we could see from the Lookout. Then Caleb, Daniel, Danny, and I started going crazy. Five minutes later, Isna calmed us down. "Calm down, everybody. You can't be crazy all day, so just calm down, please," Isna said. "It's time for lunch anyway," she said again. "Who wants pizza?" Daniel said. "Me, me, me, me, me, me, me!" "I want to try to find the pizza that Ronald can eat. I've got the menu right here, Daniel said. "Where did you get that?" Caleb said. "I bought it while you were packing kids on the Lifeboats. It says here that there is a pizza that Ronald can eat." "Look," Joel said!

Chapter 8, Supper and the final search begins

“There’s the restaurant section,” Joel said. “Let’s go order our food,” said Caleb. We went to the restaurant section. We had to buy 18 and a half pizzas. We had to spend \$148 dollars! Once everybody sat down to eat, we noticed that we had so many people that we took up all the chairs. We were so very thankful that no one had to wait for someone to finish eating. Once we all finished eating, we got back to our places. Danny said, “Hey, we have to do our search on the lookout, you know.” “Is everyone ready for the final search?” Danny said again. “Yes, we are,” said everyone else in the detective gang. Isna suggested that we need to make sure everybody on the lifeboats can take care of themselves while we’re gone. “Daniel, you ask everybody if they can take care of themselves while we are gone.” Daniel returned and said that they all agreed that they could take care of themselves while we’re gone. “Well, let’s get going then!” said Danny. Isna said, “Wait, let’s be quiet so no one can hear us coming.” “Brilliant idea,” said Danny. So we walked into the hideout and with one motion we got up on the lookout. We saw the criminals in their own meeting. We tried to surprise them, but they didn’t move. We figured out that they were sculptures, so we searched some more. After an hour, we hadn’t found anything else interesting. Then, we found the maze that was called the blaze maze. Torches attached to the sides of the walls made all of the maze bright enough to see. The greeter said, “Come in and enjoy The Blaze Maze”. We knew that the criminals could be in here. If they were in here, they could be hiding around any corner.

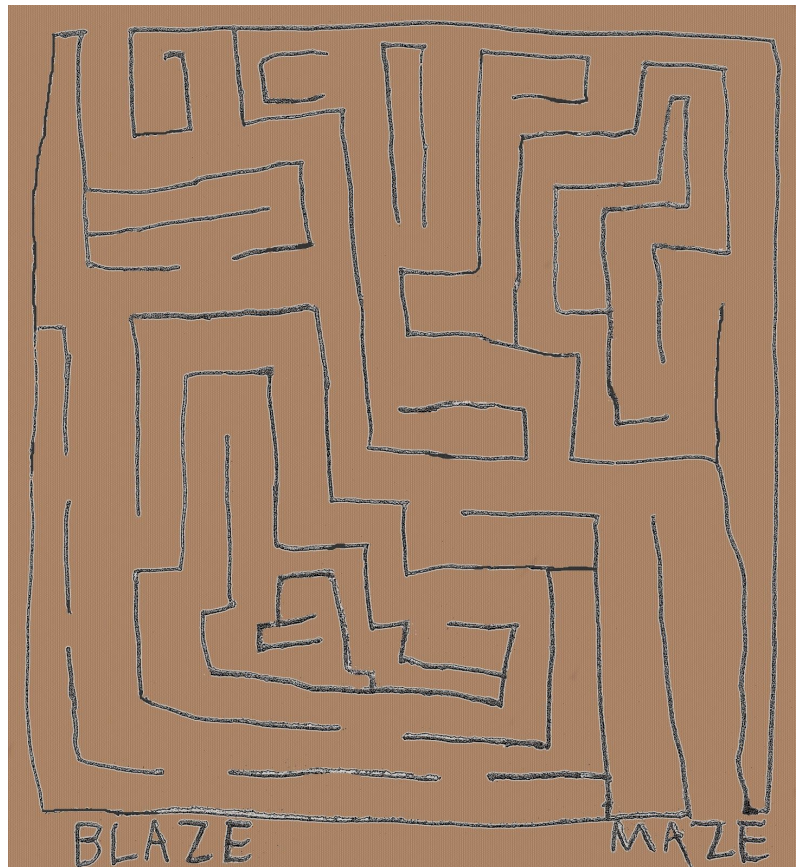
Chapter 9, The Maze

“Let's sing the song called, Could be Around Any Corner,” said Daniel. “Brilliant idea,” said Danny. And we sang the song.

(Spooky Toon)
They could be around any corner
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
Hiding anywhere ready to surprise you
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
So be aware of all that's around you
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
Get ready for someone to surprise you
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
When they surprise you try not to get hurt
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
You never know when they might find you
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
This is a warning so beware
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
They could be there right behind you
Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep

Before anybody could speak, and in the same tune as the song, someone said, “I am right behind you and I bet it's a surprise.” When this happened, we were still right at the entrance of the maze. We hadn't moved any further into the maze from the entrance than a few steps. So we ran and ran and ran and ran. We didn't even look back to see who was behind us. At the first turn in the road, we turned left. Then at the first fork in the road, we went straight. At the second turn, we turned right. At the third fork, we went straight. At the fourth turn, we ran into a dead end. We found out criminals were chasing us. Then, Danny noticed that the Blaze Maze was made out of copper and tons of handlebars up on the ceiling. Then Danny had an idea. Quicker than you can say, “supercalifragilisticexpialidocious”, Danny told his plan to Isna.

Isna told Danny's plan to me. I told Danny's plan to Josiah. Josiah told Danny's plan to Daniel. Daniel told Danny's plan to Joel. Joel told Danny's plan to Caleb. Danny's plan was that when the criminals would run to get us, Caleb and Danny would jump up and grab some handlebars. Joel was to go under one of the criminal's legs. Daniel, Josiah, Isna, and I, were supposed to move to the side of the wall. We had to do this at the very last second, so we had to be quick. Once the criminals dove for us, we did our plan, and it worked. Then all the of sudden, we saw the map for the blaze maze. Danny picked it up. Danny looked at the map. He saw that they were heading toward a dead end. If they had made one more turn, they would be trapped again at a dead end. Danny told everybody to turn around. When we got to the closest fork in the road to make the right turn, we got in a



collision with the criminals who were chasing us. We bounced off the wall, then we all separated. Daniel went on the floor with his back facing downward. I went on the ceiling with my back facing upward. We were so very thankful that I didn't hit any handlebars. There weren't any there, by the way. I had wondered why the handlebars had been in other random places. Maybe it's only by the dead ends, I thought. I fell on top of Daniel. Before the criminal touched the ground, Josiah fell on top of the criminal. Everybody was bouncing off the walls, hitting other people in the air, and tripping people on accident. All these things happened on

accident by the way. Isna was the only one not involved in all the tripping, smacking, and falling on top of each other. The reason why she didn't get involved is because everybody was separated. She went so far that when she landed her feet, she was lost. I assume that you would now think, "Well, she can't turn herself in mid-air, so how did she get lost?" Well, the answer to your question is when she looked to the place where everybody was, everybody was in a corner where she couldn't see, so she didn't take the right path. Once all the boys got on their feet, including the criminals, because they were all boys all of us noticed that Isna was not there. When we found Isna, we eventually got out of the Maze.

Chapter 10, Police!

It was very exciting. Danny decided to call the police and said, "Why in the seven seas didn't I think of that?" And in less than a minute, the police were already there. There were only two officers, and at the policeman's first attempt to get the criminals, the criminals outsmarted the policemen by tripping both of them. On the policemen's second attempt to get the criminals, the criminals did the same thing; but on the policemen's third attempt to get the criminals, one of the criminals tripped them from behind. On the policeman's fourth attempt to get the criminals, the criminals tripped them from behind. On the policeman's fifth attempt to get the criminals, the criminals tackled the policeman from behind and with one motion, the criminals handcuffed the policeman. Danny called another two policemen. And before the criminals got us, the policemen were already there. The criminals did the same thing with these policemen. Before the policeman's third attempt to get the criminals, we all decided to hide. We all ended up at the same place. This place happened to be at the exit of the maze. I did not tell you this before, but there are stairs that lead up to the deck from the exit of the maze. Danny decided to call the policemen one more time. Danny also told the policemen to get right where they were, to set up an ambush for the criminals if it was okay with the policemen. The policemen said it was a magnificent idea. Danny also asked the policemen to try to be in plain sight of the criminals so they would chase after them and would not have to wait for the criminals to find them if that would be okay with them. They said it was another magnificent idea. So that's what happened. Once we met the policemen, Danny said that if it was okay with them, we could hide behind the first fork in the maze. The policemen said once again that that was a magnificent idea. Less than a second after we found a hiding spot, we heard the sound of six feet running. Once they were just about to turn into the corner we were at, the policemen and

the whole detective gang jumped out and tackled them. Not trying to hurt the criminals, just trying to get them down, so it would be easier to handcuff them. After we all tackled them, the policemen took care of the rest. Danny decided to check on both of the lifeboats to see how everybody was doing. Danny asked how everybody was doing when they got to the first Lifeboat. They all said they were doing fine. The same thing with the second Lifeboat. Danny also asked all the 74 kids that they could get off the lifeboats because the criminals were taken care of. We got back on the motorboat, which was tied up by the captain, just in case someone would need to use it. We cut the rope with Joel's knife. "We finished the case," Daniel said. "Hooray!" we all said.

Chapter 11, The night and the next morning

By the time we got to shore, it was 5 o'clock in the afternoon. And by the time me, Danny, and Daniel got home, it was 6:10. Our mom asked, "So what was your adventure like today?" and we each told our side of the story. By the time we got to the 10th chapter, on Danny's side, we had finished supper. Once we were all done, it was time to get in our beds. Once we were all tucked in bed, our dad read us a story. It was a story that my brother Daniel written. Our dad read chapter 5 out of the book. Once the story was over, our dad turned off the light and turned on a story to listen to while we were in bed. It was called *Ralph S Mouse*. In five minutes, I was asleep. In 10 minutes, Daniel was asleep. In 20 minutes, Danny was asleep. In 40 minutes, our dad was asleep. In one hour and 20 minutes, our mom was asleep. I did not tell you this, but my birthday party was the next day. Our dad was the first one to get up. He got up at 6 o'clock AM. Danny was the second one to wake up. He woke up at 7 o'clock AM. Daniel was the third to wake up. Daniel woke up at 7:45 AM. I was the fourth to wake up. I woke up at 8 o'clock AM. Our mom was the last to wake up. She woke up at 8:40 AM. By the time Danny woke up, our dad was putting clothes on. By the time Daniel woke up, our dad was about to put lunch and snacks in his work bag. When I woke up, Danny had his clothes on and was watching television, sitting on the couch. My dad was about to hug and kiss me goodbye. Daniel had his clothes on and was watching television. Danny was looking at baseball books. By the time our mom woke up, Danny, Daniel, and I were all doing homework. On Danny's, Daniel's, and my half break, we all played with Legos. And that was the end of the morning.

The end

Epilogue

In real life, all the characters in the story are the same ages. None of us live in Boston. We all live in Chicago or a nearby suburb, and we all live in a different home. Also, some personalities are different and in some ways are just pretend. We do not go places without an adult.

Everybody in the story is a friend of mine. In real life, we would not go on mysteries like this.

We don't have as much money, either. It might be true that some of us, or all of us, might not be as brave, quick, or strong as we are in this story. Also, Joel's dad does not have a motor boat. Also, I don't know if there's a James River, a Johnson Lake, or Beaver Lake in that area or anywhere.

Appendix A: Songs

We are the Detectives of the Detective Gang *(found in chapter 4)*

(To the tune of We Wish You a Merry Christmas)

Words by Ronald Tascoter

Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
of the, detective gang.

Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
of the, detective gang.

(lower octave)
Solving cases down the lane...
Solving cases down the lane...
Oh, solving cases down the lane...
again, and again.

Solving cases down the lane...
Solving cases down the lane...
Oh, solving cases down the lane...
Again, and again.

(Return to normal octave)
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- Detectives,
Oh, we are the De- detectives,
of the, detective gang.

Away from the Grizzly Bear (*found in chapter 5*)

(original tune)

Words and music by Ronald Tascoter

Run, run, run run run,
Right, around the corner.
Go, g-g-g-g-go...
again, and again.

Run, run, run run run, away,
from the grizzly bear.
Just keep, running, and, running.

Jump, jump, jump jump jump,
keep, jumping away...
Keep, jumping away,
again, and again.

Just keep... Running...
Away-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay...
Today-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay.

Could Be Around Any Corner (*found in chapter 9, and in chapter 11*)

(Original Spooky Toon)

Words and music by Ronald Tascoter

They could be around any corner
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
Hiding anywhere ready to surprise you
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
So be aware of all that's around you
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
Get ready for someone to surprise you
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
When they surprise you try not to get hurt
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
You never know when they might find you
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
This is a warning so beware
Beep, beep, beep, beep,
They could be there right behind you
Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep