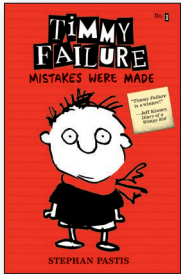
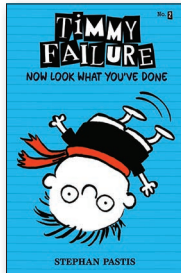


# TIMMY FAILURE

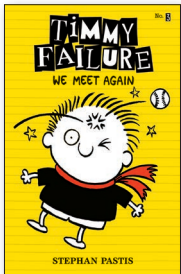


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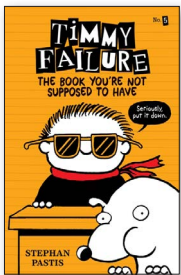
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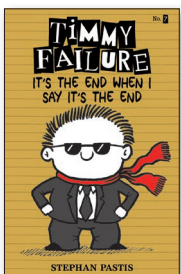


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## MEMO

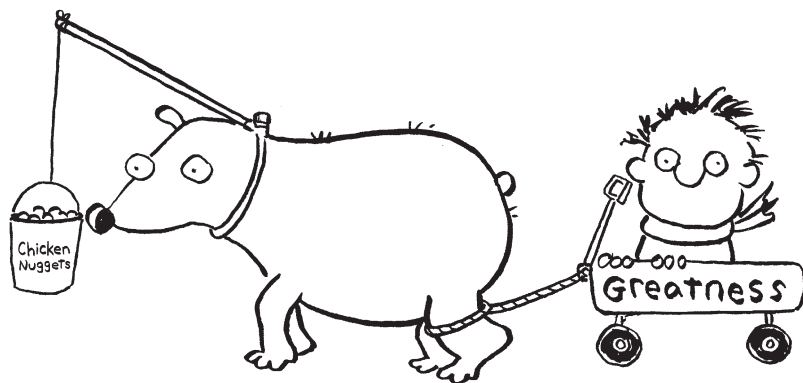
Welcome to the World of  
Timmy Failure, Ace Detective!

**ATTENTION: Detectives in Training**

Welcome to Total Failure, Inc., the kid-run detective agency that is sure to tickle your students' funny bones and inspire them to become top investigators. That is, if they can stop laughing at the clueless CEO, Timmy, and his sidekick polar bear, Total.

In the enclosed kit for budding crime solvers, your students will learn how to identify the four obstacles detectives face (yes, there are only four), solve cases and become masters at deciphering clues (no matter how obvious), learn the all-important detective lingo by passing a vocabulary test (using Timmy's foolproof method), and maybe even write their own mystery story to boot!

**CONFIDENTIAL:** While doing these activities, your students are bound to think critically and creatively and learn some new and very useful vocabulary. Do NOT let on that any of this is educational!



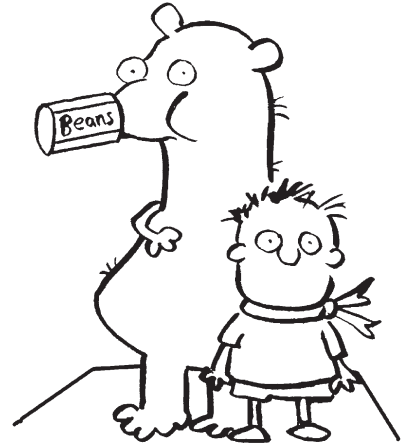
Visit [www.timmyfailure.com](http://www.timmyfailure.com) for printable vocabulary cards, activities, and how-to-doodle videos with Stephan Pastis himself!

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# TIMMY FAILURE

## The Challenge!

Timmy begins the prologue of *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made* with the three sentences given below—*except* we've left some blanks so you can create your own versions. Each missing word is a noun (i.e., an object, animal, or person) (but you knew that, right?) First brainstorm a list of nouns. Then choose three nouns from the list and fill in the blanks. Do they make sense? Timmy's lines make perfect sense. If you don't believe me, read Timmy's actual lines from the prologue to *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made*.



It's harder to drive a \_\_\_\_\_  
(noun 1)

into somebody's \_\_\_\_\_ than you'd think.  
(noun 2)

You need a \_\_\_\_\_  
(noun 2)

that's big enough to fit a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun 3)

You need a \_\_\_\_\_  
(noun 3)

that's big enough to fit a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(noun 1)

And you need a \_\_\_\_\_  
(noun 1)

that's big enough to not point out your errors.

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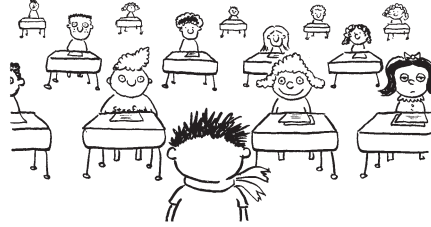
# TIMMY FAILURE

## Overcoming Obstacles: The Key to Success!

Unfortunately, Timmy Failure faces four obstacles to success as a detective:



his mother



his school



his best friend



his fifteen-hundred-pound polar bear

As a detective, you'll face obstacles too, but no more than four. (No successful detective has ever faced *more than* four obstacles. No successful detective has ever faced *fewer than* four obstacles.

Remember, four is the magic number.) List your four obstacles and sketch a picture of each:

1. my _____	2. my _____
3. my _____	4. my _____

# TIMMY FAILURE

## Master of Disguise

A great detective needs to protect his identity while he prowls around searching for clues.

Draw a disguise for Timmy that will keep him hidden from potential suspects.



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# TIMMY FAILURE

## Design Your Own Failuremobile

No professional detective can get around without a sleuthy set of wheels. In *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made*, Timmy rides a Segway to follow clues and make great first impressions on potential clients.

What would you choose as the mode of transport for your detective agency? Draw it here.



PUTT PUTT PUTT

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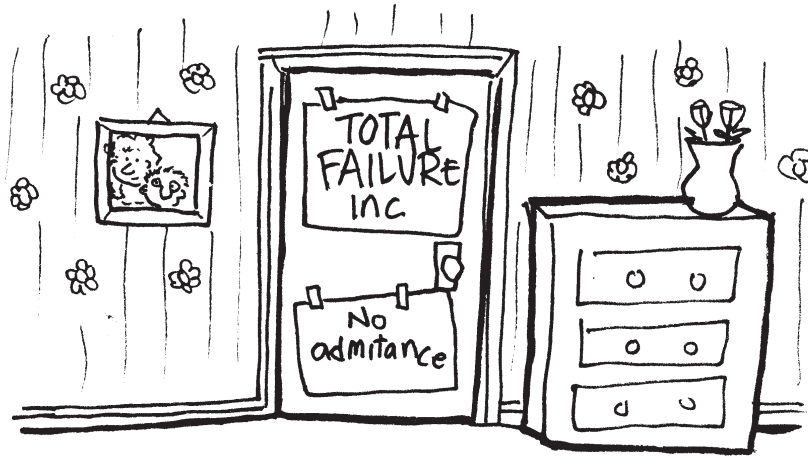
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# TIMMY FAILURE

## Advertise Your Awesome Agency Services



Timmy may not be much of a case solver, but his detective lingo is without parallel.

To create an advertisement for your own detective agency, fill in the top blank of the template that follows with your agency's name. Then create the text of your ad from this glossary of Timmy's many sayings—or make up your own. Fill in the last blank with your agency's motto.

### (Are you facing . . .)

- industrial sabotage
- major international intrigue
- a possible lawsuit
- an unsolved crime, such as candy larceny, hamster-cide, or TP vandalism

### (We offer . . .)

- invaluable expertise
- multipronged strategies
- brilliantly conceived global planning
- teleconferencing capabilities
- high-tech surveillance equipment
- free cheese

### (We are experienced in . . .)

- uncanny clue detection
- never-fail interrogation techniques
- making excellent first impressions (they *are* critical)
- investigatory enterprise
- ingenious infiltration tactics
- overall greatness

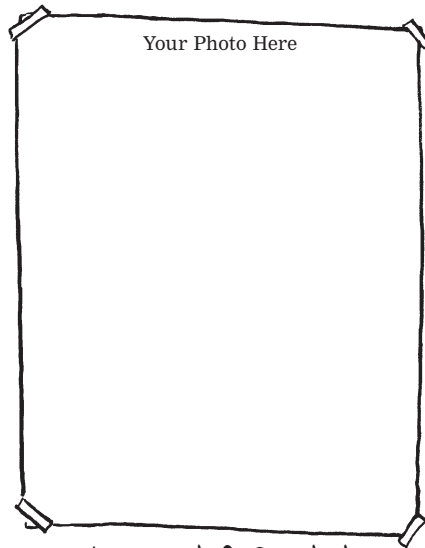
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# TIMMY FAILURE

\*

\*



Are you facing \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Then you need us!

\* \* \* \* \*

We offer \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_,

and \_\_\_\_\_.

We are experienced in \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_,

and \_\_\_\_\_.

GIVE US A CALL!



\*

\*

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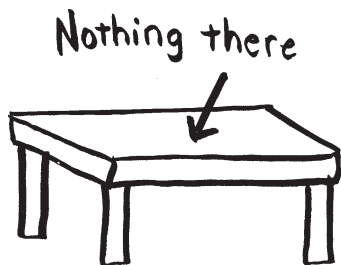
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# TIMMY FAILURE

## Case Solving

Help Timmy solve the cases below, then read *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made* to find out if you're right. Remember, you're bound to be a better detective than he is!

### The Case of the Missing Halloween Candy



**Scene of the crime:**  
Empty table by Gunnar's bed

**Victim:** Gunnar

**Type of crime:** Theft

**Missing items:**  
Plastic pumpkin filled with Halloween candy

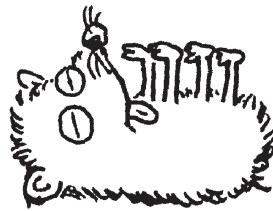
**Witnesses:** None known

**Suspects:**  
Brother Gabe sitting on his bed

**Evidence:**

1. Candy wrappers surrounding Gabe on his bed
2. Chocolate smeared on Gabe's face
3. Empty plastic pumpkin on Gabe's floor

### The Case of the Dead Hamster



**Scene of the crime:**  
Max Hodge's bedroom

**Victim:** Max's hamster

**Type of crime:** Murder?

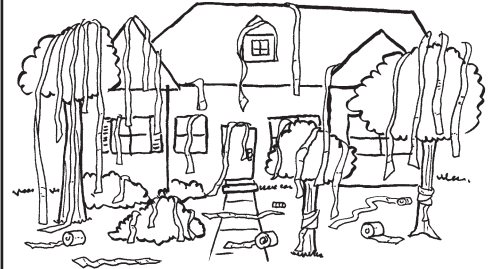
**Witnesses:** Max Hodge

**Suspects:** None

**Evidence:**

1. Motionless hamster in hamster cage
2. Scratched-up hamster tube

### The Case of the Toilet-Paper Devastation



**Scene of the crime:**  
Weber residence

**Victim:** Weber house

**Type of crime:** Vandalism

**Witnesses:** None known

**Suspects:** None

**Evidence:**

1. House strung with toilet paper
2. Tops of trees strung with toilet paper
3. Toilet paper hanging in Molly Moskins's bathroom

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# TIMMY FAILURE

## Who Done It?

Have you ever thought about writing your own mystery story? Now's the time! Use this handy-dandy and possibly helpful planning form to decide the important details of your story in advance. Then hurry and write your mystery, because if you don't, Corinna Corinna will steal your details and write her own story!



Scene of the crime: \_\_\_\_\_

Victim: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of crime: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses: \_\_\_\_\_

Suspects: \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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# TIMMY FAILURE

## Vocabulary by Scantron

Timmy Failure is a world-champion Scantron test taker *and* a world-champion vocabularian. In other words, he has one superb vocabulary! Take this vocabulary test to *Scantronically* reveal the name of his sidekick.



1. Our educational system's \_\_\_\_\_ are no cause for celebration.

*The missing word means faults.*

A. shortcomings B. successes C. relevance D. excellence E. advances

2. That's called \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., a tendency to relapse into criminal behavior).

A. recidivism B. recidivism C. recidivism D. recidivism E. recidivism

3. My cramped office conditions must be \_\_\_\_\_.

*The missing word means improved or corrected.*

A. alleviated B. deserved C. fair D. useful E. spectacular

4. **Freebie! Leave this column blank.**

5. One day we could be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for trade \_\_\_\_\_.

*The first missing word means taken prisoner.*

*The second missing word means questioned.*

*The third missing word means things that are hidden or unknown.*

A. released B. captured C. interrogated D. secrets E. applauded

6. Polar bears are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*The first missing word means violent or mean.*

*The second missing word means difficult to predict.*

A. fierce B. cuddly C. happy D. friendly E. unpredictable

7. I have decided to publish this history because my \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone who ever wanted to be a \_\_\_\_\_.

*The first missing word means knowledge.*

*The second missing word means precious.*

*The third missing word means someone who solves mysterious cases.*

A. ignorance B. expertise C. invaluable D. detective E. dentist

8. **Freebie! Leave this column blank.**

9. I now believe he is purposely \_\_\_\_\_ the agency.

*The missing word means obstructing, undermining, or seeking to destroy.*

A. sabotaging B. entertaining C. joining D. advertising E. celebrating

10. Real detectives do \_\_\_\_\_ the old-fashioned way. With their own two eyes.

*The missing word means careful watching.*

A. surveillance B. surveillance C. surveillance D. surveillance E. surveillance

11. I head downtown to do \_\_\_\_\_ on CCIA headquarters.

*The missing word means investigation.*

A. reconnaissance B. artwork C. graffiti D. mail delivery E. cleaning

12. **Freebie! Leave this column blank.**

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# TIMMY FAILURE

13. Normally I'd call a board meeting to discuss this \_\_\_\_\_ arrangement.

The missing word means **unacceptable**.

- A. happy B. untenable C. untenable D. untenable E. untenable

14. I am \_\_\_\_\_ by two \_\_\_\_\_ who have never run a business.

The first missing word means **blocked on both sides**.

The second missing word means **people who aren't trained for a job**.

- A. bookended B. dropped C. amateurs D. professionals E. presidents

15. The \_\_\_\_\_ nature of the flyer is the subject of an electronic-mail complaint I have sent to the Better Detective Bureau.

The missing word means **insulting**.

- A. complimentary B. defamatory C. defamatory D. defamatory E. defamatory

16. **Freebie!** Leave this column blank.

17. I had brilliantly solved all my \_\_\_\_\_.

The missing word means **matters requiring investigation**.

- A. cases B. cases C. cases D. cases E. cases

18. For today it is the scene of total \_\_\_\_\_.

The missing word means **destruction**.

- A. renewal B. creation C. construction D. building E. devastation

19. As a result, I have filed a \_\_\_\_\_ with the Better Detective Bureau.

The missing word means **objection or protest**.

- A. compliment B. recommendation C. tribute D. honor E. complaint

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ	Ⓐ
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ANSWERS: 1. A; 2. ALL; 3. A; 4. BLANK; 5. B; C; D; 6. A; E; 7. B; C; D; 8. BLANK; 9. A; 10. ALL; 11. A; 12. BLANK; 13. B; C; D; E; 14. A; C; 15. B; C; D; E; 16. BLANK; 17. ALL; 18. E; 19. E