

Chapter Problem

Mystery Most Mathematical

It was a dark and stormy night ... Well, don't all mysteries start this way?

It was a little over three weeks ago that I began to receive some pretty strange e-mail. At first, I was curious to see where they would lead, but eventually I was totally preoccupied with figuring out who the “perp” was. By the way, “perp” is short for perpetrator. Simply put, I just wanted to know the identity of the person who was driving me crazy.

There were only so many out there who would dare to drive me to such distraction:

Penelope—My younger sister has a twisted sense of humour. She knows I am addicted to my computer and I will inevitably try to find out who is sending me e-mail even when it's Spam.

Percival—My dad always boasts that he was the world's greatest prankster at university. Although I haven't seen evidence of this, there is always a first time.

Perigesh—Isn't it the truth that the people you trust the most (your best friend, for instance) are the very ones who have the biggest surprises up their sleeves.

Ms. P. (a.k.a. **Peerwany**, my math teacher—she is commonly, but respectfully, addressed using her surname)—There seemed to be some connection to the mathematics we were doing in class, so she became an automatic suspect.

I am reaching out to you. Every time you encounter an e-mail, help me solve the problem. Gather the information to see what you can deduce and prepare a full report outlining your findings and conclusions.

The game's afoot!



Project Connection

Early on in this chapter, you will establish the area of interest for your inquiry and clearly state your research question. By the end of this chapter, you will have determined whether to use primary or secondary sources of data to answer your question and will have begun to collect relevant data.