

# Whose Hair Is It?

Hannah from CLUB CSI has suggested that your team examine the hair you found near Griffie’s cage, because it could be a valuable clue.

CSIs look at different characteristics when they examine hair samples. For example, they may want to know what part of the body the hair came from (the head, the arm, etc.), whether the hair fell out or was pulled out, and what its characteristics are. To practice analyzing a hair sample, answer the following questions as you examine a hair from your own head:

What color is it? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What about thickness (thick, thin, etc.)?

Describe the texture (rough, smooth, etc.).

What style is it (curly, straight, kinky, etc.)?

Now, compare your hair to a strand of hair from one of your teammates. How are they alike? How are they different?



*Griffie, the missing guinea pig*

The hair found on the door to Griffie’s cage was gray; it also was thin, smooth, and straight. Now, consider the suspects—the people who might have had access to Griffie on Friday afternoon—and what their hair is like.

- There were cleaning supplies near Griffie’s cage—like the ones Mr. Johnson, the custodian, uses, so he must have been in the room. Mr. Johnson has short white hair.
- Judging from the log book, Griffie had been fed Friday afternoon. There are four students on Griffie’s care team for the month. Could the hair be from one of them?
  - LaShaun has curly black hair.
  - Maria has medium, straight, dark brown hair.
  - Jeff has a blonde buzz cut.
  - Jen has long, fine, blonde hair.
- And, finally, there’s Ms. Mendoza, the teacher. Her hair is gray and wavy. Could she be involved?

Discuss your thoughts with the members of your team. Who do you think the hair belongs to? One of the suspects? Someone else?

To solve the mystery, download Activity 3, *The Handwriting Is in the Log*, at [www.ymiclassroom.com/csi.html](http://www.ymiclassroom.com/csi.html).

Get the tools of the trade to investigate real-life crime scenes with the CSI: Junior Investigator Kit, available at your local Toys“R”Us®!

