



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

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| <b>Class: VIII</b>      | <b>Department: ENGLISH</b>               | <b>Date of Submission:<br/>August 2026</b> |
| <b>WORKSHEET NO: 15</b> | <b>Topic: THE CASE OF THE FIFTH WORD</b> | <b>Note: To be written in the notebook</b> |



### SUMMARY

The story was about a boy named Leroy Brown. His mother was a high school teacher and his father was the Chief of the police force. Leroy Brown was nicknamed Encyclopedia by his friends because he read a lot and remembered each and every fact. He liked to use his genius brain to help his father, Chief Brown. Whenever Chief Brown got a difficult case, he went back home at dinner and then laid out the case during dinnertime with the help of his wife. One night, he came back with the case of Nolan's death. Tim Nolan met Daniel

Davenport in a prison in South Carolina. They became friends due to shared interests. Upon release, they robbed the Diamond Mart and stole millions worth of jewellery. During the robbery, Nolan's mask slipped slightly and the clerk recognized his face. However, during the questioning, Nolan was not arrested due to lack of evidence. When Nolan was released, he went to Idaville and started a palm-tree nursery. Davenport went underground to avoid being suspected and they decided to hide the loot till things cooled down.

Now, five years after the robbery, Nolan died due to a stroke but the jewellery was still hidden and undiscovered. Nolan's will, found in the kitchen, said all of his possessions were now Davenport's possessions. The mystery was the torn page of the desk calendar on which four words, 'Nom,' 'Utes', 'Sweden' and 'Hurts' were written. Encyclopedia deduced that the words pointed to a young fir tree in the nursery. Mrs. Brown took a practical approach to it and described each word. 'Nom' could be a short form of 'nominative'. 'Utes' was an American Indian tribe. 'Sweden' was a country in Europe. 'Hurts' was a verb. However, both the parents could not understand how the four words led to the fir tree. Encyclopedia explained that the four words were the days of the week. Remove the 'd-a-y' and then jumble the word and: Mon became Nom, Tues became Utes, Wednes became Sweden, and Thurs became Hurts. The next word would be the next day of the week without 'd-a-y': Fri. Jumbling Fri gave Fir, which was where the jewellery was hidden.

### Character Sketch of Chief Brown

Chief Brown or Mr Brown is Leroy Brown's father. He is the chief of the police force. He is said to be the greatest detective in the country. Whenever he gets a difficult case, he goes home during dinnertime, and the next day, he comes to the office with the best solution. He asks his son to solve the cases during dinnertime. He wishes to tell everyone the truth, but he fears that no one will believe that an eighth grader has solved the greatest mysteries in Idaville. He is impressed by his son's mind and mental abilities.



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### Character Sketch of Mrs Brown

Mrs Brown is Chief Brown's wife and Leroy Brown's mother. She is a high school teacher who teaches English and other subjects. She is also smart and wise like her husband. She puts forward insightful theories. She is analytical and knowledgeable. She is practical and straightforward as she puts forward the meaning of each of the four words. She is also impatient and eager to solve cases.

### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Q1. Nolan and Davenport were very close. Support this statement with evidence from the chapter, 'The Case of the Fifth Word'.
- Q2. Why did Davenport disappear right after the jewellery hold-up? What might his plans have been if Nolan had not died?
- Q3. What does Mrs. Brown's interest in the case tell us about her?
- Q4. Explain why Chief Brown was proud of his son.
- Q5. Why were Chief Brown's suspicions regarding Nolan and Davenport justified, even when there was a lack of concrete proof?
- Q6. Analyse the role of the four-word coded message in the story.
- Q7. Write a character sketch on Leroy with the help of the character trait stable given in 'Let us discuss' section.
- You may begin it like this: "Encyclopedia was a knowledgeable eighth grader who never forgot a fact that he read."



#### 1. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow.

Chief Brown would have liked to tell everyone about his only child. But who would believe him? Who would believe that the best detective alive was an eighth grader? So, he said nothing. Encyclopedia never spoke of the help he gave his father. He didn't want to seem different from other boys. But there was nothing he could do about his nickname. He was stuck with it. Only his parents and teachers called him by his real name, Leroy. Everyone else called him Encyclopedia.

1. Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.  
Chief Brown's dilemma can be called unique because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What can be inferred about why Encyclopedia never spoke of the help he gave his father?



- A. He is shy and lacks confidence in his abilities to share his insights.
- B. He wants to avoid the jealousy others might feel about his skills.
- C. He desires to blend with the other boys to prevent seeming different.
- D. He is embarrassed about being smarter than most adults around him.



- 3. The parents choose not to call their son 'Encyclopedia'. Select the reason that is false.
  - A. For them, he is more than his unique abilities; he is their child, with a personal identity.
  - B. Calling him by his real name reflects their affection and the desire to acknowledge him as an ordinary boy.
  - C. They want him to be remembered as different from the others around.
- 4. What does the writer mean by the fact that Leroy was 'stuck with' the name Encyclopedia?

## 2. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow.

Chief Brown studied the four words: Nom Utes Sweden Hurts. He shook his head and passed the notebook to Mrs. Brown again. "Can you figure it out?"

"Nom is a shortening of nominative, a grammatical term," stated Mrs. Brown, who had taught English and other subjects in high school. "Utes is an American Indian tribe. Sweden is a country in northern Europe. Hurts is hurts."

She lifted her gaze to Encyclopedia and shook her head.

"I can't figure it out," she confessed. "Davenport disappeared right after the hold-up," Encyclopedia reminded her.

- 1. What does Chief Brown's reaction of shaking his head suggest about his understanding of the four words?
  - a. He is confident that the words are a clue.
  - b. He is confused, unable to make sense of the words.
  - c. He believes the words are random and meaningless.
  - d. He thinks the words are unrelated to the case.
- 2. Identify whether the given statement is true or false. Mrs. Brown explained the actual meanings of the individual words rather than decoding the hidden message behind them.
- 3. What does Mrs. Brown's inability to decode the words suggest about the message?
- 4. Complete the following sentence suitably.  
The purpose of Encyclopedia's reminder in the last line of the extract was to \_\_\_\_\_. (refocus the discussion on the context of the crime/suggest that the coded message was meant for Davenport/imply that the message was likely a clue about the location of the stolen jewellery)