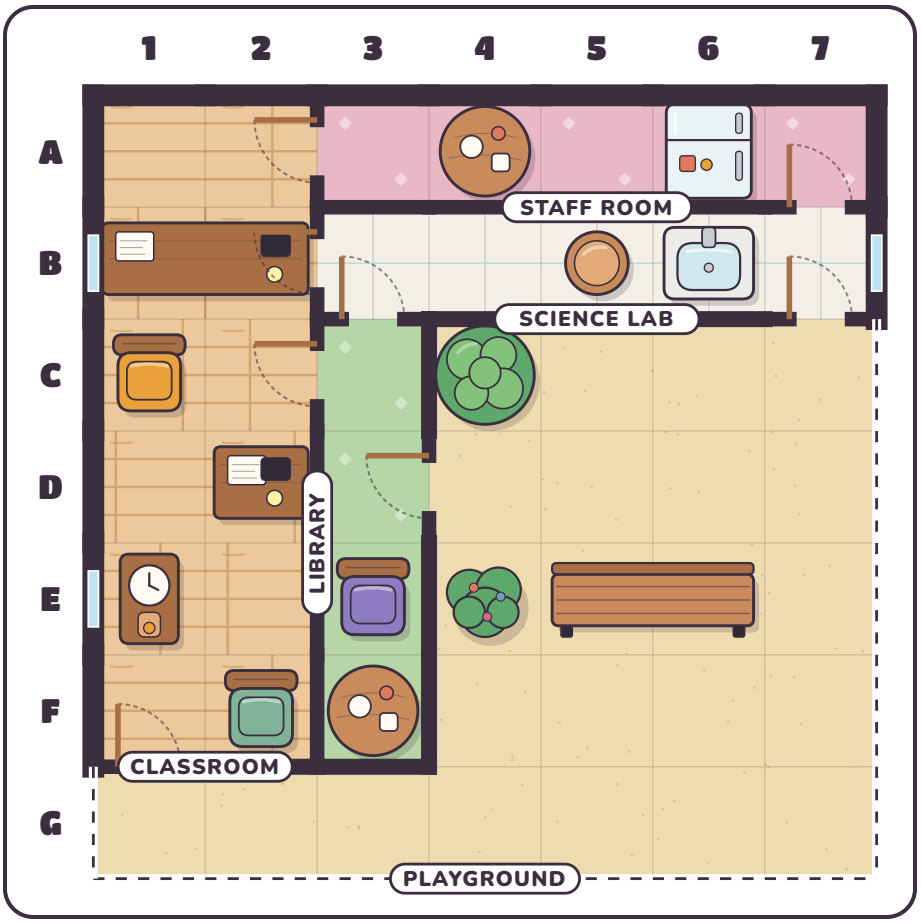
The School Affair

Uma had just announced a secret. Ten minutes later, the secret died too.



What the witnesses say

Olive the mayor
"There was a table in her row. She was somewhere west of Basil."

Theo the teacher
"There was a tree in his row. There was the grandfather clock in his column."

Basil the vicar
"He was diagonally next to Olive. He was somewhere west of Rufus."

Rufus the fisherman
"He was beside a sink."

Felix the magician
"He was beside a tree."

Ivan the tailor
"He was diagonally next to Felix."

Uma the victim
Found dead — alone in a room with the killer.

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · stool · bench

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · desk · fridge · sink · tree · bush · grandfather clock

The rules

1. Exactly one person in every row and every column.
2. Nobody stands on solid furniture.
3. Every statement is true. "Beside" = the square directly next to it; north is up.
4. The victim was alone in a room with exactly one other person: the killer.

Your verdict

The killer was _____

in the _____

Solved in _____

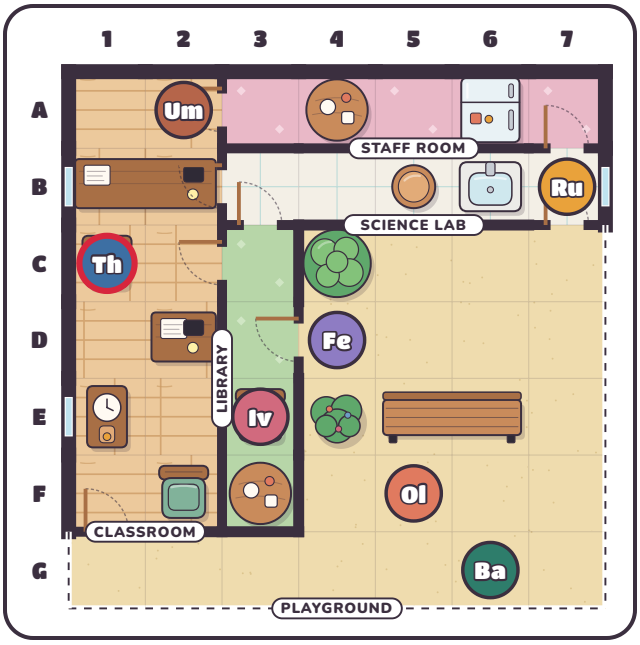
Notes

Answer and step-by-step solution: on the next page.

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Solution: The School Affair



THE KILLER

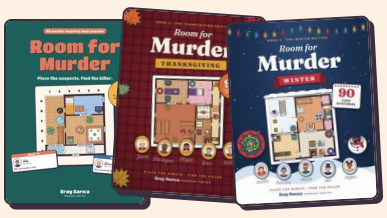
Theo, the teacher

The only other person in the Classroom with Uma.

Olive F5 · Theo C1 · Basil G6 · Rufus B7 · Felix D4
Ivan E3 · Uma A2

How to solve it, step by step

1. Theo: “There was a tree in his row. There was the grandfather clock in his column.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: C1.
2. Felix: “He was beside a tree.” Of the squares that fit, only D4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
3. Every square left for Rufus is in row B, so row B is Rufus's — nobody else can be in row B.
4. Every square left for Ivan is in row E, so row E is Ivan's — nobody else can be in row E.
5. Read Basil's statement — “He was diagonally next to Olive.” — against where Olive can still be: Basil can only be on G3, G5, G6 or G7; Olive can only be on F2, F5, F6 or F7.
6. Row A still needs someone, and only Uma can still stand in it — so Uma is somewhere in row A.
7. Read Basil's statement — “He was somewhere west of Rufus.” — against where Rufus can still be: Basil can only be on G3, G5 or G6.
8. Read Olive's statement — “She was somewhere west of Basil.” — against where Basil can still be: Olive can only be on F2 or F5.
9. Column 6 still needs someone, and Basil is the only one who can still stand in it. In column 6, “He was diagonally next to Olive. He was somewhere west of Rufus.” fits only G6.
10. Olive: “There was a table in her row. She was somewhere west of Basil.” And Basil said: “He was diagonally next to Olive.” With Basil on G6 and Basil on G6, only F5 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
11. Rufus: “He was beside a sink.” And Basil said: “He was somewhere west of Rufus.” With Basil on G6, only B7 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.



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