

12. Blackberry Stains

After a careful study of the crime scene and the path of clues leading to the bank of the Green Briar River, Officer Matthews realizes that the robbers had trampled through a ripening patch of blackberries. Anyone doing this would certainly have gotten some stains on their clothing and perhaps a few scratches from the berry briars.

J. R. was quick to think of visiting the Monroe's laundry.

"Oh yes," said Mr. Monroe, "we get lots of berry stains this time of year. Edna is a real genius at getting stains out."

Mrs. Monroe blushed at her husband's flattery and then checked her ledger. "Yes, in the past week, I have treated six berry stains."

Follow these clues and see where the stains lead.

Clues

1. Two boys had brought in berry-stained jeans on Monday.
2. Mrs. Crane and Mrs. Matthews had gone berry picking on Tuesday and Kathleen Crane had brought in her apron and her friend's blouse shortly after they finished.
3. Ryan Johnson had brought in his mother's dress on Wednesday about five minutes before Mr. John Smith had brought in the largest pair of overalls that Mrs. Monroe had ever seen – size 64.