

## LOGIC PROBLEMS

There are lots of these making the rounds. Sometimes students have heard some and want to try theirs with the class. After they get the hang of it, some may start making up their own—or you can challenge them to do that. These are all about thinking, making connections, and being very, very clear about what you are saying and asking, so they're a fun and educational activity for the five minutes before the bell rings on Friday before winter break, or any time like that!

The way this works:

- 1) You state the situation.
- 2) Students begin asking questions to solve the problem.
- 3) You can only answer Yes, No, Irrelevant, or Rephrase the question. Their questions, therefore, cannot be anything along the lines of, "Where was he from?"
- 4) You answer, "Rephrase the question," if, in the question, the student makes an assumption that has not yet been established as true or false. For example, for Number 1 below, if the first student asks, "How big was the box?", you have to answer, "Rephrase the question." The only information they have at that point is that there is a *package* lying next to the man. A student could follow that up with, "Is the package larger than a wallet?" and you would answer, "Yes."
- 5) Never, ever, ever, ever, give anyone an answer. Anyone who wants can ask questions until next year, but no one will know the answer until he figures it out by asking good questions.

And this is one place in life where there truly are no bad questions.

Problems:

1. A man is lying dead in a field. Near him is a package. How did he die?
2. A person stops a car in front of a hotel and gives the owner of the hotel \$200. Why?
3. There is a person found hanging from the ceiling in the middle of a room. All doors and windows have been locked from the inside. There is no furniture in the room. The only thing in the room, other than the person, is a puddle of water on the floor. How did this person hang himself?
4. A person is lying dead. Near him/her are a mint, a gun, and a plate. What happened?
5. A man is driving in a rural area late at night when his car breaks down. This is



before cell phones! He walks along the road until he sees a house with a light in the window. He knocks on the door and asks to use the phone. The couple in the house explains that it's too late to get anyone to come out to fix the car tonight, so he should just stay at their house and call in the morning. They take him to the guest room and as he's hanging his coat in the closet, he realizes he must escape before dawn or he will die. Why does he know this?

