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 for printable vocabulary cards, activities, and how-to-doodle videos with Stephan Pastis himself!
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 ___________________________.

that’s big enough to fit a ___________________________. (noun 3)

You need a ___________________________.

that’s big enough to fit a ___________________________.

And you need a ___________________________. (noun 1)

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

www.timmyfailure.com


CANDLEWICK PRESS  WALKER BOOKS UK  WALKER BOOKS AUSTRALIA
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 ____________________

www.timmyfailure.com


CANDLEWICK PRESS  WALKER BOOKS UK  WALKER BOOKS AUSTRALIA
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.
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.
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
Are you facing ____________________________

or ____________________________?

Then you need us!

* * * * * * * * * *

We offer ____________________________,

__________________________,

and ____________________________.

We are experienced in ____________________________,

__________________________,

and ____________________________.

GIVE US A CALL! * * *

* * * * *
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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Scene of the crime</th>
<th>Victim</th>
<th>Type of crime</th>
<th>Missing items</th>
<th>Witnesses</th>
<th>Suspects</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Case of the</td>
<td>Empty table by Gunnar's bed</td>
<td>Gunnar</td>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>Plastic pumpkin filled with Halloween candy</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Brother Gabe</td>
<td>1. Candy wrappers surrounding Gabe on his bed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing Halloween Candy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Chocolate smeared on Gabe's face</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Empty plastic pumpkin on Gabe's floor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Case of the</td>
<td>Max Hodge's bedroom</td>
<td>Max's hamster</td>
<td>Murder?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Max Hodge</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1. Motionless hamster in hamster cage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead Hamster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Scratched-up hamster tube</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Case of the</td>
<td>Weber residence</td>
<td>Weber house</td>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1. House strung with toilet paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet-Paper Devastation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Tops of trees strung with toilet paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Toilet paper hanging in Molly Moskins's bathroom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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: ____________________________________

_____________________________________________

_____________________________________________
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.
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